



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2026

CONTACTS:

Ashley Mirakian, ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org

Camille McClain, camille.mcclain@atlantasymphony.org

NATHALIE STUTZMANN KICKS OFF 82ND SEASON

Tickets on sale today for the first two concerts of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's new season and the *Brahms Revealed* project

ATLANTA – Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann kicks off the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 82nd season with two concerts at Atlanta Symphony Hall that are part of the season-long [Brahms Revealed](#) project—an in-depth exploration of this master melodist and orchestral architect. Throughout the season, the orchestra will perform all 4 of his symphonies and concertos, as well as his *German Requiem*. It begins October 1/3/4 when the orchestra performs his First Symphony and Violin Concerto, followed on October 8/10 by a pairing of Brahms with Wagner, his Romantic-era rival.

OCT 1/3/4—Stutzmann begins the season with thunderous fanfare in Handel's festive Overture to *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, which was originally accompanied by over 100 cannons and fireworks. Violinist Johan Dalene, praised as “delicate, yet highly expressive, [with a] connection to the music [that] is deep throughout,” (*The Classical Review*) brings electric virtuosity to Brahms' only Violin Concerto. Stutzmann pairs this with Brahms' First Symphony, which has been famously dubbed as “Beethoven's Tenth”—a compliment that acknowledged both its monumental power and its place in the symphonic tradition.

OCT 8/10—Stutzmann continues *Brahms Revealed* in a showdown of Romantic-era rivals with [Brahms + Wagner](#). Named “a pre-eminent Wagner conductor of today,” (*Seen and Heard International*), Stutzmann showcases why she's a celebrated interpreter of operatic works with orchestral selections from *Rienzi*, *Tristan und Isolde* and *Lohengrin*. In between, the Orchestra takes on Brahms' Third Symphony, considered the most challenging symphony he composed.

Tickets for these concerts go on sale Wednesday, June 24 at 1pm. Learn more at aso.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Opening Weekend with Nathalie Stutzmann

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 8pm

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 8pm

Sunday, October 4, 2026, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Johan Dalene, violin*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

HANDEL: Overture to *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

BRAHMS: Violin Concerto

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 1

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann tees up a season-long homage to the spirited delights of Johannes Brahms. Starting with an audience favorite, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra welcomes the young violin hotshot Johan Dalene, a “tantalizing talent,” for Brahms’ feverishly impassioned Violin Concerto. After intermission, the Orchestra roars back to life with Brahms’s thundering Symphony No. 1. Maestro Stutzmann opens the program with a pyrotechnic classic, the Overture to Handel’s *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.

Brahms + Wagner

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 8pm

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

WAGNER: Prelude to Act I of *Lohengrin*

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 3

WAGNER: Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*

WAGNER: Overture to *Rienzi*

19th-century folk called them rivals, pitting the Romani-flavored, incomparably crafted works of Johannes Brahms against the freewheeling passion and Teutonic bombast of Richard Wagner. To our ears, they just sound Romantic. But what’s more Romantic than a good rivalry?

Immerse yourself in the lush and richly hued sounds of Brahms and Wagner when Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann cues the next installment in *Brahms Revealed*. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra injects explosive energy into Brahms’ tumultuous Third Symphony, passing through a wistful allegretto to a blazing finale. Stutzmann contrasts the Brahms with the Romantic opulence of Richard Wagner, with excerpts from three operas, including the ecstatic Prelude and “Liebestod” from *Tristan und Isolde*.

About Johan Dalene

Winner of the 2019 prestigious Carl Nielsen Competition, Swedish-Norwegian violinist Johan Dalene “is not just a virtuoso like many others, he is a voice. He has a tone, a presence” (*Diapason*). At the age of 25, he has performed with leading orchestras and in celebrated recital halls both at home and abroad. His ability to “make his Stradivarius sing like a master” (*Le Monde*), coupled with his refreshingly honest musicality and engagement with musicians and audiences alike, has won him countless admirers. In 2022, he was named Gramophone’s Young Artist of the Year.

An advocate for new music, Johan will be showcasing the Thomas Adès ‘Concentric Paths’ Concerto, notably with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Jukka Pekka Saraste or Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Andrew Manze. He also plays Rautavaara’s *Serenades*, notably with the London Symphony Orchestra and Thomas Adès, as well as the Niels Viggo Bentzon Concerto, with the Copenhagen Philharmonic and Thomas Dausgaard. He previously premiered the concerto written for him by Tebogo Monnakgotla, notably with the Berlin Radio Symphony and Giedrė Slekyte, having given the world premiere with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and John Storgards in April 2023.

After residencies with the Royal Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Gavle Symphony orchestras, Johan will be working with various orchestras throughout the season, for debuts with the NSO at Kennedy Center, Detroit Symphony and Tampere Philharmonic, and returns to the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. Other recent highlights include debut performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and Thomas Sondergaard, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Sakari Oramo and San Francisco Symphony and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Johan is equally passionate about chamber music and will be performing a string of recitals throughout the UK with Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, notably at London’s Wigmore Hall, where he is now a regular guest. He has played at celebrated festivals such as Verbier and Rosendal and in halls like Carnegie Hall.

Recording exclusively for BIS, Johan released his fifth album on the label in October 2024: entitled *Souvenirs*, it is a recital disc comprising Tchaikovsky’s *Souvenir d’un lieu cher*, Ravel’s *Tzigane* and a collection of short pieces by Amanda Rontgen-Maier. His previous recording featured the Nielsen and Sibelius Concerti, with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic with John Storgards, and garnered Johan his third coveted ‘Editor’s Choice’ from *Gramophone Magazine*, as well as a prestigious Swedish Grammis Award.

Johan began playing the violin at the age of four and made his professional concerto debut three years later. In Summer 2016, he was student-in-residence at Switzerland’s Verbier Festival (where he made his performance debut in 2021) and in 2018 was

accepted on to the Norwegian Crescendo programme, where he worked closely with mentors Janine Jansen, Leif Ove Andsnes and Gidon Kremer. Andsnes subsequently invited Johan to play at the Rosendal Chamber Music Festival and they performed together again in May 2019 at the Bergen International Festival. In 2019, he joined Janine Jansen and other members of the Crescendo Programme for a performance at the Wigmore Hall in London, and at the International Chamber Music Festival in Utrecht.

Johan has been awarded various scholarships and prizes, notably from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, The Anders Wall Giresta Scholarship, Queen Ingrid's Honorary Scholarship, The Håkan Mogren Foundation Prize, Equinor Classical Music Award, Norwegian Soloist Prize, Sixten Gemzéus Stora Musikstipendium, Expressen Cultural Prize Spelmannen and Rolf Wirténs Kulturpris. Johan plays the 1725 'Duke of Cambridge' Stradivarius, generously on loan from the Anders Sveaas' Charitable Foundation.

Johan Dalene is managed by Enticott Music Management in association with IMG Artists.

About Nathalie Stutzmann

Nathalie Stutzmann is the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She was Principal Guest Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 2021 to 2024. Nathalie made big news in the opera pit in 2023 with her debut at the Bayreuth Festival with Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. The performances resulted in her being named 'Best Conductor' of the year in the 2024 Oper! Awards. She returned to Bayreuth in 2024 for a revival of *Tannhäuser* and will be back in 2026 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Festival, conducting a new production of *Rienzi*.

Her opera debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2023 was declared by *The New York Times* as "the coup of the year." With several notable debuts including the Czech Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich and at the Musikverein with Wiener Symphoniker; her current season also includes returns to the New York Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, and Philadelphia Orchestra. In June 2025 she returned to Bruxelles La Monnaie to conduct *Carmen*.

Nathalie Stutzmann has signed an exclusive recording contract with Warner Classics/ Erato and her first symphonic recording for the label of Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 and *American Suite* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra was released in August 2024. Awarded the 2023 Opus Klassik "Concerto Recording of the Year" for her recording of the Glière and Mosolov Harp concertos with Xavier de Maistre and WDR

Sinfonieorchester, 2022 also saw the release of complete Beethoven Piano Concertos recorded with Haochen Zhang and The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Nathalie started her studies at a very young age in piano, bassoon, and cello and later studied conducting with the legendary Finnish teacher Jorma Panula. As one of today's most esteemed contraltos, she has made more than 80 recordings and received the most prestigious awards. Nathalie was named "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur", France's highest honor; and "Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French government.

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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