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TICKETS ON SALE TODAY FOR HOLIDAY CONCERTS WITH THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring Beloved Holiday Traditions and Festive Favorites

ATLANTA – Tickets go on sale today at 2pm for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s Coca-Cola Holiday Concerts at Symphony Hall, including hymns and carols in *Christmas with the ASO* (DEC 10-13), Handel’s traditional *Messiah* (DEC 17), family favorites in *Sounds of the Season* (DEC 23) and Vivaldi’s celebrated *The Four Seasons* led by Concertmaster David Coucheron (JAN 7-10).

One of Atlanta’s most cherished traditions, ***Christmas with the ASO***, kicks off the classical holiday season on December 10-13 with Director of Choruses Norman Mackenzie leading the combined forces of the orchestra, ASO Chorus, Morehouse College Glee Club and Spivey Hall Children’s Choir. Created by Robert Shaw, the program tells the Christmas story in a way that families return to year after year, featuring carols, hymns and choral beauty.

The following week, on December 17, the ASO Chamber Chorus shines in Part I of **Handel’s *Messiah***, plus the resounding “Hallelujah Chorus.” The Orchestra welcomes acclaimed soloists for this iconic oratorio and Bach’s beautiful Cantata No. 140, “Sheep May Safely Graze.”

Returning on December 23 is ***Sounds of the Season***, which charmed a sold-out audience last year with more familiar holiday songs that audiences of all ages sang along to. Audience members can expect more sparkling melodies, timeless traditions, and a concert experience that captures the heart of the holidays.

Finally, Concertmaster David Coucheron ushers in the new year with Vivaldi’s celebrated ***The Four Seasons*** on January 7/10. This annual presentation brings a more intimate orchestra closer to the audience to perform this beloved perennial favorite.

Coca-Cola Holiday Concerts usually sell out far in advance, so reserve the best seats early for family and friends. Tickets at aso.org/holidays.

The Coca-Cola Holiday Concerts are presented by The Coca-Cola Company. Holiday concerts are made possible through an endowment from the Livingston Foundation in memory of Leslie Livingston Kellar.

CALENDAR LISTING

Christmas with the ASO

Thursday, December 10, 2026, 8pm

Saturday, December 12, 2026, 3pm

Saturday, December 12, 2026, 8pm

Sunday, December 13, 2026, 3pm

Norman Mackenzie, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Morehouse College Glee Club, David Morrow, conductor

Spivey Hall Children's Choir, Craig Hurley, director

Celebrate the magic of the holidays with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a cherished seasonal tradition! Join in as beloved carols, hymns, and festive favorites fill the hall, and sing along to your favorite Christmas songs. Featuring the voices of the Morehouse College Glee Club, ASO Chorus and the Spivey Hall Children's Choir, this program tells the Christmas story in a way that your family can return to year after year, creating memories that sparkle long after the final note.

Handel's Messiah

Thursday, December 17, 2026, 8pm

Norman Mackenzie, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus

BACH: Cantata No. 140

HANDEL: *Messiah* (part I)

A favorite Atlanta Christmas tradition returns! Gather friends and family for Old-World holiday fun as the acclaimed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus sings Part 1 of Handel's roof-raising *Messiah*. Add the rousing "Hallelujah" Chorus to your holiday celebration, along with J.S. Bach's achingly beautiful cantata, "Sheep May Safely Graze."

Sounds of the Season

Wednesday, December 23, 2026, 7pm

Atlanta Symphony Hall

Finan Jones, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Celebrate the season with a festive journey around the world as your orchestra brings to life music filled with warmth, wonder, and holiday magic. Perfect for all ages, this joyful program offers beloved classics and invites you to sing along to your favorite carols and songs. Expect sparkling melodies, timeless traditions, and a concert experience that captures the heart of the holidays—one your family can add to your holiday traditions.

The Four Seasons

Thursday, January 7, 2026, 8pm

Sunday, January 10, 2026, 3pm

David Coucheron, director and violin

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

VIVALDI: *The Four Seasons*

Experience the vivid colors and changing moods of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* brought to life by acclaimed violinist David Coucheron. In this beloved set of concertos, nature takes center stage—from the bright energy of spring and the shimmering heat of summer to the rustic dances of autumn and the icy stillness of winter. Coucheron's expressive artistry and virtuosity illuminate every detail, capturing birdsong, storms, and pastoral scenes with striking clarity and charm. Each movement unfolds like a musical painting, rich with color, contrast, and storytelling. Both exhilarating and intimate, this performance invites you to hear familiar music anew.

More information and a full list of available concerts can be found at aso.org/holiday.

About Norman Mackenzie

Norman Mackenzie's abilities as musical collaborator, conductor and concert organist have brought him international recognition. As Director of Chorus for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) since 2000, he was chosen to help carry forward the creative vision of legendary founding conductor Robert Shaw. During his tenure, the Chorus has made numerous tours and garnered several Grammy® awards, including Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance.

At the ASO, he prepares the Choruses for all concerts and recordings, works closely with Nathalie Stutzmann on the commissioning and realization of new choral-orchestral works and conducts holiday concerts. In his 14-year association with Mr. Shaw, he was keyboardist for the ASO, principal accompanist for the ASO Choruses and ultimately assistant choral conductor. In addition, he was musical assistant and accompanist for the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers, the Robert Shaw Institute Summer Choral Festivals in France and the United States and the famed Shaw/ Carnegie Hall Choral Workshops.

He prepared the ASO Chorus for its acclaimed 2003 debut and successive 2008 and 2009 performances in Berlin with the Berlin Philharmonic, in Britten's *War Requiem*, Berlioz's *Grande Messe des Morts* and Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, respectively.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, founded in 1970 by former Music Director, Robert Shaw, is an all volunteer, auditioned ensemble that performs on a regular basis with the Orchestra and is featured on many of its recordings. Led by Director of Choruses, Norman Mackenzie, the chorus is known for its precision and expressive singing quality. Its recordings have garnered 14 GRAMMY® Awards (nine for "Best Choral Performance"; four for "Best Classical Recording" and one for "Best Opera Recording"). In addition, the Chorus has been involved in the creation and shaping of numerous world-premiere commissioned works.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus

The ASO Chamber Chorus performs music of the Baroque and Classical eras, as well as works by modern masters such as Golijov, Tavener, Pärt, Paulus, Theofanidis and Britten. Highlights of its history include a residency with the ASO and Robert Spano at California's [Ojai Festival](#); participation with the ASO in Telarc recordings of masterworks by Bach, Golijov, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Vivaldi; a 2005 a cappella recording that features the Vaughan Williams' Mass under Norman Mackenzie; an appearance on national television in 1987 performing Handel's *Messiah* with Robert Shaw; and several Carnegie Hall appearances, which include performances of Bach's B-Minor Mass, the *St. Matthew* and *St. John Passions* and *Magnificat*, the Rachmaninoff *Vespers*, the Mozart/Levin *Requiem*, Messiaen's *Trois petites liturgies* and Stravinsky's *Nightingale*. The Chamber Chorus has also performed under the batons of Robert King and Nicholas McGegan.

About Finan Jones

Finan Jones, Assistant Conductor, is praised for his “instinctive musicality and his passion for music of different genres.” He has conducted orchestras including the English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, London Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble and the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

In 2024, Finan was appointed Conducting Fellow of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra by Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann after a week working together with the London Symphony Orchestra. He has worked as an assistant to many high-profile conductors, including an apprenticeship with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, working as his assistant with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, and the Philharmonia Orchestra. As an assistant conductor, work has taken him to the Wiener Musikverein, Royal Albert Hall, Köln Philharmonie, Barbican Hall, Het Concertgebouw and St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Finan has a significant interest in Opera, having conducted a performance of British Youth Opera’s new production of Rossini’s *L’Occasione fa il Ladro* (Opera Holland Park 2021). He was part of the original creative team that developed a new opera with support from the Barbican Centre, *Sane and Sound* (Milton Court Theatre 2019), for which he conducted the premiere, and was assistant conductor to Dominic Wheeler and chorus master for Liam Paterson’s new opera *The Angel Esmeralda* (GSMD 2020). He was also part of the music staff for the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and Monteverdi Choir’s 2023 performances of Berlioz’s *Les Troyens*.

Finan is a strong advocate for learning and participation projects, with a keen interest in music education. This has included education work with the Royal Albert Hall, LSO Discovery, and developing his own projects, taking chamber orchestras into schools in London. Recently, this included leading a session with the LSO’s pioneering East London Academy.

In the recording studio, Finan has assisted on an album of orchestral works by Jonathan Dove performed by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and has conducted the West European Symphony Orchestra for two recording sessions in Abbey Road studios. He is currently working with Sir John Eliot on his new Brahms Symphony cycle with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Deutsche Grammophon.

About David Coucheron

David Coucheron joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Concertmaster in September 2010. At the time, he was the youngest concertmaster in any major U.S. orchestra. He has performed as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Sendai Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

Coucheron has given solo recitals at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Olympic Winter Games (Salt Lake City, Utah), as well as in Beograd, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Serbia, Singapore and Shanghai. His chamber music performances have included appearances at Suntory Hall, Wigmore Hall and Alice Tully Hall. Coucheron serves as the Artistic Director for the Kon Tiki Chamber Music Festival in his hometown of Oslo, Norway. He is on the artist-faculty for the Aspen Music Festival and Brevard Music Festival.

An active recording artist, recordings with sister and pianist Julie Coucheron include “David and Julie” (Naxos/Mudi) and “Debut” (Naxos). He is the featured soloist on the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s recording of Vaughan Williams’ *The Lark Ascending*, which was released in Fall 2014. Coucheron began playing the violin at age three.

He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, his Master of Music from The Juilliard School and his Master of Musical Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with teachers Igor Ozim, Aaron Rosand, Lewis Kaplan and David Takeno. Coucheron plays a 1725 Stradivarius, on kind loan from Anders Sveaas Charitable Trust.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to experience the power of live orchestra music.

The Orchestra’s range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs regularly with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO’s 27 GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings.

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