The 2017/2018 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance

■■ **devblogs.microsoft.com**/oldnewthing/20170220-01

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For many years, I've put together a little pocket guide to the Seattle Symphony subscription season for my symphony friends to help them decide which ticket package they want. For the past several years now, we haven't ordered any series tickets at all because we all have young children, but I still make this guide out of some sense of obligation.

So here's the at-a-glance season guide for the 2017/2018 season anyway, again with no comments from me because nobody I know is going to use them to decide which tickets to order. (Well, sometimes we get a single concert, but it's not worth trying to rate every piece to pick one concert. If you're my friend and want recommendations for a single concert in March, just call me.) Besides, you can probably preview nearly all of the pieces nowadays (minus the premieres) by searching on YouTube.

Here is the official brochure for those who want to read the details, and the press release for the breathless prose.

Here's what *The Seattle Times* thinks of it.

Week	Program	22	13	8G	5H	SU	
09/21	Mahler: Symphony #2 "Resurrection"						
10/05 2017	Brahms: *Tragic Overture* Bartók: Piano Concerto #1 Elgar: *Enigma Variations*						
10/12 2017	Mendelssohn: Sinfonia #10 Schumann: Violin Concerto Mendelssohn: Symphony #4 "Italian"						
10/20 2017	Avison: Concerto Grosso #3 in d "after Scalatti" Vivaldi: "*Cessate, omai cessate*" Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons*						

Date	Program									
10/26 2017	Prokofiev: Piano Concerto #3 Shostakovich: Symphony #10									
11/02 2017	Berlioz: *Le nuits d'été* Berlioz: *Symphonie fantastique*									
11/09	Berlioz: Requiem									
11/30 2017	Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto #3 Franck: Symphony in d									
01/04 2018	Stravinsky: *Funeral Song* Ligeti: Violin Concerto Mozart: Symphony #39									
01/25 2018	Brahms: Variations on a Theme by Haydn Brahms: Hungarian Dances #1, 3 and 10 Brahms: *Liebeslieder Waltzes* Brahms: Symphony #2									
02/01 2018	Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps* Elgar: Violin Concerto Rachmaninov: Symphony #3									
02/08 2018	David Lang: *symphony without a hero*† R. Strauss: *Ein Heldenleben*									
02/23 2018	J.C. Bach: Sinfonia in g Vivaldi: Concerto for Violin in D Vivaldi: *Gloria*									
03/01 2018	Haydn: Symphony #49 "*La passione*" Mozart: Violin Concerto #3 Arvo Pärt: *Fratres* Schubert: Symphony #8 "Unfinished"									
03/15 2018	Villa-Lobos: *Quintet in the form of a chôros* De Falla: *The Three-Cornered Hat* Orff: *Carmina burana*									
03/22 2018	Sibelius: *The Oceanides* Britten: *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes* Sibelius: Symphony #2									
03/29 2018	Beethoven: Piano Concerto #5 "Emperor" John Luther Adams: *Become Desert*†									
04/19 2018	Ibert: *Escales* Scriabin: Piano Concerto Respighi: *Fountains of Rome* Debussy: *La mer*									

Week	Program	22	13	8G	5H	SU	
04/26 2018	Stravinsky: *Song of the Volga Boatmen* Stravinsky: Concerto for Piano and Wind Instr. Stravinsky: *Les noces* Stravinsky: *Persephone*						
05/04 2018	Handel: *Agrippina* Overture Vivaldi and Handel: Arias and duets Mozart: Violin Concerto #5 "Turkish" Mozart: "*Ch'io mi scordi di te*?" Handel: Concerto Grosso Op 5 #6 Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in D "Il grosso mogul"						
05/17 2018	Dvořák: *The Wild Dove* Haydn: Cell Concerto in D Prokofiev: *Romeo and Juliet* Suite #2						
05/31	Sibelius: *Kullervo*						
06/14 2018	Alexandra Gardner: New Work† Bernstein: *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* Bernstein: *Wonderful Town*						
06/21 2018	Bernstein: *Candide* Overture Andrew Norman: Cello Concerto† Copland: Symphony #3						
06/28 2018	Saint-Saëns: *Danse macabre* Chopin: Piano Concerto #2 Saint-Saëns: Symphony #3 "Organ"						

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function filter(c) { var rows =
document.getElementById("schedule").getElementsByTagName("TR"); for (var i = 0; i !=
rows.length; i++) { var row = rows[i]; var className = row.className; if (className != "") {
if (c == 'all' || className.indexOf(c) != -1) { row.style.display = ""; } else { row.style.display =
"none"; } } } } (function(){ var headers =
document.getElementById("schedule").getElementsByTagName("TH"); for (var i = 0; i !=
headers.length; i++) { (function(attr){ headers[i].onclick = function(){filter(attr);}; })
(headers[i].className); } })();
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† World Premiere.

Insider tip: Click a column header to focus on a specific series. (This feature has been around for several years, actually.)

Legend:

22	Masterworks 22-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
13	Masterworks 13-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
7A	Masterworks 7-concert series A (Thursdays)
7B	Masterworks 7-concert series B (Saturdays)
8C	Masterworks 8-concert series C (Thursdays)
8D	Masterworks 8-concert series D (Saturdays)
7E	Masterworks 7-concert series E (Thursdays)
7F	Masterworks 7-concert series F (Saturdays)
8G	Masterworks 8-concert series G (Sunday afternoons)
5H	Masterworks 5-concert series H (Friday afternoons)
SU	Untuxed (Fridays, reduced program)
BW	Baroque and Wine (Choice of Fridays or Saturdays)

For the weekend of May 17, the concert normally scheduled for Saturday evening will be held on Sunday afternoon.

For those not familiar with the Seattle Symphony ticket package line-ups: Most of the ticket packages are named *Masterworks nX* where *n* is the number is the number of concerts in the package, and the letter indicates the variation. Ticket packages have been combined if they are identical save for the day of the week. For example, 8C and 8D are the same concerts; the only difference is that 8C is for Thursday nights, while 8D is for Saturday nights.

This chart doesn't include concert series such as the *Distinguished Artists* series which share no concerts with any of the Masterworks concerts.

Notes and changes:

- The 7[AB], 8[CD], and 7[EF] concert series do not overlap, so you can create your own pseudo-series by taking any two of them, or recreate the 22-concert series by taking all three.
- The 13-concert series is the same as the 8[CD] and 7[EF] series combined, minus the November 30 and June 21 concerts.
- The *Symphony Untuxed* series was renamed to simply *Untuxed*.
- The New Year's Eve concert/party traditionally features Beethoven's Symphony #9, but this year, they're trying something different: Tony DeSare performs popular songs from the 20th century, as well as *Rhapsody in Blue*.

- There are always one-off concerts scattered through the year. Here are some highlights:
  - A two-concert *Prokofiev Concerto Festival* encompasses the first three piano concertos, both violin concertos, and (just for kicks) the first symphony.
  - A *John Williams Conducts Williams* concert, wherein the composer-conductor leads the symphony in performances of music from movies he has scored.
  - Don't worry, Beethoven fans. You'll still get your Ninth Symphony: It'll be performed on the last weekend of the year. Not quite New Year's Eve, but close.

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