

HOUSTON SYMPHONY

MASTER CHRONOLOGICAL CONCERT LISTING

2021–22 Houston Symphony Season

As of Sept. 3, 2021

POPS 1

Once Upon a Time: Alan Menken's Broadway

FRI, SEPT. 3, 8 P.M.

SAT, SEPT. 4, 8 P.M.

SUN, SEPT. 5, 2:30 P.M.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Katie Rose Clarke, vocalist

Matt Doyle, vocalist

Jordan Donica, vocalist

Montego Glover, vocalist

Relive favorite songs from *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* in a special salute to Disney's musical mastermind, Alan Menken! Hear "Part of Your World," "Poor Unfortunate Souls," "Colors of the Wind," "Beauty and the Beast," "A Whole New World," and so much more, along with showstoppers from musicals like *Newsies* and *Sister Act*. Vocalists direct from the Broadway stage join Steven Reineke and the Symphony.

SYMPHONY SPECIAL

Opening Night: Renée Fleming

SAT, SEPT. 11, 7:30 P.M. (no intermission)

Steven Reineke, conductor

Renée Fleming, soprano

Renée Fleming, one of the most beloved and celebrated singers of our time, joins the Houston Symphony for Opening Night.

Remainder of program TBC

CLASSICAL 1

Andrés Conducts Beethoven's Fifth

FRI, SEPT. 17, 8 P.M.

SAT, SEPT. 18, 8 P.M.

SUN, SEPT. 19, 2:30 P.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Yoonshin Song, violin

Brinton Averil Smith, cello

Yefim Bronfman, piano

G. BRIDGETOWER/Arr. K. RIVERA *Henry*, A Ballad, for Fortepiano and Voice, arranged for Orchestra (Houston Symphony Commission, World Premiere)

BEETHOVEN Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5

The most famous four notes in music usher in a towering masterpiece for the ages in Beethoven's immortal Fifth Symphony. Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada returns to Houston for the first time since February 2020 in this momentous Classical Series opener. And, world-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman, Concertmaster Yoonshin Song, and Principal Cellist Brinton Averil Smith serve up three times the virtuosity in Beethoven's graceful and sparkling "Triple" Concerto.

CLASSICAL 2

The Artistry of Augustin Hadelich

FRI, SEPT. 24, 8 P.M.

SAT, SEPT. 25, 8 P.M.

SUN, SEPT. 26, 2:30 P.M.

Augustin Hadelich, violin and leader

Jonathan Fischer, oboe

BACH Double Concerto in C minor for Violin and Oboe

SHOSTAKOVICH Sonata for Violin, Percussion, and String Orchestra

BACH Prelude from Partita No. 3 for E major for Solo Violin, BWV 1006.1

SAINT-GEORGES Violin Concerto in A major, Op. 5, No. 2

Amazing artistry, beloved favorites, and exciting new discoveries are all in store in these concerts featuring brilliant Grammy Award-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich as soloist and leader. The concerts begin with Bach's magnificent Concerto for Violin and Oboe, spotlighting Principal Oboe Jonathan Fischer. Then, Hadelich performs Shostakovich's bold and dynamic Sonata for Violin, Percussion, and Strings and the sparkling Prelude from Bach's Partita No. 2. To close, Hadelich shares a beautiful concerto by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the son of a slave who went on to become one of the most important violinists and composers in Paris.

POPS 2

Whole Lotta Shakin': Swing to Rock

FRI, OCT. 8, 8 P.M.

SAT, OCT. 9, 8 P.M.

SUN, OCT. 10, 2:30 P.M.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Dave Bennett, clarinet

Talented multi-instrumentalist Dave Bennett and the Houston Symphony Big Band take you on a musical journey through the decades, hit by iconic hit—from the Swing Era to classics of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and more!

CLASSICAL 3

MENDELSSOHN'S *SCOTTISH* SYMPHONY

FRI, OCT. 22, 8 P.M.

SAT, OCT. 23, 8 P.M.

SUN, OCT. 24, 2:30 P.M.

Jane Glover, conductor

Rian Craypo, bassoon

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 1, *Classical Symphony*

NUSSIO Variations on an Arietta by Pergolesi

SMYTH *The Boatswain's Mate*—Overture

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 3, *Scottish*

Be transported to a world of ancient ruins and windswept Highland beauty with Mendelssohn's enchanting *Scottish* Symphony, inspired by the composer's trip to the British Isles. Acclaimed British conductor Jane Glover leads these performances, which also feature music of Ethel Smyth, and Prokofiev's effervescent Symphony No. 1. Plus, Principal Bassoon Rian Craypo shines in Variations on an Arietta by Pergolesi.

CLASSICAL 4

Symphonie fantastique

FRI, OCT. 29, 8 P.M.

SAT, OCT. 30, 8 P.M.

SUN, OCT. 31, 2:30 P.M.

Jader Bignamini, conductor

Aralee Dorough, flute

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*

SARASATE *Carmen* Fantasy

BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

From cackling witches and crashing guillotines to opium-fueled fantasy and a rollicking ending to wake the dead, Berlioz's visionary *Symphonie fantastique* is classical music's wildest ride—and it's especially appropriate for Halloween weekend! This program also features Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's lavishly melodic *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*, based on the African American spiritual *I'm Troubled in Mind*. Acclaimed conductor Jader Bignamini, Music Director of the Detroit Symphony, leads the orchestra.

Remainder of program TBC

POPS 3

Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Songbook

FRI, NOV. 5, 8 P.M.

SAT, NOV. 6, 8 P.M.

SUN, NOV. 7, 2:30 P.M.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Byron Stripling, trumpet and vocalist

With his magnetic charisma, expressive scat singing, and incredible trumpet skills, Louis Armstrong changed music forever and made the whole world smile. Travel back to the golden age of jazz as the incomparable Byron Stripling salutes Satchmo with recreations of iconic hits like "What a Wonderful World," "Basin Street Blues," "Mack the Knife" and "Hello Dolly."

CLASSICAL 5

Hélène Grimaud Plays Ravel

FRI, NOV. 19, 8 P.M.

SAT, NOV. 20, 8 P.M.

SUN, NOV. 21, 2:30 P.M.

Matthias Pintscher, conductor

Hélène Grimaud, piano

DEBUSSY "Ibéria" from *Images*

RAVEL Piano Concerto in G

U. CHIN *Graffiti*

RAVEL *Rapsodie espagnole*

Brilliant French pianist Hélène Grimaud performs one of the greatest of all French masterworks, Ravel's jazz-infused Concerto in G. From the opening whip crack to the mesmerizing second movement and a jaunty whirlwind of a finale, this is piano virtuosity at its most colorful and captivating.

Remainder of program TBC

CLASSICAL 6

Thanksgiving Weekend: Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*

FRI, NOV. 26, 8 P.M.

SAT, NOV. 27, 8 P.M.

SUN, NOV. 28, 2:30 P.M.

Fabien Gabel, conductor

Simone Lamsma, violin

S. MOUSSA Nocturne for Orchestra

BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 1

HUMPERDINCK *Königskinder*: Prelude, Introduction to Acts II and III

TCHAIKOVSKY *Sleeping Beauty* Suite

With its soaring, impassioned themes and irresistible gypsy-flavored finale, Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 is a perennial audience favorite, as evidenced by its selection as Britain's favorite classical work in a Classic FM poll. "Absolutely stunning" (Chicago Tribune) Dutch violinist Simone Lamsma delivers an electrifying performance, and romantic and enchanting music from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* ballet score rounds out a Thanksgiving-weekend program the whole family will love.

CLASSICAL 7

Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* + Gil Shaham

FRI, DEC. 3, 8 P.M.

SAT, DEC. 4, 8 P.M.

SUN, DEC. 5, 2:30 P.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Gil Shaham, violin

Robin Kesselman, double bass

BARBER Violin Concerto

BOTTESINI Gran duo concertante

TCHAIKOVSKY *The Nutcracker*, Act II

To celebrate the holidays, Andrés Orozco-Estrada and the orchestra share music from Tchaikovsky's iconic *Nutcracker* score. Experience the full sonic color and splendor of this treasured masterpiece as never before in this special performance featuring the entire Houston Symphony. Running the gamut from radiant lyricism to jaw-dropping fireworks, Barber's Violin Concerto is one of the most beloved in the repertoire, and no one plays it better than international superstar Gil Shaham. Shaham also joins Principal Bass Robin Kesselman for the dazzling Gran Duo Concertante by double bass virtuoso Giovanni Bottesini.

Performance does not feature dancing.

FAMILY 1

Musical Treats from *The Nutcracker*—for Kids!

SAT, DEC. 4, 10 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

The Symphony's popular Holiday Family Concert returns! Delight in the magic of the holiday season and treat your family to a morning of musical fun they'll remember for years to come as Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada leads treasured selections from *The Nutcracker*, plus other holiday favorites. Presented in a casual, family-friendly setting, this 50-minute concert will have your little ones picturing sugar plums and sparkling snowflakes, and comes complete with fun interactive activities and a visit from Santa himself!

Performance does not feature dancing.

SYMPHONY SPECIAL

Handel's *Messiah*

FRI, DEC. 10, 8 P.M.

SAT, DEC. 11, 8 P.M.

SUN, DEC. 12, 2:30 P.M.

Bernard Labadie, conductor

TBC, vocal quartet

Houston Symphony Chorus
Betsy Cook Weber, director
Janwin Overstreet-Goode, choral preparation

HANDEL *Messiah*

The glorious holiday tradition of Handel's Messiah returns! The Houston Symphony, chorus, and guest soloists fill Jones Hall with joyous refrains and exultant arias, including the iconic "Hallelujah" Chorus, in this moving and powerful presentation of the greatest story ever told.

POPS 4

Very Merry POPS

SAT, DEC. 18, 8 P.M.

SUN, DEC. 19, 2:30 P.M.

SUN, DEC. 19, 7:30 P.M.

Michael Krajewski, conductor

Rodney Ingram, vocalist

Gather with loved ones in a warm and cozy winter wonderland for a sleigh-full of holly, jolly musical cheer! Broadway's Rodney Ingram (*The Phantom of the Opera*) joins the Symphony and Chorus for heartwarming favorites and treasured carols. Complete with sparkling decorations and a visit from Santa, there's no better way to get into the holiday spirit!

POPS 5

Pink Martini

FRI, JAN. 7, 8 P.M.

SAT, JAN. 8, 8 P.M.

SUN, JAN. 9, 2:30 P.M.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Brimming with "fizzy spirit and breezy sophistication" (*Chicago Sun-Times*), Pink Martini is a glamorous and global phenomenon. Say "oui" to an exhilarating mix of Brazilian samba, Parisian café music, cabaret, and vintage jazz as this Houston favorite returns.

Symphony Special

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ in Concert

FRI, JAN. 14, 7:30 P.M.

SAT, JAN. 15, 7:30 P.M.

SUN, JAN. 16, 2:30 P.M.

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor

Houston Symphony Chorus

Betsy Cook Weber, director

Relive the magic of year six in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ in Concert*. With this film, based on the sixth installment of J.K. Rowling's classic saga, fans of all ages can now experience the thrilling tale of Harry's obsession with a mysterious potions book accompanied by the music of a live symphony orchestra as Harry soars across the big screen in HD!

WIZARDING WORLD and all related trademarks, characters, names, and indicia are © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Publishing Rights © JKR. (s21)

Classical 8

Christoph Eschenbach Returns

FRI, JAN. 21, 8 P.M.

SAT, JAN. 22, 8 P.M.

SUN, JAN. 23, 2:30 P.M.

Christoph Eschenbach, conductor

Revered conductor and former Houston Symphony Music Director Christoph Eschenbach returns to Jones Hall.

Remainder of program TBC

POPS 6

Classic Rock: The Sound of a Generation

FRI, FEB. 4, 8 P.M.

SAT, FEB. 5, 8 P.M.

SUN, FEB. 6, 2:30 P.M.

Michael Krajewski, conductor

Shem von Schroeck, vocalist

Micah Wilshire, vocalist

Lori Zabka, vocalist

Classic rock's biggest hits come alive in this symphonic tribute to songs of The Doobie Brothers, Fleetwood Mac, Styx, and more. From "Listen to the Music" and "Black Water" to "Come Sail Away" and "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow," these are the songs you know by heart, and the songs you'll be singing all the way home!

FAMILY 2

Let's Be A Pirate!

SAT, FEB. 5, 10 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

Robert Franz, conductor

Ahoy, matey! Get ready to sail the high seas with a morning of pirate-themed fun for the whole family, including selections from *Pirates of the Caribbean*! Associate Conductor Robert Franz leads the orchestra in two family-friendly matinees perfect for kids 3 and up. A morning of musical fun comes complete with kid-friendly activities, including our always-popular Instrument Petting Zoo.

CLASSICAL 9

Fabien Gabel Conducts French Masterworks

FRI, FEB. 11, 8 P.M.

SAT, FEB. 12, 8 P.M.

Fabien Gabel, conductor

Alexandra Dariescu, piano

Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano

Matthew White, tenor

STRAVINSKY *Chant funébre (Funeral Song)*

N. BOULANGER *Fantaisie Variée* for Piano and Orchestra

FRANCK *Variations symphoniques*

L. BOULANGER Scenes from *Faust et Hélène*

Music of the remarkable Boulanger sisters anchors this program of shimmering French masterworks, led by renowned French conductor Fabien Gabel. Nadia Boulanger goes down in history as the greatest composition teacher of all time, shaping the sound of everyone from Aaron Copland to Philip Glass to Quincy Jones, and the outstanding Alexandra Dariescu performs her *Fantaisie Variée* for Piano and Orchestra. Then, star vocalists join the orchestra for Lili Boulanger's Scenes from *Faust et Hélène*, the work with which she became the first woman to win the coveted Prix de Rome at just 19 years of age. Plus, Dariescu performs exquisite music of 19th century organ and piano virtuoso César Franck, and the orchestra gives the Houston premiere of a long-lost, newly rediscovered score by Stravinsky.

CLASSICAL 10

TBD

FRI, FEB. 25, 8 P.M.

SAT, FEB. 26, 8 P.M.

SUN, FEB. 27, 2:30 P.M.
Ryan Bancroft, conductor

Remainder of program TBC

POPS 7

Star Wars: *Return of the Jedi*—in Concert

FRI, MAR. 4, 8 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 5, 8 P.M.
SUN, MAR. 6, 2:30 P.M.

Damon Gupton, conductor

The battle between good and evil rages on in the final chapter of the original Star Wars trilogy. Rejoin Luke, Leia, Han, and the whole Rebel Alliance as they seek to destroy the Death Star and face a final showdown with Darth Vader and the Emperor. You'll feel the full splendor and Force of John Williams's incredible score—from 20th Century Fox fanfare to closing credits—as the Houston Symphony accompanies the movie, live.

CLASSICAL 11

Rachmaninoff's Second

FRI, MARCH 11, 8 P.M.
SAT, MARCH 12, 8 P.M.
SUN, MARCH 13, 2:30 P.M.

Lionel Bringuier, conductor

Megan Conley, harp

K. SAARIAHO *Trans* for Harp and Orchestra

RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 2

Rachmaninoff's rapturous and romantic Symphony No. 2 unfurls a never-ending cascade of characteristically lush, opulent melodies, each one bound to speak directly to the heart. Principal Harp Megan Conley performs the spellbinding *Trans* for Harp and Orchestra by acclaimed Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho. Rising young French conductor Lionel Bringuier leads the Symphony in these performances.

CLASSICAL 12

Andrés Conducts *The Carnival of the Animals*

FRI, MAR. 18, 8 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 19, 8 P.M.
SUN, MAR. 20, 2:30 P.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

Scott Holshouser, piano

SAINT-SAËNS *Le carnaval des animaux* (*Carnival of the Animals*)

Encounter kangaroos, elephants, lions, cuckoos, donkeys, swans, and more as Andrés Orozco-Estrada leads Saint-Saëns's beloved musical menagerie, *The Carnival of the Animals*. Brimming with color and humor, and filled with music you'll recognize, this is one of the most purely fun works ever composed. This presentation of Saint-Saëns's original scoring for two pianos and orchestra highlights our superb Principal Keyboardist Scott Holshouser, together with the illustrious Emanuel Ax.

Remainder of program TBC

CLASSICAL 13

Symphony Soloists

FRI, MAR. 25, 8 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 26, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAR. 27, 2:30 P.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

TBC, Houston Symphony soloists

Andrés Orozco-Estrada's season-long spotlight on the world-class musicians of the Houston Symphony continues with this special performance featuring orchestra members in solo roles.

Remainder of program TBC

CLASSICAL 14

Thibaudet Plays Liszt

FRI, APR. 15, 8 P.M.

SAT, APR. 16, 8 P.M.

TBC, conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

LISZT Piano Concerto No. 2

Franz Liszt is synonymous with finger-flying piano fireworks, and his impassioned and dramatic Piano Concerto No. 2 is in good hands with returning favorite Jean-Yves Thibaudet, whose playing embodies "sophistication and suavity, clarity and freedom" (The New York Times).

Remainder of program TBC

POPS 8

Aretha: Queen of Soul

FRI, APR. 22, 8 P.M.

SAT, APR. 23, 8 P.M.

SUN, APR. 24, 2:30 P.M.

Lucas Waldin, conductor

Capathia Jenkins, vocalist

Ryan Shaw, vocalist

Aretha Franklin captured our hearts with her powerhouse voice and soulful refrains about love, pain, and triumph. Capathia Jenkins, Ryan Shaw, and the Symphony hail the Queen of Soul who demanded the world's R-E-S-P-E-C-T, performing showstoppers like "Chain of Fools," "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman," and "Respect."

FAMILY 3

African Adventure

SAT, APR. 23, 10 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

Robert Franz, conductor

Embark on an African adventure, symphony-style, with music from *The Lion King* and more! Associate Conductor Robert Franz leads the orchestra in two family-friendly matinees perfect for kids 3 and up. A morning of musical fun comes complete with kid-friendly activities, including our always-popular Instrument Petting Zoo.

CLASSICAL 15

Andrés's Farewell: Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony

FRI, APR. 29, 8 P.M.

SAT, APR. 30, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAY 1, 2:30 P.M.

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Ana María Martínez, soprano

Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano

Houston Symphony Chorus

Betsy Cook Weber, director

MAHLER Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*

For his final concert as Houston Symphony Music Director, Andrés Orozco-Estrada leads Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*. Contemplating the meaning of life and the mystery of death and culminating in a blaze of transcendence that shakes the rafters and soars to the heavens above, it is, quite simply, a concert experience unmatched in all of music. More than 200 orchestra and chorus members fill the Jones Hall stage for this must-see Houston event.

CLASSICAL 16

Copland 3 + Higdon World Premiere

FRI, MAY 6, 8 P.M.

SAT, MAY 7, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAY 8, 2:30 P.M.

Robert Spano, conductor

Matthew Strauss and Svet Stoyanov, percussion

THEOFANIDIS *Rainbow Body*

J. HIGDON Double Percussion Concerto (World Premiere, Houston Symphony Commission)

COPLAND Symphony No. 3

Often called the "Great American Symphony," Aaron Copland's monumental Symphony No. 3 takes listeners on an extraordinary journey, culminating in the stirring and euphoric Fanfare for the Common Man. Houston Symphony percussionist Matthew Strauss and Svet Stoyanov showcase the full spectrum of percussion's expressive power with the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's Double Percussion Concerto. This celebration of American music, past and present, opens with Christopher Theofanidis's exuberant *Rainbow Body*.

CLASSICAL 17

Itzhak Perlman Returns

THU, MAY 12, 8 P.M.

SAT, MAY 14, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAY 15, 2:30 P.M.

Itzhak Perlman, conductor

Legendary violinist and Houston Symphony Artistic Partner Itzhak Perlman conducts the orchestra in these performances.

Remainder of program TBC

CLASSICAL 19

Season Finale: Beethoven 9

FRI, MAY 20, 8 P.M.

SAT, MAY 21, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAY 22, 2:30 P.M.

Juraj Valčuha, conductor

J'Nai Bridges, mezzo-soprano

Mark Doss, bass-baritone

Houston Symphony Chorus

Betsy Cook Weber, director

SIMON An Elegy: A Cry from the Grave

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9, *Choral*

To conclude the 2021–22 Season, celebrated conductor Juraj Valčuha leads orchestra, chorus, and vocal soloists in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Come together in Jones Hall and experience one of classical music's

most moving, uplifting, and inspiring journeys, a rallying cry to hope, humanity, and universal fellowship culminating in the exuberant “Ode to Joy.”

POPS 9

The Best of John Williams: *Star Wars & More* with Chorus

FRI, MAY 27, 8 P.M.

SAT, MAY 28, 8 P.M.

SUN, MAY 29, 2:30 P.M.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Houston Symphony Chorus

Betsey Cook Weber, director

Enjoy themes from all your blockbuster favorites—*Superman*, *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and more—as the Houston Symphony and Chorus celebrate the master of film scores, John Williams.