

2026 SEASON 2027



ANDREW STAUPE, PIANO



TIEN-TSIN CINDY WU, VIOLIN



DEMARRE MCGILL, FLUTE



JON ARMSTRONG,
TENOR SAXOPHONE



MISSOULA SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

(406) 721-3194

MISSOULASYMPHONY.ORG

JULIA TAI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

SEASON SNAPSHOT

26 27

SYMPHONY IN THE PARK

August 16, 2026

Music of **John Williams**

SYMPHONY ON THE RIVER

August 28, 2026

Lettuce Featuring **Missoula Symphony**

MASTERWORKS 1

AMERICA 250

September 19 & 20, 2026

Andrew Staupé, piano

Joan Tower – *Made in America*

Aaron Copland – *Piano Concerto*

George Gershwin – *I Got Rhythm Variations*

Leonard Bernstein – *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

October 3 & 4, 2026

In collaboration with Opera Montana

Music by **Zach Redler**

Libretto by **Matt Foss** & **Kelley Rourke**

Based on the novel by **Norman Maclean**

MASTERWORKS 2

PICTURES IN MUSIC

October 24 & 25, 2026

Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu, violin

Carlos Simon – *The Block*

Erich Wolfgang Korngold – *Violin Concerto in D Major*

Modest Mussorgsky – *Pictures at an Exhibition*

HOLIDAY POPS!

December 11, 12 & 13, 2026

Missoula Symphony Chorale

FAMILY CONCERT

SYMPHONY IN SPACE

January 30, 2027

MASTERWORKS 3

KALEIDOSCOPIIC COLORS

March 6 & 7, 2027

Demarre McGill, flute

Mary Watkins – *Five Movements in Color*

Kevin Puts – *Flute Concerto*

Antonín Dvořák – *Symphony No. 7*

Antonín Dvořák – *Slavonic Dances No. 8*
– *Missoula Youth Symphony side-by-side*

AN EVENING WITH JON

ARMSTRONG & THE

MISSOULA SYMPHONY

April 3, 2027

Jon Armstrong, tenor saxophone

MASTERWORKS 4

CARMINA BURANA

April 17 & 18, 2027

Missoula Symphony Chorale

Ludwig van Beethoven – *Leonore Overture No. 3*

Carl Orff – *Carmina Burana*

BROADWAY POPS!

May 15 & 16, 2027

Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*

In collaboration with **Missoula Children's Theatre**

WELCOME TO THE 2026-2027 SEASON

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a new season with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale. We are excited to share what lies ahead and grateful to have you with us as part of this community.

This season reflects our commitment to artistic excellence, bringing music to life through performances that inspire, move, and connect us. We are also proud to collaborate with Opera Montana and Missoula Children's Theatre, expanding the reach and impact of the performing arts across our region.

Education remains central to our work as we continue to grow programs that introduce young people to music and support student musicians. At the same time, we are deeply committed to our Orchestra and Chorale musicians, whose talent and dedication strengthen our community.

Your support makes all of this possible. We are grateful for your presence, your enthusiasm, and your belief in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale.

**Thank you for being part of
this season. We look forward
to sharing it with you.**



Julia Tai

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Missoula Symphony & Chorale,

WELCOME TO OUR 2026-2027 SEASON! I'M EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU A SEASON OF KALEIDOSCOPIC MUSIC OF ALL COLORS AND SHAPES.

We start the season celebrating **America 250**, with iconic music by **George Gershwin**, **Leonard Bernstein**, and **Aaron Copland**, as well as new American titans such as **Joan Tower**. We continue with **Pictures in Music**, with **Mussorgsky's** vivid **Pictures at an Exhibition**, **Korngold's** stunning **Violin Concerto**, and an up-and-coming young composer, **Carlos Simon's The Block**, inspired by six paintings of Romare Bearden that highlight different buildings (church, barbershop, nightclub, etc.) in Harlem on one block. Our third Masterworks concert, **Kaleidoscopic Colors**, features the music of **Mary Watkins**, an African-American composer and jazz pianist, Pulitzer Prize winner, **Kevin Puts' Flute Concerto**, and **Dvorak's** epic seventh symphony. Our final Masterworks concert with our beloved **Symphony Chorale** will mark the 90th anniversary of the premiere of the monumental work, **Carmina Burana**.

New this season are two major collaborations with local arts organizations. We will bring to life a brand new opera, **A River Runs Through It**, with **Opera Montana**, and mount the classic Broadway Musical, **The Music Man**, with **Missoula Children's Theatre**. These collaborations enable us to expand our season in significant ways and offer even more varied programming to our community.

And don't forget our two fun-filled outdoor concerts this summer - **Symphony in the Park** and **Symphony on the River**, and our holiday tradition **Holiday Pops!** We will also continue our Jazz series at The Wilma with tenor saxophonist and composer **Jon Armstrong**, who tells a moving story with his **Voluntary Breath**. And our youth and family concert will take the kids on a journey out of this world with **Symphony in Space**.

This season boasts the most magnificent and colorful music, and I hope you will join us at every concert of the season.

See you at the Symphony,

AUGUST 16, 2026
**Symphony in
the Park**



Not part of the Season Subscription. To purchase reserved seats under the tent, call the Missoula Symphony office at (406) 721-3194.

MUSIC OF **John Williams**

Join us for one of Missoula's favorite summer traditions as **Symphony in the Park** returns to Caras Park for an evening of music under the big Montana sky!

Bring a blanket, gather your friends and enjoy the sounds of the Missoula Symphony as they perform a lively program designed for everyone.

Enjoy listening to music from **John Williams'** beloved favorites featuring music from **Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones, Olympic Fanfare and Theme**, and more! This free concert celebrates the joy of live music in the heart of our community.

Set along the banks of the Clark Fork River, **Symphony in the Park** is the perfect way to experience the orchestra in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Whether you're a longtime symphony fan or hearing us for the first time, this evening promises great music, great company, and a wonderful summer atmosphere.

We can't wait to see you at Caras Park!



missoula food bank
& community center

Since 2019, we have partnered with the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center for a food drive to help nourish our community. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items to donate, supporting those in need and making a positive impact in our community. Our goal is to collect 2,000 pounds of food during this event, and with your help, we can make a difference.

AUGUST 28, 2026

Symphony ON THE River

Join us for a one-of-a-kind symphonic experience at the KettleHouse Amphitheater! **Lettuce** joins the Missoula Symphony Orchestra for the 2nd Annual Symphony on the River at KettleHouse Amphitheater on August 28, 2026. The night features a **Missoula Symphony Orchestra** piece followed by a full collaboration set with **Lettuce**, blending high-energy funk with a live orchestra. Set along the Blackfoot River, it's a unique, one-night fusion of genres in a stunning outdoor setting.

Whether you're a longtime symphony fan or new to the experience, **Symphony on the River** offers a truly unique musical experience. It makes for the perfect summer night! So bring your friends, grab a drink, and soak in the magic of live music along the banks of the Blackfoot River.

On sale now! Tickets sold through logjampresents.com. Limited reserved seats available. The Symphony on the River is not part of the season ticket subscription

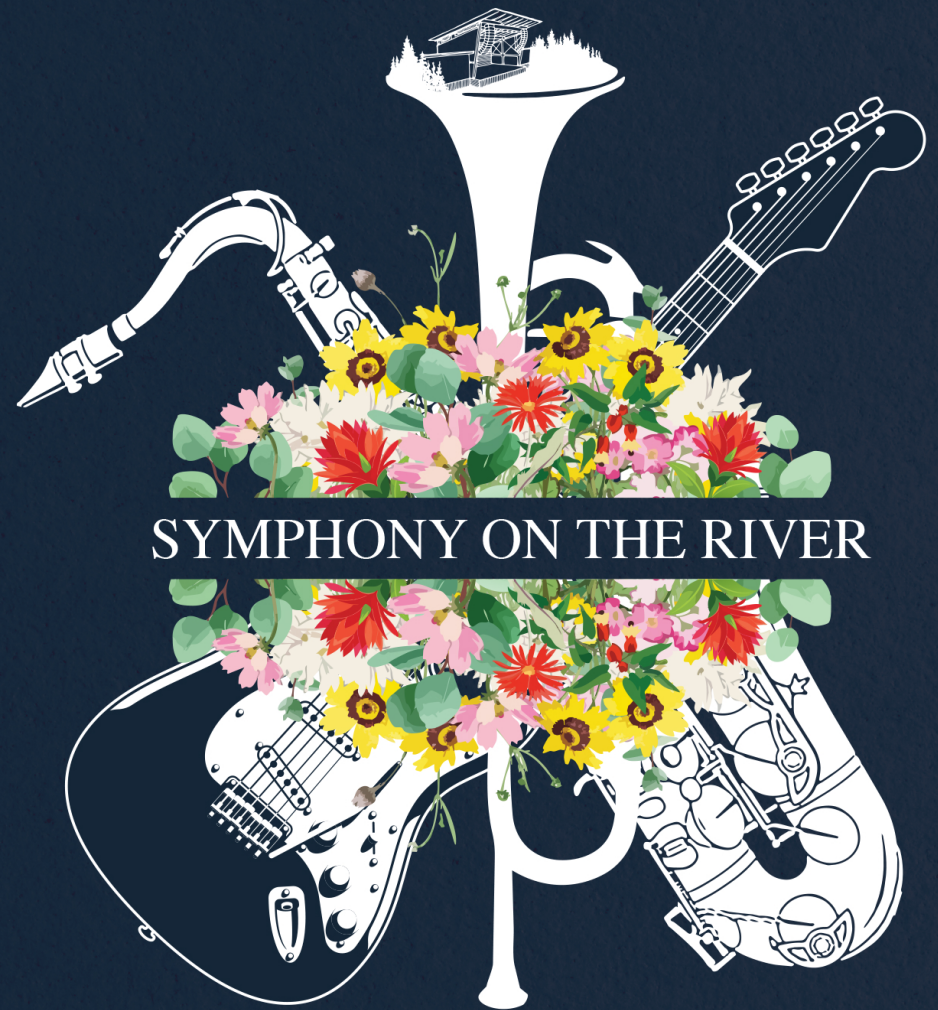
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8



SYMPHONY ON THE RIVER

2ND ANNUAL

SYMPHONY ON THE RIVER WITH LETTUCE

.....

FEATURING THE MISSOULA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

AUGUST 28, 2026 | KETTLEHOUSE AMPHITHEATER | BONNER, MT

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SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2026

America 250

Andrew Staupe Piano
Joan Tower *Made in America*
Aaron Copland *Piano Concerto*
George Gershwin *I Got Rhythm Variations*
Leonard Bernstein *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

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MASTERWORKS **1**

The Missoula Symphony launches the season with **America 250**, a vibrant program celebrating the rich musical traditions of the United States.

The evening begins with **Joan Tower's *Made in America***, a powerful and energetic work that captures the spirit, complexity, and evolving identity of the nation. Bold rhythms and soaring orchestral textures set the stage for a program filled with color and excitement.

Pianist **Andrew Staupe** joins the orchestra for **Aaron Copland's *Piano Concerto***, a rhythmic work that blends jazz and piano writing with distinct American musical influences.

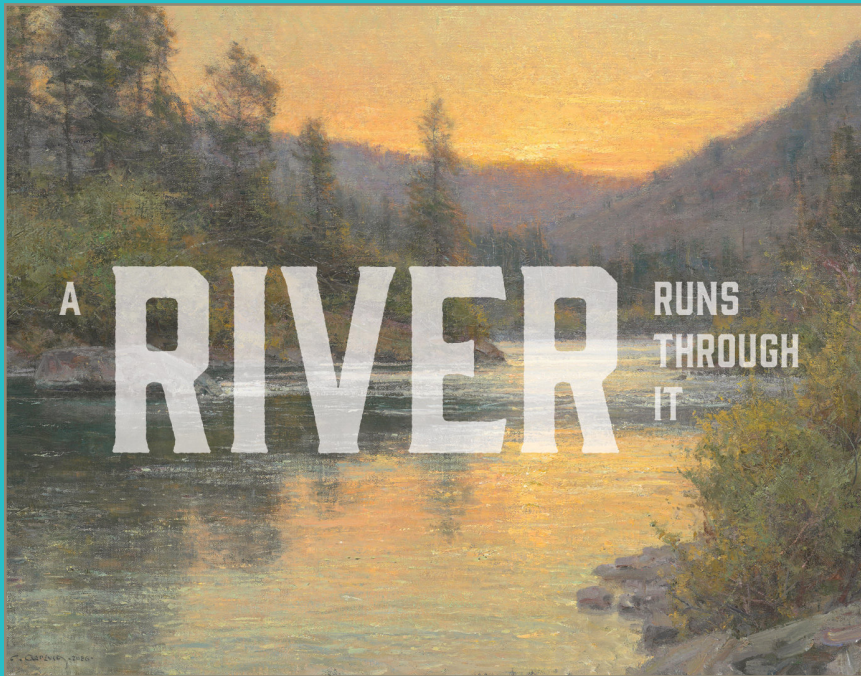
The program continues with **George Gershwin's** sparkling ***I Got Rhythm Variations***, where jazz-infused melodies and playful energy highlight **Gershwin's** unmistakable style.

The concert concludes with **Leonard Bernstein's** electrifying ***Symphonic Dances from West Side Story***. Packed with unforgettable melodies, driving rhythms, and cinematic drama, these dances capture the passion and intensity of one of America's most iconic musicals.

Join us for a season opener that celebrates the **sound, spirit, and creativity of American music.**

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OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2026



In collaboration with **Opera Montana**
Music by **Zach Redler**
Libretto by **Matt Foss & Kelley Rourke**
Based on the novel by **Norman Maclean**



Opera Montana

COLLABORATION

In a special collaboration with Opera Montana, the Missoula Symphony presents **A River Runs Through It**, a powerful operatic adaptation of **Norman Maclean's** beloved Montana novel.

With music by composer **Zach Redler** and libretto by **Matt Foss** and **Kelley Rourke**, this deeply moving work brings **Maclean's** timeless story of family, faith, and fly fishing to the operatic stage. Set against the breathtaking landscapes of western Montana, the story follows two brothers whose lives are shaped by love, loss, and the rivers that define their home.

Through sweeping orchestral writing and expressive vocal storytelling, this production captures the beauty of Montana's wilderness and the emotional depth of Maclean's unforgettable narrative.

For audiences who cherish this iconic story, or who are discovering it for the first time, this unique performance promises an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling.



OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2026

Pictures in Music

Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu Violin
Carlos Simon *The Block*
Erich Wolfgang Korngold *Violin Concerto in D Major*
Modest Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

MASTERWORKS 2

Music has the remarkable power to paint vivid images in our imagination, and **Pictures in Music** explores that connection between sound and visual storytelling.

The program opens with **Carlos Simon's *The Block***, a vibrant and rhythmic work that captures the energy and spirit of everyday life in a New York neighborhood. With driving percussion and colorful orchestration, Simon creates a musical snapshot of community and culture.

Acclaimed violinist **Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu** will join the **Missoula Symphony** for **Korngold's** lush and cinematic ***Violin Concerto in D Major***. Written by the famed Hollywood film composer, the concerto is filled with sweeping melodies, dazzling virtuosity, and rich romantic textures.

The concert concludes with **Mussorgsky's** monumental ***Pictures at an Exhibition***. Inspired by a gallery of paintings, this beloved masterpiece transforms visual art into a breathtaking orchestral journey.

Join us for an evening where
music becomes art and
imagination comes vividly
to life.



DECEMBER 11, 12, & 13, 2026

◆ Holiday — POPS! — ◆

Holiday favorites with the **Missoula Symphony & Chorale**.

Celebrate the season with the **Missoula Symphony Orchestra & Chorale** at **Holiday Pops!**, a festive tradition that brings family, friends, and community together through the joy of music.

Featuring the full orchestra and chorale, this uplifting program includes favorite holiday classics, cherished carols, and familiar seasonal traditions in a celebration of music and community. From powerful musical moments to audience sing-alongs, **Holiday Pops!** offers something for every generation.

Whether you're continuing a longtime tradition or joining us for the first time, **Holiday Pops!** is a chance to gather, celebrate, and create lasting memories with the people you love.

Join us as we fill the concert hall with holiday cheer and the unmistakable sound of the Missoula Symphony Orchestra & Chorale.

Featuring the **Missoula Symphony Chorale**

SYMPHONY in SPACE

JANUARY 30, 2027



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Family Concert

Blast off on a musical adventure

with the **Missoula Symphony** as we journey beyond the stars in **Symphony in Space!**

This family-friendly concert invites young explorers and curious listeners of all ages to discover how the orchestra can create the sounds of galaxies, planets, and cosmic adventure. From soaring melodies that feel like flight through the stars to powerful rhythms that echo the energy of rocket launches, the orchestra will transform the concert hall into a universe of sound.

Along the way, audiences will learn how each section of the orchestra, strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, works together to create music that feels truly out of this world.

Perfect for families and first-time concertgoers, *Symphony in Space* is an exciting introduction to orchestral music filled with imagination, discovery, and plenty of stellar surprises.

So gather your crew, buckle up, and prepare for a musical mission that's truly out of this world!

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Thank You

TO OUR CONCERT SPONSORS FROM LAST SEASON!

SEASON AND CONCERT SPONSORS



SYMPHONY IN THE PARK

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Northwestern Energy
Brian Eicholtz & Erik Johnston
Merrill Lynch
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Missoula Downtown Partnership

VIVA AMERICAS!



LIGHT & DARKNESS



HOLIDAY POPS!



OCEANS OF SOUND



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON ORCHESTRA



HAYDN'S CREATION



ANONYMOUS
CHORALE MEMBER

BROADWAY FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

GEORGE BANDOW

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ACCOMODATIONS SPONSORS



Season Support of the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale is provided, in part, by the Montana Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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Maria & Peter van Loben Sels

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Associate Concertmaster
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Assistant Concertmaster
Betty Thisted

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Louisa & Paul Axelrod Family Charitable Foundation

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Associate Principal 2nd Violin
Rae Lynn & Frank D'Angelo

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Robert Moseley

Associate Principal Viola
Dorothea & George P Lambros

Assistant Principal Viola
Peggy & Walt Peschel

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Anonymous

Principal Cello
Demetra Lambros & Mike Duffy

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Section Cello
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Alice & Dick Dailey

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Amber & Lans Richardson

Section Bass
Mark & Beth Miller

Principal Flute
Laura & Mark Haythornthwaite

Piccolo
Mary Ann Oberhaus

Principal Oboe
Jennifer & Ben Yonce

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Linda & Scott Hale

Principal Clarinet
Charla & Donald Murray

Section Clarinet
Lillian A. McCammon

Principal Bassoon
Jean & Bill Woessner

Principal English Horn
Carolyn & John Snively

Principal Horn
Betsy & Warren Wilcox

Section French Horn
Dinah Woods

Principal Trumpet
Tom Boone

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE UPCOMING SEASON, EMAIL: TERESA@MISSOULASYMPHONY.ORG



MARCH 6 & 7, 2027

Kaleidoscopic Colors



Demarre McGill Flute
Mary Watkins *Five Movements in Color*
Kevin Puts *Flute Concerto*
Antonín Dvořák *Symphony No. 7*
Antonín Dvořák *Slavonic Dances No. 8*
—Missoula Youth Symphony side-by-side

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MASTERWORKS 3

Experience a vibrant spectrum of sound in **Kaleidoscopic Colors**, a program that explores the many shades and textures of orchestral music.

The concert begins with selections from **Mary Watkins' *Five Movements in Color***, a dynamic work that blends jazz, classical traditions, and vivid orchestral writing to create a rich musical palette.

World-renowned flutist **Demarre McGill** joins the Missoula Symphony to perform **Kevin Puts' *Flute Concerto***. This expressive and captivating work highlights the flute's incredible range.

The program concludes with **Dvořák's** powerful ***Symphony No. 7***, a dramatic and emotionally charged masterpiece filled with sweeping melodies and thrilling orchestral moments.

The evening continues with **Dvořák's** spirited ***Slavonic Dances***, performed side-by-side with musicians from the **Missoula Youth Symphony** in a special collaboration that celebrates the next generation of artists.

Join us for a concert where **every piece adds a new color to the musical canvas.**

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APRIL 3, 2027

AN EVENING WITH

**Jon
Armstrong**
& THE MISSOULA SYMPHONY



THE Wilma Concert

The **Missoula Symphony** returns to the historic Wilma Theater for an evening of bold and innovative music featuring saxophonist **Jon Armstrong**.

This performance showcases **Voluntary Breath**, a genre-blending work that combines jazz, classical, and contemporary influences. With solo tenor saxophone, orchestra, and rhythm section, the music unfolds with energy, improvisation, and rich orchestral color.

Set within the intimate atmosphere of the Wilma, this concert offers a unique musical experience where jazz and symphonic traditions come together in exciting new ways.

Grab a drink, settle in, and enjoy an unforgettable night of music in one of Missoula's most iconic venues.

Tickets sold through logjampresents.com. An Evening with Jon Armstrong & The Missoula Symphony is not part of the season ticket subscription.

Dear Missoula Symphony Patrons and Friends,

I am eagerly looking forward to the 2026–2027 **Missoula Symphony and Chorale Season** and bringing to you, our devoted audience, the most artistic, inspired, and high-quality performances possible.

Coming up this season, the Chorale will be joining forces with the orchestra in December when we'll perform together in the annual **Holiday Pops!** concerts. These festive concerts have become a December tradition in Missoula. Please note, that our dates for this event will be one week later than in past years, on December 11, 12, and 13. As always, we'll offer you a program of traditional and festive holiday favorites with a few surprises along the way that may even include a visit by a jolly old elf in a red suit!

In the Spring, for our final **Masterworks Concert**, we will again roll up our sleeves to join the orchestra in a performance celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of the premiere of **Carl Orff's** masterpiece, **Carmina Burana**.

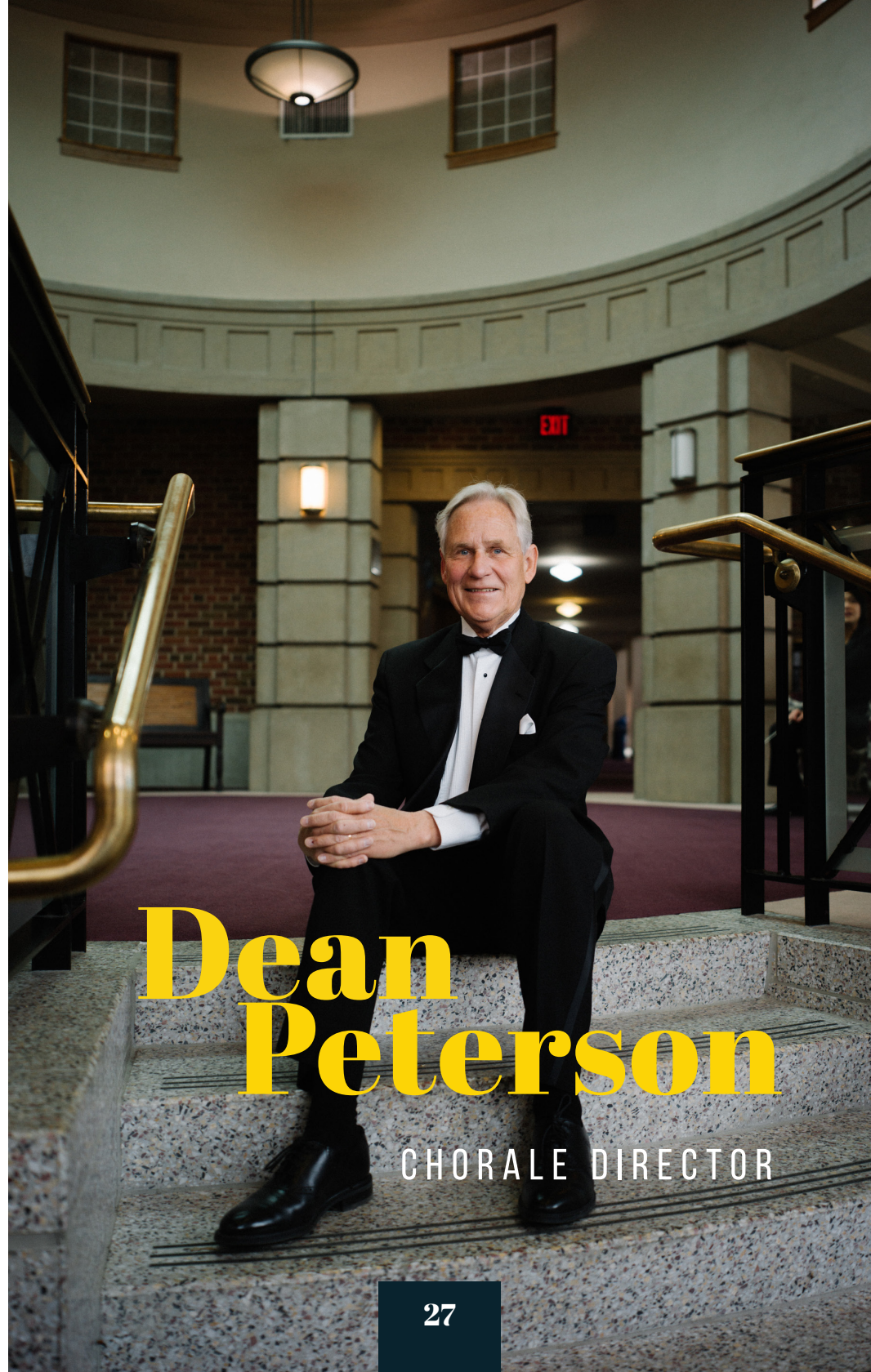
Carmina Burana is one of the most popular and spectacular choral works of the 20th century. Unlike many early oratorios it is secular, rather than sacred, and features chorus, vocal soloists, and orchestra. The ancient harmonies and driving rhythms of this unique composition convey a feeling of knights in shining armor and damsels in distress. That is not by accident, as the libretto comes from medieval love and drinking songs that celebrate life, fortune, and the unpredictability of it all. The iconic and breath-taking opening movement, **O Fortuna**, may sound familiar to you as it has been used in several film and television scores such as **Excalibur**, **Glee**, and **Survivor** as well as in ads for Domino's, Gatorade, and T-Mobile.

Now is the time to mark your calendars for next April 17 and 18 when we'll perform this amazing work live and in concert.

I look forward to seeing you at the Dennison Theatre in the upcoming season.

Thank you for your continued support of the **Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale!**

Dean Peterson,



Dean Peterson

CHORALE DIRECTOR

APRIL 17 & 18, 2027

CARMINA BURANA

CARL ORFF

Featuring the **Missoula Symphony Chorale**
Ludwig van Beethoven *Leonore Overture No. 3*
Carl Orff *Carmina Burana*

Art by Matthew Drew

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MASTERWORKS 4

Prepare for one of the most powerful choral works ever written as the **Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale** present **Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana***.

Famous for its thunderous opening movement, ***O Fortuna***, this dramatic masterpiece draws from medieval poetry celebrating the unpredictability of fate, the joys of spring, and the pleasures of life. Massive choruses, driving rhythms, and unforgettable melodies make ***Carmina Burana*** one of the most exhilarating works in the orchestral repertoire.

The concert opens with Beethoven's *Leonore Overture No. 3*, a brilliant and dramatic introduction that sets the stage for the monumental work that follows.

With the combined forces of orchestra, chorale, and soloists, this concert promises a breathtaking and unforgettable finale to the Masterworks season.

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MAY 15 & 16, 2027



MEREDITH
WILLSON'S
THE
MUSIC
MAN

Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*
In collaboration with *Missoula Children's Theatre*

◆ Broadway — POPS! — ◆

The **Missoula Symphony** closes the season with a dazzling celebration of musical theater in **Broadway Pops!**, presented in collaboration with the **Missoula Children's Theatre**.

By turns wicked, funny, warm, romantic and touching, ***The Music Man*** is family entertainment at its best. **Meredith Willson's** six-time, Tony Award-winning musical comedy has been entertaining audiences since 1957 and is a family-friendly story to be shared with every generation.

The Music Man follows fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill, as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize this, despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

**Join us for this award-winning,
critically acclaimed Broadway classic.**

It's an all-American institution, thanks to its quirky characters, charmingly predictable dramatic situations and one-of-a-kind, nostalgic score of rousing marches, barbershop quartets and sentimental ballads, which have become popular standards.

In collaboration with

MISSOULA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

Your Support Counts

ADOPT A MUSICIAN

When you *Adopt a Musician* you honor our individual musicians' exceptional dedication and effort, while helping to sustain high standards of professional support for our named chair musicians.

PLANNED GIVING

Please consider the Missoula Symphony Association in your planned giving.

BEQUESTS

Please consider naming the Missoula Symphony Association (MSA) in your will and/or trust.

RETIREMENT FUND GIFT

IRA contributions can be made directly to the MSA, are not taxable to the donor and the MSA receives the full amount of your gift.

ENDOWMENT TAX CREDIT

The Missoula Symphony Association has a permanent endowment to provide financial stability for decades to come. Under Montana law, a contribution to our endowment can benefit you with a very generous tax credit. *

*Subject to federal and state tax regulations.

DONATIONS

Donations of any amount are always appreciated. You may give online, mail a check, or visit our office during business hours. To set up a monthly giving plan, please contact us. All gifts receive a tax receipt, and donations of \$100 or more are recognized in our concert program books for one year. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER

Giving you time is an important part of supporting the Missoula Symphony! We are always looking for ushers, box office assistance and help with projects at our office. Contact Director of Patron Services Kirsten McGlynn at kirsten@missoulasympphony.org to find out how you can help.



Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

JULIA TAI,
MUSIC DIRECTOR
5th Season with
the Missoula Symphony

DEAN PETERSON,
CHORALE DIRECTOR
21st Season with
the Missoula Symphony

Photo Credit: Sam McGhee, Victory Media

2026-27 Tickets and Donations

SEASON TICKET DATES

MAY 18 TO JUNE 19

Season ticket renewals

JULY 6

New season subscription tickets begin

AUGUST 24

Single tickets go on sale

BENEFITS OF BEING A SEASON SUBSCRIBER

- Enjoy priority seating for every concert, with the first opportunity to upgrade your seats.
- Receive early access to tickets for special concerts and events.
- Complimentary ticket delivery by US Mail.
- Flexible exchange options, simply call to switch performances or return tickets as a tax-deductible donation.
- Lost your tickets? We'll replace them at no cost.
- 10% discount for subscribers buying extra single-seat tickets.

TO PURCHASE SEASON TICKETS

- Call the MSA office at (406) 721-3194.
- Go to missoulasymphony.org

2026-27 Season Tickets*

	Season Adult	Season Senior/Student	Single Adult	Single Senior/Student
Section 1	\$413	\$413	\$67	\$67
Section 2	\$323	\$243	\$54	\$42
Section 3	\$223	\$193	\$36	\$32
Section 4	\$143	\$113	\$28	\$22
Sun GA	\$163	\$123	\$29	\$24

*Ticket fees are included in the prices above. Credit card processing fees are not included.

Great Music Begins with You

THANK YOU for supporting your Missoula Symphony! Our community is extremely generous, and we're grateful for all donations, regardless of the amount. We have an exciting concert season ahead, and, thanks to you, the Missoula Symphony Orchestra & Chorale can perform a dynamic repertoire and bring in talented guest artists.

Ticket sales only make up 30% of our operating expenses, which means your donations and sponsorships are paramount to our success.

DONOR RECOGNITION LEVELS

Maestra = \$25,000

Concertmaster = \$10,000-\$24,999

Orchestra = \$5,000-\$9,999

Benefactor = \$1,000-\$4,999

Contributor = \$750-\$999

Patron = \$500-\$749

Associate = \$250-\$499

Member = \$100-\$249

For more information about sponsorships or other donations, please email teresa@missoulasymphony.org.

The Missoula Symphony Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, a federal tax ID #81-0290730. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

DOWNBEAT LOWDOWN

Join us for a free, pre-concert talk before each of our Masterworks concerts with Music Director Julia Tai. These informative conversations, which provide interesting facts about the concert you're about to hear, begin at 6:30 p.m. for our Saturday concerts and 2:00 p.m. for our Sunday matinees. Downbeat Lowdown conversations are held at the Music Recital Hall in the Music Building north of the Dennison Theatre. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.



Education & Community Engagement

For more than 40 years, education and community engagement have been at the heart of the Missoula Symphony Association's mission. That commitment has grown steadily under the stewardship of Music Director Julia Tai. This season, the Missoula Symphony Association is proud to present the following programs throughout the region.

UM/MSA STRING CAMP

This collaboration between the MSA and the UM School of Music welcomes students entering 1st grade through recent high school graduates. The camp offers beginning through advanced instruction on bass, cello, viola and violin. A residential option is available for students entering 8th grade and up. All this takes place in a safe, fun musical environment that encourages all campers to achieve their very best. Mark your calendars for July 19-24, 2026, and visit our website for more details. Registration is open now!

SYMPHONY KIDS AT MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Julia Tai presents a series of four mini concerts in the Library's Imaginarium, focusing on the instruments of the orchestra and guest artists from our 2026-2027 season.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM AT THE MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY IMAGINARIUM
September 19, 2026 | October 24, 2026
March 6, 2027 | April 17, 2027

BRANCH LIBRARY CONCERTS

Small ensembles of Symphony members perform mini-concerts in Missoula County's rural communities during the summer months.

STUDENT NIGHT AT DRESS REHEARSAL

Students and families are invited to join the Symphony for the dress rehearsal preceding each Masterworks and Broadway Pops! concert, enhanced by educational materials and a short talk by Music Director Julia Tai.

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AT THE DENNISON THEATRE
September 18, 2026 | October 23, 2026
March 5, 2027 | April 16, 2027

SYMPHONY IN THE SCHOOLS

Symphony musicians visit Missoula-area middle schools and high schools to perform and coach music students.

MISSOULA YOUTH SYMPHONY SIDE-BY-SIDE

Music Director Julia Tai works with the Missoula Youth Symphony during their rehearsals, and members of MYS perform alongside the Missoula Symphony in a Masterworks concert.

For more information, visit missoulasympphony.org/education

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