



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

MASTERWORKS VI

VIOLINS OF HOPE

April 11 & 12, 2026



STUDENTS @ SYMPHONY

WELCOME

THANK YOU

for **JOINING US**

Welcome to a truly historic performance: Violins of Hope. At this concert, you will hear music performed on instruments with a profound history. We are honored to feature instruments that **survived the Holocaust**, restored by master luthiers to be played once again. By bringing these instruments back to the concert hall, we honor the legacy of their original owners and ensure that their history continues to be heard.

The program begins with J.S. Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, featuring Sabrina Tabby and Emily Nash. Both will be performing on historic "Violins of Hope." Listen for the way the two violins weave together in a musical conversation, a technique called **counterpoint** that Bach mastered like no one else.

The second half of our program features the monumental Symphony No. 6 by Gustav Mahler, often called the "Tragic" symphony. This is one of the largest and most powerful works a symphony can perform. It is famous for its massive "Hammer" blows in the final movement, representing the **unexpected strikes of fate** that change the course of a life.

Thank you for joining us for this profound conclusion to our season. We hope the music you hear today inspires you to find hope and strength in the stories these instruments have survived to tell.

Margaret Thompson

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 VI

VIOLINS OF HOPE

SAT, MAR 7, 2026 7:30 PM
ADLER THEATRE

SUN, MAR 8 2026, 2:00 PM
CENTENNIAL HALL

MARK RUSSELL SMITH, *conductor*

EMILY NASH, *violin*

SABRINA TABBY, *violin*

**JOHN STAFFORD
SMITH**

(1750-1836)

The Star-Spangled Banner*

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN
BACH**

(1685-1750)

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor,
BWV 1043 [17']

I. Vivace

II. Largo ma non tanto

III. Allegro

INTERMISSION

GUSTAV MAHLER

(1860-1911)

Symphony No. 6 in A minor [79']

I. Allegro energico, ma non troppo.
Heftig, aber markig.

II. Scherzo: Wuchtig

III. Andante moderato

IV. Finale: Sostenuto – Allegro
moderato – Allegro energico

**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

sponsored by



Additional support by

DORIS & VICTOR DAY FOUNDATION
ROCK ISLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BRISSMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

concert sponsored by



mission support by

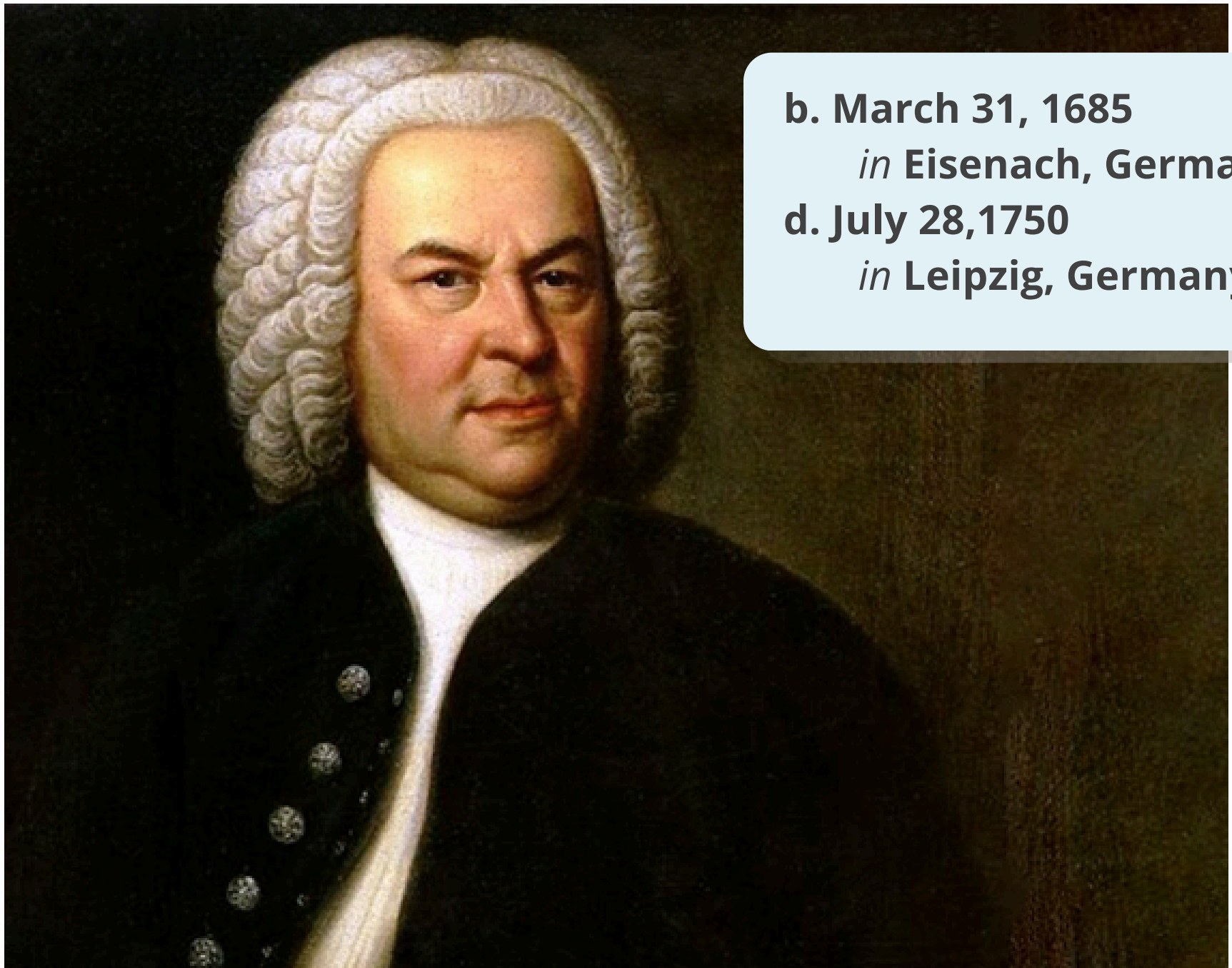


The
Cultural
Trust
CULTURE MATTERS HERE



QUAD
CITY
BANK &
TRUST

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



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

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

During his lifetime, Johann Sebastian Bach was known more as a virtuoso organist than a legendary composer. Much of his music remained unpublished or was performed only for the churches and courts where he worked. It wasn't until nearly 80 years after his death that his genius was rediscovered by later composers like Felix Mendelssohn. Today, Bach is considered one of the most influential, recognized, and regarded composers in music history, and his work defines the Baroque era.

Bach was born into a very large family of professional musicians. After his parents died when he was 15, he lived with his older brother, Johann Christoph, who continued his musical training. Bach was a tireless student; he once walked over 200 miles just to hear the great organist Dietrich Buxtehude perform.

As a working musician, Bach held various roles including organist and church musician. He was expected to provide an immense amount of new music every week for church services and royal events. He had seven children with his first wife, Maria Barbara, and thirteen more with his second wife, Anna Magdalena. Although only ten of his children survived to adulthood, several also became famous composers.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

In his final years, decades of composing by candlelight took a toll on his eyes. A failed surgery left him almost completely blind. Even so, he continued to compose until the very end. His final masterpiece, *The Art of the Fugue*, remains a mystery. It ends abruptly in the final section where he used his own name as a musical theme: B-A-C-H (in German musical notation, B is B-flat and H is B-natural).

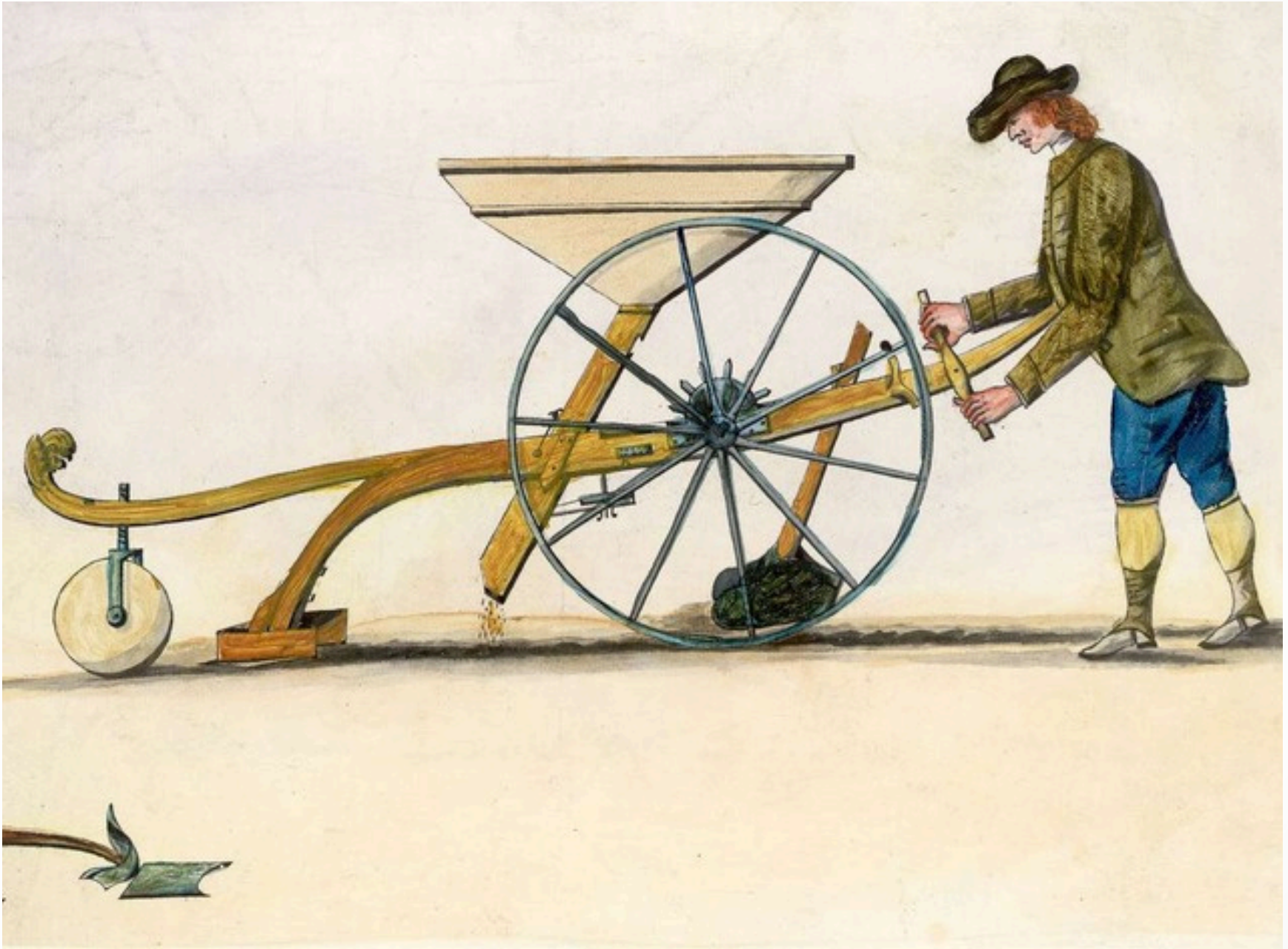
Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor, BWV 1043

If you've ever had a conversation where you and a friend keep finishing each other's sentences, you already understand how this concerto works! Known as the "Bach Double," this is one of the most famous pieces of music ever written for the violin. Bach wrote this around 1730 while he was the director of a musical group in Leipzig. Unlike his serious church music, this was written for high energy performances in a local coffee house.



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

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



MAJOR EVENTS *of* 1731-1733

1731

Jethro Tull invents the seed drill, changing farming and agriculture forever.

1732

George Washington, the future first President of the United States, is born in Virginia.

1733

The first colony of Georgia was founded in Savannah.

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*



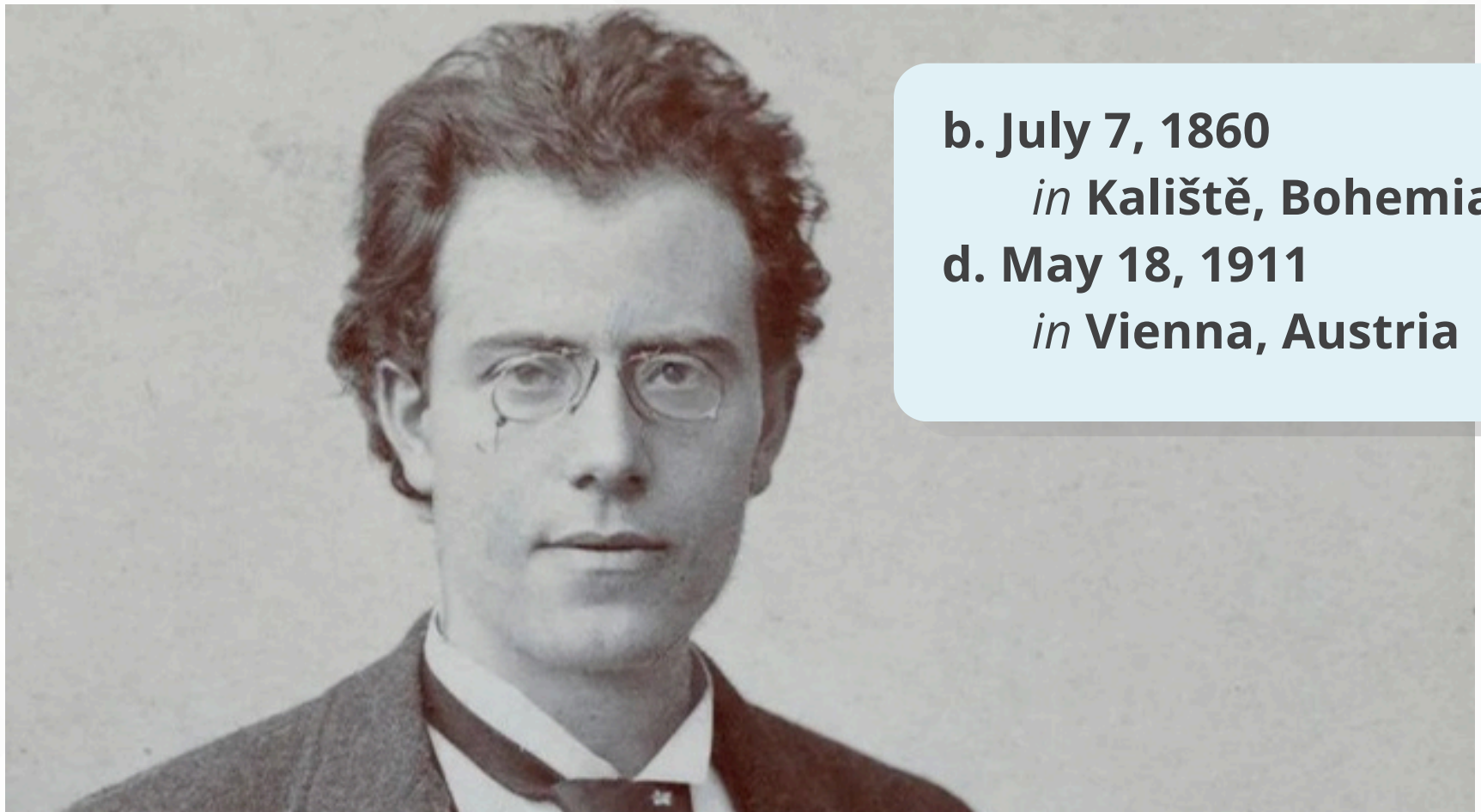
Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

I. Prelude

Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*



NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



b. July 7, 1860

in Kaliště, Bohemia

d. May 18, 1911

in Vienna, Austria

GUSTAV MAHLER

During his lifetime, Gustav Mahler was primarily famous as one of the world's greatest conductors. He held prestigious positions leading the Vienna State Opera and later in life, the New York Philharmonic. However, he considered himself a composer first, once famously stating, "My time will yet come." Because of his busy conducting schedule, he could usually only compose during his summer vacations in the mountains, where he built small, isolated "composing huts" to work in total silence.

Mahler's personal life was marked by both great success and profound loss. He married Alma Schindler, a talented musician and composer, and they had two daughters. The trauma of the death of his eldest daughter and his own diagnosis of a heart condition heavily influenced his later compositions. His music acts as a bridge between the traditional Romantic style of the 1800s and the modern, experimental music of the 20th century. While his symphonies were often misunderstood during his life, they are now some of the most respected and frequently performed works in the orchestral repertoire.

Symphony No. 6 in A minor, "Tragic"

This symphony, often referred to as "Tragic" was composed between 1903 and 1904. Mahler's music is known for being maximalist and this symphony is no exception. He utilizes a huge orchestra, cowbells, and even a giant wooden hammer to create an emotional experience. Mahler famously said, "A symphony must be like the world. It must contain everything."

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



MAJOR EVENTS *of* 1904 - 1906

DECEMBER

3

1904

The Lick Observatory in California discovers Himalia, a moon of Jupiter.

1905

Albert Einstein publishes his famous equation $E=mc^2$

APRIL

18

1906

The Great San Francisco Earthquake occurs.

Image: Photograph of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM



1:07



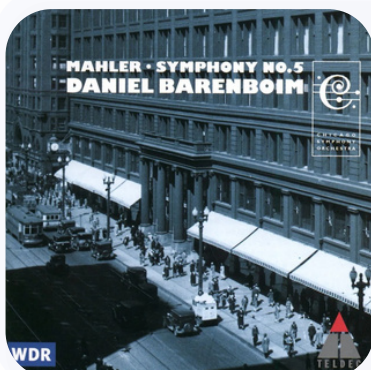
2:13

LISTEN TO OTHER WORKS *by* **GUSTAV MALLER**



SYMPHONY NO. 1, "TITAN"

San Francisco Symphony



SYMPHONY NO. 5

IV. Adagietto

Chicago Symphony Orchestra



SONGS OF A WAYFARER

Anne Sofie von Otter &
NDR-sinfonieorchester



VIOLINS *of* HOPE

A collection of over 70 historic string instruments that each carry a remarkable story. Many are crafted with beautiful carvings like the Star of David or belonged to Jewish musicians who played them in concentration camps. Through the war and after, many of these instruments fell into disrepair or were not maintained.

The “Violins of Hope” project began in Israel with a master luthier named Amnon Weinstein and his son, Avshalom. A luthier restores and repairs string instruments. Amnon’s parents fled Europe in 1938, but many of his relatives did not survive the war. He dedicated his life to finding these instruments that survived and restoring them to concert ready condition. He says by restoring and playing these instruments, we ensure that these stories are never forgotten.



TIMELINE

**THE LATE
1980s**

THE FIRST REQUEST

A survivor of the Holocaust brought a violin to Amnon Weinstein's shop in Tel Aviv. The man had played it in a concentration camp and hadn't touched it since the war ended. When Amnon opened the violin to repair it, he found black ash inside; a heartbreaking reminder of the crematoriums. This was the moment Amnon realized he had to find and save these instruments.



THE "HATIKVAH" VIOLIN

Amnon received a violin that had been thrown out of a cattle car transport train in France. A worker on the tracks picked it up and kept it safe for decades. This instrument became one of the first in the collection to be fully restored.

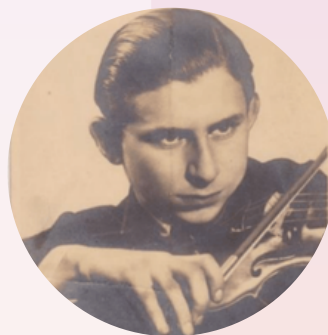
1996



**SEPTEMBER
2008**

THE FIRST MAJOR CONCERT

The collection had its first major international debut in Jerusalem. Sixteen violins were played by the Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra at the walls of the Old City. It was the first time many of these instruments had been heard by a large audience since 1945.



CONTINUED



TIMELINE



COMING TO AMERICA

The Violins of Hope made their first trip to the United States for an exhibition and concert series in Charlotte, North Carolina. Since then, they have traveled to several cities, including Cleveland, San Francisco, and Nashville.

2012

2015

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC

In a deeply symbolic event, the violins were played by the Berlin Philharmonic in Germany to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.



THE QUAD CITIES RESIDENCY

The collection arrives in the Quad Cities! Not only are they being played on the Adler Theatre stage, but they are visiting schools and community centers, allowing the next generation to experience history.

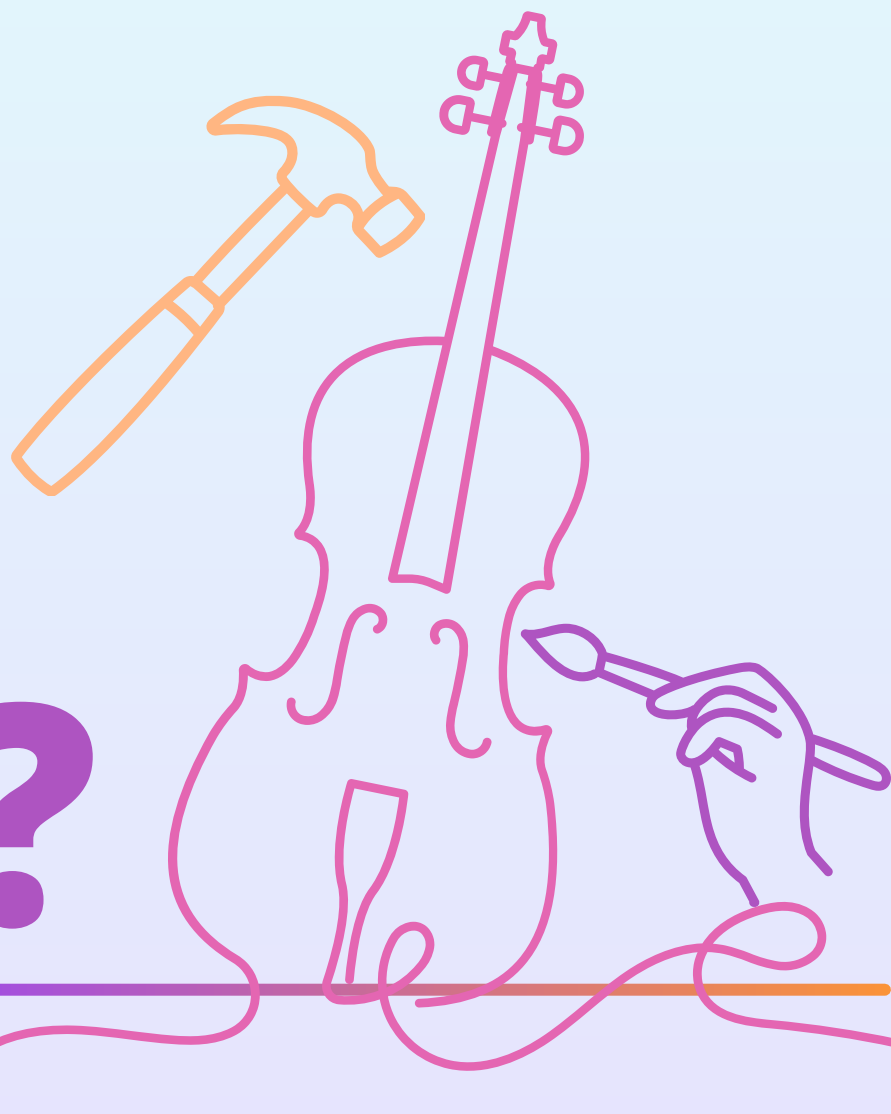
2026

CONTINUED



TIMELINE

HOW DO YOU *fix a* VIOLIN?



1

OPENING THE INSTRUMENT

A luthier carefully removes the top of the violin using special thin knives.

2

CLEANING THE PAST

They remove old, brittle glue and dirt while being careful not to damage the original wood.

3

HEALING THE WOOD

If the wood is cracked, they use tiny wooden cleats to reinforce it from the inside.

4

THE VARNISH

They apply a special finish that protects the wood but allows it to vibrate freely so it sounds beautiful.

UPCOMING EVENTS



COMING UP *at the* QCSO

UP CLOSE: VIOLINS OF HOPE

APRIL 18, 2026

Experience powerful masterpieces paired with emotionally resonant works, embodying remembrance, resilience, and hope, including Steve Reich's Different Trains.



QCSO/QCSYE SIDE-BY-SIDE

APRIL 26, 2026

QCSYE consists of four school-year orchestras for musicians of all ability levels, ages 7 to 18. The program provides a rigorous and inspiring learning environment founded on musical excellence for string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians. Students develop valuable musical, social, and leadership skills which set them up for success in school and beyond. Financial aid is available so everyone can participate regardless of ability to pay.

