



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Sally Linder
sally@reillyartscenter.com
352-789-5540

THE 2024-2025 OCALA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEASON ANNOUNCED

OCALA, Fla. (June 18, 2024) – The Ocala Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce their 2024-2025 season with timeless masterworks, world premieres, and stellar soloists under the baton of Maestro Matthew Wardell. The season begins June 30, 2024, with Red, White, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra Blue, and subscription performances begin October 2024. The upcoming season will feature six subscription concerts and seven special concerts for guests of all ages. Unless otherwise indicated, events are held at the Reilly Arts Center located at 500 NE 9th St. Ocala, FL 34470.

The Symphony's Special Concert selection is on sale now, including the annual Red, White, and OSO Blue celebration, a unique live performance of the 1927 sci-fi silent film *Metropolis* with live orchestra, a community Messiah Sing Along, and a grand performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Tickets range from \$15 to \$40 for adults and \$10 for students.

"This 49th season features incredible collaborations between the orchestra, the Ocala Symphony Chorus, CF's Patriot Singers, and renowned soloists - those collaborations will reach their zenith with Beethoven's monumental 9th Symphony, an ode to joy and brotherhood that promises to be a transcendent experience next April. Our subscription concerts will be some of the best yet, including works by Mason Bates, Tchaikovsky, Anna Clyne, Beethoven, Dvořák, Leanna Primiani, Strauss, Rimsky-Korsakov and more! Also not to be missed is our "Messiah Sing Along," inviting you to lend your voice to Handel's immortal masterpiece in a celebration of community and music" said Matthew Wardell, Music Director and Conductor of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. He continued, "This season embodies our commitment to showcasing the transformative power of music, featuring both the celebrated classics and the innovative new. Each concert is an invitation to explore the depths of human emotion, the heights of artistic achievement, and the communal spirit of music-making. Join us at the Reilly Arts Center for this spectacular season. Whether you're a lifelong orchestra enthusiast or a curious newcomer, there's something in this season for you. Together, let's make memories that will last a lifetime."

Current Ocala Symphony Subscribers can renew their subscriptions today by calling our box office at 352-351-1606 or visiting in person during our hours Tuesday through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM. New subscribers can begin purchasing on July 9 at 10 AM. Season subscribers can save as much as 42% over single tickets, priority seating, free ticket exchanges, and other loyalty perks.

Single tickets for subscription concerts will be available starting August 16, 2024. Season support is provided by WUFT Classic and Angie Lewis State Farm.

We will also be hosting **Open Rehearsals for students and families** and **Coffee/Cocktails with the Conductor** events. These events are free, open to the public, and serve to give audiences a behind-the-scenes look at how a concert comes together, learn more about the composers and music that you will hear during concerts, and connect with the orchestra outside of a formal concert setting. For more information about season subscriptions, essential dates, and tickets for

individual concerts visit www.reillyartscenter.com/symphony/orchestra/.

2024-2025 Ocala Symphony Orchestra Subscription Concerts

Fate, Goblins, and the Mothership

Saturday, October 19, 2024 – 7:30 PM & Sunday, October 20, 2024 – 3:00 PM

Open Rehearsal (free to the public): Friday, October 18, 2024 - 7 PM

Dive into an electrifying program of music that spans from the cosmos to the depths of mythical waters and the impassioned human heart. Take off with Mason Bates' *Mothership*, a vibrant, pulsating piece that invites you on a thrilling interstellar journey combining electronica with the orchestra. The adventure continues with Dvořák's *Water Goblin*, a captivating piece that weaves a tale of love, tragedy, and a supernatural world beneath the waves, holding you spellbound while you follow along with the story via supertitles above the orchestra. Tchaikovsky's powerful, fate filled Symphony No. 4 rounds out this performance you won't want to miss!

Sponsored by Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations and Empath Health

Pops! Goes the Holidays

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – 7:30 PM | Sunday, December 8, 2024 – 3:00 PM

Featuring your favorite music from Mannheim Steamroller, Home Alone, the Nutcracker and more, you do not want to miss this celebration of the holiday season that brings together the incredible musicians of the orchestra and the outstanding vocalists from the Ocala Symphony Choir! This annually sold-out performance for all is full of fun, humor, and pure admiration for this special time of the year!

Sponsored by On Top of the World Communities

Vive la France!

Saturday, January 25, 2025 – 7:30 PM & Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Open Rehearsal (free to the public): Friday, January 24, 2025 - 7 PM

Ooh La La! Prepare to be whisked away by the OSO's principal guest conductor, Raymond Chobaz, on a sublime musical journey to France. Experience Debussy's ethereal *Trois Nocturnes* and the exotic rhythms of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Africa* with the renowned Kevin Sharpe on piano. Continue your adventure with the OSO's virtuosic concertmaster Stewart Kitts playing *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*, and finally your trip will culminate in the lush, romantic landscapes of Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2* and the Ocala Symphony Chorus.

Sound and Fury

Saturday, February 15, 2025 – 7:30 PM & Sunday, February 16, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Open Rehearsal (free to the public): Friday, February 14, 2025 - 7 PM

Embark on a mesmerizing journey from the serene Scottish coasts to the depths of human emotion and the heights of heroic triumph. We set off with Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* before delving into the contemporary narrative and emotion of Anna Clyne's *Sound and Fury*, featuring the captivating presence of Ocala Civic Theatre Artistic Director, Greg Thompson. Finally, the tour ascends to its zenith with Beethoven's monumental "*Eroica*" Symphony, a profound ode to heroism and human resilience.

Sponsored by AdventHealth Ocala

Youth, Tricksters, and Metamorphosis

Saturday, March 8, 2025 – 7:30 PM & Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Open Rehearsal (free to the public): Friday, March 7, 2025 - 7 PM

Join us for an exhilarating evening of music and talent, featuring performances by two exceptional young concerto competition winners. The night will showcase the playful mischief of Richard Strauss's "*Till Eulenspiegel*," a musical romp that captures the adventures of the legendary German trickster with thrilling orchestration. The program continues with Paul Hindemith's "*Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*," a masterpiece of transformation that weaves Weber's melodies into a rich tapestry of modern sound. This concert promises a blend of youthful virtuosity

and orchestral majesty, making it a must-see event for music lovers of all ages.

The West meets Scheherazade (and Godzilla, too)

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 7:30 PM & Sunday, April 13, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Open Rehearsal (free to the public): Friday, April 11, 2025 - 7 PM

Experience the grand finale of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra's 49th season, a spectacular concert that promises an unforgettable blend of humor, fantasy, and exotic tales. We'll begin with Michael Daugherty's "Rio Grande," a vibrant work that captures the spirit, breadth, and energy of that great river. We'll get a purview glimpse at the emotional world of Scheherazade, told through the lens of her perspective in Leanna Primiani's *1,001*. Then, steel yourselves as Eric Whitacre's *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* takes the stage, featuring Joshua Mazur and the Ocala Symphony Chorus in a playful depiction of the iconic monster on a romp through Sin City. After intermission the orchestra will transport you to the magical world of *Scheherazade*. In Rimsky-Korsakov's four captivating movements, you'll sail with Sinbad, venture with the Kalendar Prince, and fall in love with the Young Prince and Princess, culminating in the dramatic Festival at Baghdad. Don't miss this thrilling conclusion to the season, where music brings legends to life!

Special Concerts

Red, White, and Ocala Symphony Blue: A Salute to our Troops

Sunday, June 30, 2024 – 3:00 PM

The Ocala Symphony pays tribute to our Independence and a celebration of all things patriotic with a special salute to our Veterans! You'll be marching to the beat of Sousa, enjoying all kinds of American music from pops to the profound, and leave feeling completely uplifted in this celebration of America's 248th birthday! This annual event sells out every season, so get your tickets fast! *Sponsored by Grace Dunlevy and Bob Levenson*

METROPOLIS: Silent Film + Orchestra

Saturday, October 26, 2024 – 7:30 PM

The Ocala Symphony continues its tradition of performing live with film in concert: Fritz Lang's classic science fiction drama, *Metropolis*. Experience one of cinema's most captivating and influential masterpieces as the Maestro Wardell and the OSO perform Brian Satterwhite's brilliant soundtrack live to the action on screen. The orchestra will screen Giorgio Moroder's remastered and truncated version of the film (1984), which is suitable for audiences of all ages. Do not miss this one-time-only special performance!

Messiah Community Sing-Along

Sunday, November 24, 2024 - 5:00 PM

Hallelujah! Join us for a heartwarming afternoon of communal joy and musical splendor at our inaugural Handel's *Messiah* Community sing-along! Whether you're a seasoned singer, an enthusiastic newcomer, or a listener who simply wishes to bask in the harmonious atmosphere of 100s of voices, this sing-along offers a place for you. Under the guidance of our beloved choir conductor, Joshua Mazur, and accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists, we'll navigate the majestic "Hallelujah" chorus and many more beloved selections from *Messiah*. No previous experience is required, and participation in the singing is entirely optional. Join us in making this year's Handel's *Messiah* Community sing-along an uplifting ode to community, music, and the holiday spirit!

Symphony Under the Lights

Friday, December 6, 2024 – 7:30 PM

Free Admission

Hot chocolate, family, friends, and festive music! What more could one ask for? The Ocala Symphony and members of the Ocala Youth Symphony bring this joyful annual free concert to the community under the incredible oaks of Tuscahill Park. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy! *Sponsored by Jenkins Auto Group and the City of Ocala.*

Young Artist Competition Finals

Sunday, January 12, 2025 – 3:00 PM

This special recital performance features the finalists from our 34th annual Young Artist Competition. These talented young musicians, from our junior and senior divisions, take the stage to perform their concerto with a pianist for a live audience. The winners will be selected live immediately following the performance and will go on to perform as soloists with the full Ocala Symphony at “Youth, Tricksters, and Metamorphosis” on March 8 and 9, 2025.

Opera at the Reilly: Puccini Love and Laughter!

Sunday, February 23, 2025 - 3:00 PM

The University of Florida Opera Theatre and the Ocala Symphony Orchestra present two of Giacomo Puccini’s greatest works. The heartfelt Suor Angelica with its soaring orchestral score is one of his most beautiful musical dramas and reminiscent of the passionate Tosca. The hilarious Gianni Schicchi, his only true comedy, will be sung in a modern English translation with plenty of charming local references. It features one of the world’s most beloved songs, O mio babbino caro. Join these wonderful upcoming opera stars and the talented musicians of the OSO for a matinee of marvelous masterpieces. You don’t want to miss it! Both pieces are one act operas with supertitles and a 2 hour running time.

Ode to Joy: Beethoven’s 9th Symphony

Sunday, March 30 2025 – 3:00 PM

Immerse yourself in the monumental grandeur of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a towering masterpiece that continues to inspire and move audiences around the world. Under the baton of our dynamic Matthew Wardell, the Ocala Symphony Orchestra with the College of Central Florida Patriot Singers and Ocala Symphony Chorus, led by the talented Joshua Mazur, will join forces with four world-class soloists to bring this epic work to life. The concert will open with the stirring strains of Beethoven's Egmont Overture, setting the stage for an evening of dramatic intensity and emotional depth. The highlight of the afternoon, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, stands as a towering testament to the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. Known for its groundbreaking inclusion of vocal soloists and a chorus in the final movement, the symphony culminates in the exhilarating "Ode to Joy," a universal anthem of hope and brotherhood.

Coffee & Cocktails with the Conductor

These free, educational and engaging sessions give audiences the opportunity to learn more about each concert repertoire, the history behind the pieces and composers, and participate in an informal Q&A with Mastro Matt Wardell.

Season Preview with Matt Wardell

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Cocktails in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center - Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Subscription Concert 1: Fate, Goblins, and the Mothership Preview with Matt Wardell

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, October 9, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Cocktails in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center - Wednesday, October 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Messiah Community Sing-Along Preview with Matt Wardell & Joshua Mazur

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Subscription 3: Vive la France! Preview with Matt Wardell & Raymond Chobaz

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, January 22, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Cocktails in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center - Wednesday, January 22, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Subscription 4: Sound and Fury Preview with Matt Wardell

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday February 5, 2025 10:00 AM

Cocktails in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center- Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Subscription 5: Youth, Tricksters, and Metamorphosis Preview with Matt Wardell

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Ode to Joy: Beethoven's 9th Preview with Matt Wardell & Joshua Mazur

Coffee at the Marion Theatre- Wednesday March 19, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Subscription 6: The West meets Scheherazade Preview with Matt Wardell & Raymond Chobaz

Coffee at the Marion Theatre - Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - 10:00 AM

Cocktails in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center - Wednesday April 2, 2025 - 6:00 PM

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