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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 80TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

2024-25 DELTA CLASSICAL CONCERT SEASON TO FEATURE MAJOR BEETHOVEN PROJECT

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann to lead Beethoven's first eight symphonies plus *Missa Solemnis*

Music Director Laureate Robert Spano Returns in Spring

Yo-Yo Ma plays Haydn Cello Concerto

ATLANTA— The GRAMMY® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra announces the 2024-25 Delta Classical Concert season, the 80th Anniversary season and Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann's third season at the helm of the Orchestra.

"We are very much looking forward to the 2024-25 season, our 80th year of playing music for the city of Atlanta," said Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. "The audiences in Atlanta have been incredibly supportive of Nathalie and the Orchestra these last two years – attendance is up, ticket sales are up, and we've welcomed a large number of new audience members.

"Nathalie has programmed a season focused primarily on the classical and early Romantic repertoire, and I know audiences will love to hear the major works of Beethoven, Haydn, and Mozart, as well as enjoy guest artists like the incomparable Yo-Yo Ma, who has been a friend of the Orchestra for many years."

Stutzmann is praised around the world as a master of both orchestral and operatic repertoire and was recently named "Best Conductor of the Year" at the Oper Awards, in part for her outstanding debut at the Bayreuth Festival in June of 2023 with Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, of which *BR Klassik* reported, "never having experienced such a standing ovation at a pit debut in Bayreuth." Her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2023 garnered praise from critics and audiences alike, with *The New York Times* calling it a "splashy Met debut."

“With each year, the orchestra and I get to know one another more and more, and this season I am eager to dive into some of the cornerstones of the Classical period,” said Stutzmann. “Composers like Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven are familiar to us but also essential foundations of our repertoire. I often say that these composers are doctors and medicine for the orchestra’s soul.”

STUTZMANN IN THE 2024-25 SEASON

The 2024-25 season opens on September 19, 2024, with Stutzmann conducting Mahler’s Symphony No. 1, “Titan,” and cellist Edgar Moreau playing Schumann’s Cello Concerto, returning after a debut played “with dazzling accuracy and insouciant wit” (*ArtsATL*).

The following weekend, September 26 & 27, Stutzmann is joined by mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron and baritone Samuel Hasselhorn, both making their ASO debuts, for Mahler’s *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Boy’s Magic Horn), followed by Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 6.

Stutzmann returns to the podium on November 7, 9, and 10 to conduct an evening of Mozart, presenting his passionate Symphony No. 40 and the masterpiece Mass in C Minor. Joining the Orchestra for the Mass are Olga Kulchynska, soprano; Julia Lezhneva, soprano; Lunga Eric Hallam, tenor; and Harold Wilson, bass, as well as the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

On November 14 and 16, ASO Principal Flute Christina Smith takes center stage with Stutzmann conducting C.P.E. Bach’s Flute Concerto in D Minor, originally composed for King Frederick the Great. The same evening, after a well-received festival of his work in the 2023-24 season, Stutzmann returns to the “Architect of the Spirit,” Bruckner, and conducts his Symphony No. 4, “Romantic.”

Stutzmann welcomes 2022 Van Cliburn medalist Anna Geniushene, a pianist “with an exquisite touch and an almost infinite tonal palette” (*La Scena*), on April 10 and 12, 2025, to make her ASO debut playing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1. The program also features Ravel’s *Ma mère L’Oye* (Mother Goose) and *La valse*.

BEETHOVEN PROJECT

In early 2025, Stutzmann begins the epic “Beethoven Project,” a series of concerts consisting of Beethoven’s first eight symphonies. The project allows audiences to follow the composer’s journey throughout his career:

- January 23 and 25 Symphonies No. 1 and No. 3, “Eroica.”
- January 30, February 1 & 2 Symphony No. 2 and the world-famous Symphony No. 5.
- February 27 and March 1 Symphony No. 8 and Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral.”
- March 6, 8, and 9 Symphonies No. 4 and No. 7

Stutzmann will conclude the cycle by performing Symphony No. 9 in the Fall of 2025. She has included other Beethoven masterpieces in the Project, with the composer’s Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano on April 3 & 4, 2025. The piece brings three different voices together, and the Orchestra’s own Concertmaster David Coucheron and Acting/Associate Principal Cello Daniel Laufer are joined by pianist Julie Coucheron, who is David’s sister and a highly sought-after recitalist.

Concluding the Beethoven Project for the season on May 10 and 11, Stutzmann conducts one of Beethoven’s most epic works for orchestra and chorus, the *Missa Solemnis*, with the Orchestra joined by

the world-renowned Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The four featured soloists in this notoriously difficult piece are all highly acclaimed opera singers: Julia Grüter, soprano; Anna Goryachova, mezzo-soprano; Miles Mykkanen, tenor; and Lawson Anderson, baritone.

YO-YO MA RETURNS TO ATLANTA SYMPHONY HALL

Arguably one of the most famous musicians in the world, Yo-Yo Ma has a decades-long career that luckily has included stops in Atlanta with the Orchestra on numerous occasions. This year, Ma plays a special concert on December 5, 2024, with Eric Jacobsen conducting. Ma will play Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1, which has not been heard in Atlanta in some years, and *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5 by Heitor Villa-Lobos, a Brazilian composer from the early 20th Century. Jacobsen, a member of the Silkroad Ensemble, makes his ASO debut conducting Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 and Slavonic Dance, as well as a piece from GRAMMY® nominated composer Curtis Stewart.

MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE ROBERT SPANO RETURNS

Esteemed Music Director Laureate Robert Spano, who was recently named Music Director of the Washington National Opera, in addition to holding the same title with the Fort Worth Symphony, returns to the ASO to conduct two weekends of some of Atlanta's favorite pieces. Spano will conduct Copland's buoyant Appalachian Spring Suite and Vaughn Williams's Fifth Symphony on March 20 and 22 and is joined by ASO Principal Harp Elisabeth Remy Johnson for the GRAMMY®-winning harp concerto from Jennifer Higdon.

The following weekend, March 27 and 29, Spano will welcome pianist Jae Hong Park, winner of the 2021 Busoni International Piano Competition, in his ASO debut to perform Scriabin's Piano Concerto. The program opens with *Tapiola* from Sibelius and closes with a Spano favorite, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

THE FOUR SEASONS SPECIAL PERFORMANCE RETURNS

After two sell-out years, ASO Concertmaster David Coucheron will be back center stage to both play and lead Vivaldi's masterpiece, *The Four Seasons*, on January 12. This year, he will also lead the Orchestra in Dvořák's Serenade for Strings.

EXCITING GUEST ARTISTS AND CONDUCTORS

There are a number of thrilling debuts in the 2024-25 season, including conductor Earl Lee, who will lead the Orchestra in a European adventure, beginning with Haydn's Symphony No. 104, "London," and ending with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, "Italian." In between, ASO Principal Oboe Elizabeth Koch Tiscione plays the delightful oboe concerto from Françaix, *L'horloge de flore* (The Flower Clock).

Conductor Roderick Cox returns to the ASO after his "season high" (*ArtsATL*) debut in 2023 as a last-minute replacement. *ArtsATL* said the Georgia native has a "remarkably dynamic and daring presence onstage," and on October 24 and 26 presents a program with fire, including John Adams's *Doctor Atomic Symphony*, Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, and the heart-breaking Barber *Adagio for Strings*.

Rising star Geneva Lewis makes her ASO debut on November 21 and 23 playing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3, with Nicholas Carter conducting a program that includes Haydn's Symphony No. 96, "Miracle," and Walton's Symphony No. 1.

On January 16 and 18, the Orchestra welcomes the dazzling Uzbek conductor Aziz Shokhaimov back to the podium to conduct Polina Nazaykinskaya's *Winter Bells* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka* (1947). Joining him is fellow countryman Behzod Abduraimov, making his ASO debut playing Rachmaninoff's show-stopping *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*.

The powerful, world-class ASO Chorus performs under the baton of guest conductor Vasily Petrenko as they present Walton's famous oratorio, *Belshazzar's Feast*, a jazz-inspired work from the 20th Century that draws on the Old Testament story of Belshazzar and the "writing on the wall."

The phenomenal cello virtuoso Sterling Elliott makes his ASO debut on February 20 playing Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 2, as part of an all-Haydn program from conductor Matthew Halls, who is also making his debut this weekend. The program, which is also performed on February 22, includes Haydn's Symphony No. 101, "The Clock," and the rarely-performed *L'isola disabitata* Overture (The Uninhabited Island).

Guest conductor Andrew Manze returns to Atlanta on April 24 and 26 to conduct the ASO debut of violinist Clara-Jumi Kang, playing the Violin Concerto from Sibelius. Included in the program are three pieces from composer Khachaturian: "Sabre Dance" and "Lezhinka" from *Gayane*; and "Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia" from *Spartacus*. Manze concludes the program with the powerful Symphony No. 2 from Borodin.

At the beginning of May, on May 1 and 3, the ASO takes an Italian holiday with two exciting debuts – Italians Jader Bignamini, conductor, and Giuseppe Gibboni, violin. Bignamini opens his program with Bottesini's *Il diavolo della notte* Overture, and ends with two pieces from Italian composer Respighi: *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*. In the middle, the sensational Gibboni, winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition, plays the composer's wickedly difficult Violin Concerto No. 1.

Later in the month, the ASO welcomes a dear friend and an exciting new guest conductor, when Marc-André Hamelin returns to play Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3, while conductor Marzena Diakun makes her ASO debut. Diakun also conducts Weinberg's *Rhapsody on Moldovan Themes* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1, "Winter Daydreams."

Conductor Stéphane Denève had an exciting debut with the ASO in the 2023-24 season and comes back May 29 and 31 to conduct Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, Ibert's *Escales*, and Milhaud's *La création du monde* (The Creation of the World). Joining Denève is audience favorite, pianist Kirill Gerstein playing Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand.

The 2024-25 season concludes on June 5 and 7 with two powerhouses in classical music and frequent ASO guest artists, conductor Peter Oundjian and pianist Inon Barnatan, presenting Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1. Oundjian closes the program – and the season – with the massive Mahler Symphony No. 7, which is a fitting ending to an 80th Anniversary season.

Subscriptions go on sale March 13 at noon. Details are available at aso.org/2425. A full chronological listing with programming and artists can be found below.

2024/2025 Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Delta Classical Season

**Denotes an ASO debut*

Season Opener with Nathalie Stutzmann

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 8pm
Saturday, September 21, 2024, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Edgar Moreau, cello
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SCHUMANN: Cello Concerto
MAHLER: Symphony No. 1, "Titan"

Nathalie Stutzmann Conducts Mahler + Shostakovich

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 8pm
Friday, September 27, 2024, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Fleur Barron, mezzo-soprano
Samuel Hasselhorn, baritone
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MAHLER: *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Boy's Magic Horn)
SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 6

Haydn and Mendelssohn Symphonies

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 8pm
Saturday, October 19, 2024, 8pm

Earl Lee, conductor *
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, oboe
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

HAYDN: Symphony No. 104, "London"
FRANÇAIX: *L'horloge de flore* (The Flower Clock)
MENDELSSOHN: Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

Roderick Cox Conducts Barber + Rachmaninoff

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 8pm
Saturday, October 26, 2024, 8pm

Roderick Cox, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BARBER: *Adagio for Strings*
JOHN ADAMS: *Doctor Atomic Symphony*
RACHMANINOFF: *Symphonic Dances*

All Mozart with Stutzmann + Chorus

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 8pm

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 8pm

Sunday, November 10, 2024, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Olga Kulchynska, soprano

Julia Lezhneva, soprano

Lunga Eric Hallam, tenor

Harold Wilson, bass

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MOZART: Symphony No. 40

MOZART: Mass in C Minor

Stutzmann Conducts Bruckner

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 8pm

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Christina Smith, flute

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

C.P.E. BACH Flute Concerto in D Minor

BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4, "Romantic"

Haydn + Mozart + Walton

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 8pm

Saturday, November 23, 2024, 8pm

Nicholas Carter, conductor

Geneva Lewis, violin*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

HAYDN: Symphony No. 96, "The Miracle"

MOZART: Violin Concerto No. 3

WALTON: Symphony No. 1

Yo-Yo Ma + Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 8pm

Eric Jacobsen, conductor*

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

DVOŘÁK: *Slavonic Dance*, Op. 46, No. 8
CURTIS STEWART: "M. Bett" from *The Famous People*
HAYDN: Cello Concerto No. 1
VILLA-LOBOS: *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5
DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 8

Coucheron + *The Four Seasons*

Sunday, January 12, 2025, 3pm

David Coucheron, violin + director
DVOŘÁK *Serenade for Strings*, Op. 22
VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*

Rachmaninoff + Stravinsky

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 8pm

Aziz Shokhaimov, conductor
Behzod Abduraimov, piano*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

POLINA NAZAYKINSKAYA: *Winter Bells*
RACHMANINOFF: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
STRAVINSKY: *Petrushka* (1947 Version)

Beethoven Project: Symphonies 1 + 3

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 1
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

Beethoven Project: Symphonies 2 + 5

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, February 1, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 2
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 5

ASO Chorus + *Belshazzar's Feast*

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, February 15, 2025, 8pm

Vasily Petrenko, conductor
Nathan Berg, bass-baritone
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 1
WALTON: *Belshazzar's Feast*

All Haydn with the ASO

Thursday, February 20, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, February 22, 2025, 8pm

Matthew Halls, conductor*
Sterling Elliott, cello*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

HAYDN: *L'isola disabitata* Overture (The Uninhabited Island)
HAYDN: Cello Concerto No. 2
HAYDN: Symphony No. 101, "The Clock"

Beethoven Project: Symphonies 6 + 8

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, March 1, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"

Beethoven Project: Symphonies 4 + 7

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, March 8, 2025, 8pm
Sunday, March 9, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

Robert Spano Conducts

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 8pm

Robert Spano, conductor

Elisabeth Remy Johnson, harp

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

COPLAND: *Appalachian Spring* Suite

JENNIFER HIGDON: Harp Concerto

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Symphony No. 5

Spano Conducts *Scheherazade*

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 8pm

Robert Spano, conductor

Jae Hong Park, piano

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SIBELIUS: *Tapiola*

SCRIABIN: Piano Concerto

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *Scheherazade*

Beethoven Project: Stutzmann Conducts Triple Concerto

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 8pm

Friday, April 4, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

David Coucheron, violin

Daniel Laufer, cello

Julie Coucheron, piano

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano

STRAUSS: *Eine Alpensinfonie* (An Alpine Symphony)

Nathalie Stutzmann conducts Tchaikovsky + Ravel

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Anna Geniushene, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY: Piano Concerto No. 1
RAVEL: *Ma mère L'Oye* (Mother Goose)
RAVEL: *La valse*

Sibelius Violin Concerto

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, April 26, 2025, 8pm

Andrew Manze, conductor
Clara-Jumi Kang, violin
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

KHACHATURIAN: "Sabre Dance" from *Gayane*
KHACHATURIAN: "Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia" from *Spartacus*
KHACHATURIAN: "Lezghinka" from *Gayane*
SIBELIUS: Violin Concerto
BORODIN: Symphony No. 2

Italian Holiday with the ASO

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, May 3, 2025, 8pm

Jader Bignamini, conductor*
Giuseppe Gibboni, violin*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BOTTESINI: *Il diavolo della notte* Overture
PAGANINI: Violin Concerto No. 1
RESPIGHI: *Fountains of Rome*
RESPIGHI: *Pines of Rome*

Beethoven Project: *Missa solennis*

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 8pm
Sunday, May 11, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Julia Grüter, soprano
Anna Goryachova, mezzo-soprano
Miles Mykkanen, tenor

Lawson Anderson, baritone
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: *Missa solemnis*

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, May 17, 2025, 8pm

Marzena Diakun, conductor*
Marc-André Hamelin, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

WEINBERG: *Rhapsody on Moldovan Themes*
BARTÓK: Piano Concerto No. 3
TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 1, "Winter Daydreams"

An American in Paris

Thursday, May 29, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, May 31, 2025, 8pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor
Kirill Gerstein, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

IBERT: *Escales*
RAVEL: Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
MILHAUD: *La création du monde* (The Creation of the World)
GERSHWIN: *An American in Paris*

Oundjian Conducts Mahler Symphony No. 7

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 8pm
Saturday, June 7, 2025, 8pm

Peter Oundjian, conductor
Inon Barnatan, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SHOSTAKOVICH: Piano Concerto No. 1
MAHLER: Symphony No. 7

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