



QUAD CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
MARK RUSSELL SMITH, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

MASTERWORKS III

# SCHUMANN PIANO CONCERTO

DEC 6 & 7, 2025



**STUDENTS @ SYMPHONY**

WELCOME

# THANK YOU

*for* **JOINING US**

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Masterworks III is a delightful journey through timeless and rich music. Each piece in this Masterworks highlights the different colors, known as timbre, that the orchestra has to offer and gives the listener a feeling of warmth, joy, and admiration of beauty.

We begin this performance with a piece written by the timeless composer, Johann Sebastian Bach. This piece highlights many of the instruments in the orchestra, including strings, winds, brass, percussion, and basso continuo. All these instruments sing alone and together, playing with melody, harmony and balance. I personally love the string parts in the second movement of this piece because they are so warm and gooey! After that, Robert Schumann's one and only piano concerto will be performed by our esteemed soloist, Yefim Branfman. This piece starts with an energetic strike by strings and timpani, but moves into something more romantic and dreamy. I love the conversations between the piano, strings, and clarinet in this concerto; it is truly so beautiful and virtuosic. Yefim Bronfman is an internationally recognized and acclaimed pianist who is known for his incredible technique and lyricism; notice how his powerful presence brings this piece to life!

For the last continuation of this Masterworks program, we hear from another timeless composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his Symphony No. 41, also nicknamed the "Jupiter Symphony." This symphony was the longest and also last symphony that Mozart ever composed, but it is arguably one of the greatest. Mozart is so playful and joyful in his compositions, featuring much contrast between loud and soft, long and short, lyrical lines and sudden interruptions. These contrasts make this symphony so much fun to listen to and also perform.

Thank you for spending your time with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, and I hope you enjoy these pieces as much as I do. Make sure to follow the QCSO on social media to receive more information about upcoming performances and events.

**Breann Laermans**

*Music Educator & Content Creator*

## THE ORCHESTRA

# QUAD CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Founded in 1915 as the Tri-City Symphony Orchestra**

*The Quad City Symphony Orchestra string section uses rotating seating. Players behind the named chairs change seats with each concert series and are listed alphabetically in the roster below.*

### **VIOLIN I**

Naha Greenholtz,  
*concertmaster*  
Emily Nash,  
*associate concertmaster*  
Sam Battista  
Dortha DeWit+  
Marley Haller  
Hillary Kingsley  
Corina Lobont  
Susan Oliverius  
Erik Rohde\*  
Abigail Schneider  
Naomi Schrank  
Sabrina Tabby+  
Rachel Walter  
Steven Wilke

### **VIOLIN II**

Madeline Capistran,  
*acting principal*  
Charles Abplanalp  
Kim Busic +  
Alexander Giger  
Renee Henley  
Peter Miliczky  
Alex Norris  
Samuel Rudy  
Danielle Simandl  
Carolyn Van De Velde

### **VIOLA**

Madlen Breckbill,  
*acting principal*  
Melissa Snell,  
*acting principal*  
Nick Munagian,  
*associate principal*  
Bridget Andes  
Timothy Hoorelbek  
Benjamin Lorentzen  
Barrett Stoll  
Jenwei Yu

### **CELLO**

Hannah Holman,  
*principal*  
Laura Shaw,  
*associate principal*  
Yoo-Jung Chang  
James Ellis  
Derek Handley  
Claire Langenberg  
Elisabeth Logan+  
Amy Phelps  
Kevin Price-Brenner  
Kate Vos

### **DOUBLE BASS**

David Scholl, *principal*  
Kit Polen,  
*associate principal*  
Joe Bauer  
David Chapman-Orr  
Julia Holst-Kanakares  
Brett Lewis  
Victor Stahoviak  
Michael Van Ryn

### **FLUTE**

Jessica Warren, *principal*+  
Ellen Huntington  
Jilene Haas

### **OBOE**

Andrew Parker, *principal*  
Barrett Seals  
Ashley Ertz

### **CLARINET**

Karrin Meffert-Nelson,  
*acting principal*  
Christine Bellomy  
Joe Sanchez,  
*acting clarinet 3/  
bass clarinet*

### **BASSOON**

Benjamin Coelho,  
*principal*  
Matthew Kowalczyk+  
Dana Ransom

### **HORN**

Marc Zyla, *principal*+  
Steve Burian,  
*assistant principal*  
Peter Kortenkamp  
Joshua Johnson  
Allison Tutton

### **TRUMPET**

Matthew Baker,  
*principal*\*  
Chris Haas, *acting  
principal*  
Lindsey Frazier

### **TROMBONE**

Robert Parker, *principal*  
Cole Davis

### **BASS TROMBONE**

Andrew Rózsa

### **TUBA**

Ronald Morton

### **TIMPANI**

Michael Geary, *principal*

### **PERCUSSION**

Aaron Williams, *principal*  
Gary Ciccotelli  
Tony Oliver+

### **HARP**

Lillian Lau, *principal*

### **PIANO/CELESTA**

Mary Neil

+ Denotes Instructor in the QCSO Private Lesson Program

\* denotes a musician who is on a leave of absence for the current season.

## FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE



# BEFORE

*the* **CONCERT**



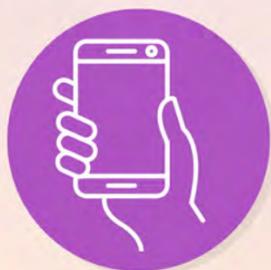
Arrive 20-30 minutes before the start so you have time to find your seat and get comfortable.



Come as you are! You may see some people in evening dresses and others in jeans and a t-shirt. There is no dress code.



Try sitting in different spots each time you attend a concert to find the best spot for you to enjoy the music.



Take a quick selfie.

## FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE



# DURING

*the* **CONCERT**



If you arrive late, wait until a piece ends before entering the hall. Ushers can help you figure out the best time to enter, and prevent you from distracting performers and audience members during the performance.



If you are unsure when to clap, it's always safe to assume that a piece is complete when the conductor puts down their arms and faces the audience.



Phones must be silenced.



Pictures may be taken if there is no flash and the screen is dimmed for night mode. We don't want to disturb others or take away from their experience.



Some performances will have short intermissions. This is a great time to stand, stretch, or even make a trip to the restroom. Be quick because time goes fast.

## FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE



# AFTER

*the* **CONCERT**



Tag the QCSO in any pictures you share on social media.



Talk about your experience with your family and friends.



**@QCSYMPHONY**

#qcso #qcsostudent

MASTERWORKS III

# SCHUMANN PIANO CONCERTO

SAT, DEC 6, 2025 7:30 PM  
ADLER THEATRE

SUN, DEC 7, 2025, 2:00 PM  
BARTLETT PAC

**MARK RUSSELL SMITH**, *conductor*  
**YEFIM BRONFMAN**, *piano*

**JOHN STAFFORD  
SMITH**  
(1750-1836)

The Star-Spangled Banner\*

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN  
BACH**  
(1685-1750)

Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068 [20']  
I. Overture  
II. Air  
III. Gavotte  
IV. Bourrée  
V. Gigue

**ROBERT SCHUMANN**  
(1810-1856)

Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54 [31']  
I. Allegro affettuoso  
II. Intermezzo: Andantino grazioso  
III. Allegro vivace

## INTERMISSION

**WOLFGANG  
AMADEUS MOZART**  
(1756-1791)

Symphony No. 14 in C Major, K. 551,  
"Jupiter" [31']  
I. Allegro vivace  
II. Andante cantabile  
III. Menuetto: Allegretto  
IV. Molto allegro

*\*Out of respect for those fallen in service of our country, we ask that you do not applaud after the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner.*

THANK YOU

# STUDENTS @ SYMPHONY

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BRISSMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

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*mission support by*



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Trust  
CULTURE MATTERS HERE



QUAD  
CITY  
BANK &  
TRUST

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



**b. March 31, 1685**  
*in Eisenach, Germany*  
**d. July 28, 1750**  
*in Leipzig, Germany*

# JOHANN SEBASITAN BACH

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He was born the youngest child of a city musician named Johann Ambrosius, and was orphaned at the age of 10. This is when he went to live with his oldest brother for five years followed by studying music in Luneburg, Germany. In 1703, Bach began working as a musician for Protestant churches where he mostly engaged with composing chamber music for many years. In 1723, he was hired to work as a Thomascantor (a musical director of the boys choir at St. Thomas School), in Leipzig. He composed music for many Lutheran churches in the city, and worked with local universities and student ensembles by writing music for them. It was also here that Bach was publishing many of his works written for keyboard and organ. After a few years of a difficult relationship with his employer, Bach was granted the title of Court Composer of the Elector of Saxony by his sovereign, Augustus III of Poland in 1736. As he approached the last decades of his life, Bach reworked many of his older compositions and died at the age of 65 in 1750 due to complications with eye surgery.

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

An interesting fact is that Bach had 20 children, and 4 of them also became musical composers! J.S. Bach was made famous for his abundant output of compositions (over 1000 musical works in his lifetime!) across a variety of instruments and forms including orchestral works, instrumental solos and partitas, keyboard and organ compositions, and also choral works. He demonstrated a mastery of counterpoint (using independent melody lines against each other to create harmony), and used inspiration from French and Italian music to establish a German style of music. It is because of this, that Johann Sebastian Bach is regarded as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music.

In his Orchestral Suite No. 3, see what kind of instruments you hear in the first movement.

- How many instrument families are represented?
- Does the music feel fast or slow or both?
- In the second movement, you will notice that the orchestra is smaller and focuses on strings and continuo, how does this change the mood of the piece?



*Image: Statue of Johann Sebastian Bach at Thomaskirchhof in Leipzig, Saxony, German*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



# MAJOR EVENTS *of* 1729-1730

JULY  
30  
1729

The US City of Baltimore was founded.

DECEMBER  
9  
1729

Benjamin Franklin posted the first notice of Freemasonry in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

JULY  
8  
1730

A powerful earthquake estimated at a magnitude of 9.1 struck Valparaiso in what is known as modern-day Chile.

SPRING  
1730

The Ottoman-Persian War began in what is known as western Iran.

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



1:07



2:13

## LISTEN TO OTHER WORKS *by* **JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**



### **Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048**

I. Allegro

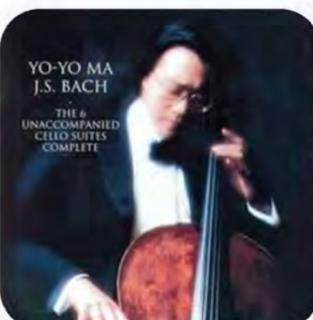
Berliner Philharmoniker



### **Toccata & Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565**

I. Toccata

Simon Preston, *organ*



### **Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007**

I. Prelude

Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*



# TWO TRUTHS *and a* LIE



## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Read each of the 3 statements below and see if you can guess which is the lie.

**A**

Bach composed only 100 works in his lifetime.

**B**

Bach had 20 children, 4 of which became musical composers.

**C**

Bach was orphaned at the age of 10 years old.

*The answer is on the last page of the program.*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



**b. June 8, 1810**  
*in Zwickau, Germany*  
**d. July 29, 1856**  
*in Endenich Bonn,*  
**Germany**

## ROBERT SCHUMANN

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Robert Schumann was a German composer and pianist of the early Romantic period. Growing up in Saxony with no musical connections, Schumann was unsure whether he should be a lawyer or a living pianist-composer. He initially studied law in Leipzig and Heidelberg, but Schumann found his interests were still invested in romantic literature and music. In 1829, he began to study under a pianist, Friedrich Wieck, but encountered a problem with his right hand. It was after this that Schumann started to concentrate on composition, with a focus on the piano. He gained inspiration from other musicians like Mendelssohn and Chopin, and later with Wieck's daughter Clara whom he married in 1840. Clara was also a gifted pianist who later performed many of Schumann's works. His love for her inspired many of his works, and due to Clara's efforts, Schumann's one and only piano concerto was completed in 1845. The Schumanns would do a concert tour across Russia, to which Robert returned in poor mental health. In his recovery, Schumann was able to compose a few prolific works including his 3rd and 4th Symphonies, and a cello concerto.

*Image: Daguerrotype of Robert Schumann in 1850*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

It was in 1853 that Schumann met a promising new composer, Johannes Brahms, whom he praised highly and became close with in the years leading up to his death in 1856. In his lifetime, Robert Schumann composed many works for solo piano, voice and piano, chamber ensembles, orchestras, choirs, and even opera. His works really embodied the spirit of the Romantic era through the lens of German music.

In Schumann's Piano Concerto:

- What do you notice about the volume at the beginning? Is the music loud, soft, or both?
- What kind of story do you think the piano is trying to tell?
- What other instruments do you hear having a musical conversation with the piano?

I love the different textures and energy that the piano showcases in this concerto.



*Image: Clara and Robert Schumann in an 1850 daguerrotype*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



## MAJOR EVENTS *of* 1845

MARCH  
3

Florida is admitted as the 27th US state. Followed by Texas in December of the same year!

MARCH  
17

The rubber band was invented in the United Kingdom by Stephen Perry.

MAY  
1

Frederick Douglas's autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, an American Slave* was published by the Boston Anti-Slavery Society

SEPTEMBER  
9

A potato blight breaks out in Ireland, beginning the Great Famine.

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



1:07



2:13

## LISTEN TO OTHER WORKS *by* **ROBERT SCHUMANN**



### Symphony No. 3 in E-Flat Major, Op. 97 "Rhenish"

I. Lebhaft

New York Philharmonic



### Dichterliebe, Op. 48

No. 6, Im Rhine, im heiligen Strome

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Christoph Eschenbach



### Piano Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op. 44

I. Allegro Brillante

Menahem Pressler & Emerson String Quartet.



# TWO TRUTHS *and a* LIE



## ROBERT SCHUMANN

Read each of the 3 statements below and see if you can guess which is the lie.

**A**

Before becoming a composer, Schumann was also a writer who wrote poetry, plays, and short stories.

**B**

Robert Schumann lived a long, happy life, dying at the age of 86 years old.

**C**

In an attempt to be a better pianist, Schumann constructed a device out of a cigar box and wire to strengthen his hand and build finger independence when practicing.

*The answer is on the last page of the program.*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

- b. **January 27, 1756**  
*in Salzburg, Austria*
- d. **December 5, 1791**  
*in Vienna, Austria*



## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an iconic and influential composer from the Classical period, and is regarded as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music; writing more than 800 works in his 35 years of life. Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria as the youngest child to his father Leopold Mozart, who encouraged Mozart's musical studies from a young age. By age 5, Mozart was competent in piano and violin, and started writing his own music. At this point Mozart and his father did a grand tour of Europe as well as three trips to Italy and two trips to London, where Mozart met Johann Christian Bach. It was at age 8 that Mozart wrote his first symphony, transcribed by his father. At the age of 17, Mozart was hired as a musician for the Salzburg court, but grew restless. He sought out positions in Paris, Mannheim, Munich, and ended up returning to Salzburg. He was dismissed from this position in 1781 while visiting Vienna, and decided to stay there. At this point Mozart began to study many of the baroque masters such as JS Bach, and George Frideric Handel.

*Image: Mozart in 1767, at approximately 11 years old.*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

In 1784, Mozart became friends with Joseph Haydn, and dedicated several string quartets to him. While living in Vienna, Mozart gained fame but little fortune, and even Haydn wrote that “[society] will not see such a talent again in 100 years.” It was in this late stage of Mozart’s life that he wrote many of his best-known works like his Jupiter Symphony (Symphony No. 41), Eine kleine Nachtmusik, and operas such as the Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, The Magic Flute, as well as his own Requiem which was largely unfinished at the time of his death at 35.

In Mozart’s Symphony No. 41 “Jupiter,”

- Does the music sound heavy, light, or both? What instruments do you hear talking to one another?
- Which instruments sound light and lyrical? Which instruments give more flare and fanfare?
- In the second movement, which instruments do you hear playing the melody?
- Notice how the melody seems to be interrupted and changes to something darker as the movement goes on.

I love the change of dynamics (volume) and texture in Mozart’s works!



*Image: Louis Carrogis Carmontelle:  
Leopold Mozart and his two children, Wolfgang Amadeus and Marie Anne*

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



## MAJOR EVENTS of 1788

JANUARY

26

New South Wales from the UK founded Sydney, Australia.

FEBRUARY

1

Isaac Briggs and William Longstreet patent the Steamboat in the US.

JUNE

21

The United States constitution is ratified by all 13 states, enabling it to go into effect.

NOVEMBER

25

France sets a record for 50 consecutive days of temperatures below freezing.

## NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



1:07



2:13

## LISTEN TO OTHER WORKS *by* **WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**



### Requiem K. 626 (Ed. Beyer/Levin)

IIIa: Dies irae

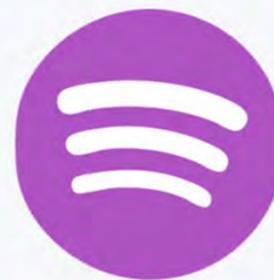
Berliner Philharmoniker



### The Magic Flute K. 620

Act 2: Queen of the Night  
Aria

Diana Damrau, Le Cercle de L'Harmonie,  
Jeremie Rhorer



### Eine kleine Nchtmusik, K. 525

I. Allegro

Berliner Philharmoniker



# TWO TRUTHS *and a* LIE



## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Read each of the 3 statements below and see if you can guess which is the lie.

**A**

Mozart had an unusual type of pet called a starling, that could sing a melody from his Piano Concerto No. 17.

**B**

Mozart had a love of mischief and pranks, and even wrote a piece called "A Musical Joke" that made fun of bad composers.

**C**

Mozart was able to finish his final piece, his Requiem, right before he died in 1791.

*The answer is on the last page of the program.*

## INSTRUMENT SPOTLIGHT

# PIANO



**BASS & TREBLE CLEF**  
*on the GRAND STAFF*

### INSTRUMENT FAMILY

Pianos make sound by striking the keys, which causes a tiny felted hammer to strike a tuned string, which then vibrates and transfers their vibrations through a bridge and amplifies through a soundboard.

### ENSEMBLES

orchestras, wind bands/  
symphonies, jazz bands, a  
variety of chamber  
ensembles, & in popular  
music.

The invention of the piano started in the 18th century and is credited to Bartolomeo Cristofori of Italy, who was employed by Ferdinando de' Medici as the Keeper of the Instruments. The piano as we know it is the successor to other keyboard instruments such as the pipe organ, hammered dulcimer, and harpsichord. The English word piano is shortened from the Italian word pianoforte, which translates to "harpsichord with loud and soft," since the volume and tone of this instrument is in accordance to how forcefully or softly the performer presses the keys. Due to the dynamic contrast that the piano could offer, this instrument gained much popularity in the late-18th century into the 19th century, and was used by many composers such as Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. To this day the piano has evolved into an instrument with so much color and contrast, and even has been given pedals to change the length of notes with the performer's feet! The piano is still used in many different genres today like classical, jazz, blues, and even pop music.

## INSTRUMENT SPOTLIGHT

# PIANISTS *to* CHECK OUT



YUJA WANG



ALFRED BRENDEL



ISATA  
KANNEH-MASON



LANG LANG



## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Professional organizations for instruments are great places to find out the most recent information about festivals, get access to journals about the instrument, and learn about competitions and awards that could result in performing opportunities or scholarship money.



AMERICAN PIANISTS ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL PIANO PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## COMING UP *at the* QCSO

### HOLIDAY BRASS



**DECEMBER 13 & 14 @ 3:00 PM**

Ring in the holiday season with members of the QCSO Brass and Percussion sections! Under the direction of Maestro Mark Russell Smith, the ensemble is joined by organist Chris Nelson to perform uplifting selections of classical and holiday favorites!

MASTERWORKS IV

### THE RITE OF SPRING



**FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2026**

Explore vivid musical landscapes and bold orchestral color! Mussorgsky's serene Dawn on the Moskva River sets a tranquil mood, followed by Angel Lam's captivating new commission making its world premiere. The program concludes with Stravinsky's electrifying Rite of Spring, brimming with primal rhythms and daring artistry.

### ANSWERS TO 2 TRUTHS AND A LIE

**The following statements are false:**

- Bach composed only 100 works in his lifetime  
*(He composed over 1000 works during his life!)*
- Robert Schumann lived a long, happy life, dying at the age of 86 years old.  
*(Schumann died in 1856 at the age of 46)*
- Mozart was able to finish his final piece, his Requiem, right before he died in 1791.  
*(Mozart's Requiem was left largely unfinished.)*