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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS NEW SEASON WITH STUTZMANN CONDUCTING MUSIC BY
COPLAND, ELGAR AND STRAUSS**

Tickets go on sale Fri, June 27, for concert featuring world-renowned Cellist Alisa Weilerstein

ATLANTA – Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann opens her fourth season with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in a concert of triumph and heroism with music by Copland and Strauss on Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 at 8:00pm, and Sunday, October 5 at 3:00pm in Symphony Hall.

The first Delta Classical Series concert of the 2025-26 season open with Stutzmann conducting Copland's iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*—a piece abounding in grandeur and featured throughout cinema, sporting events and memorials.

Cellist Alisa Weilerstein joins the orchestra for Elgar's elegiac Cello Concerto. Weilerstein has performed with the world's top orchestras for decades and has been described by *The New York Times* as having "vibrato saturated with meaning, her lyricism slinking and menacingly enigmatic."

The concert finishes strong as Stutzmann summons orchestral muscle for Strauss' heroic tone poem, *Ein Heldenleben*—a brilliantly orchestrated, theatrically conceived, and emotionally layered masterpiece that captures both the grandeur and complexity of a "hero's" journey.

Tickets for this epic, season-opening concert go on sale to the general public on Friday, June 27.

CALENDAR LISTING

Opening Weekend with Nathalie Stutzmann

Friday, October 3, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 3pm

Atlanta Symphony Hall

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

COPLAND: *Fanfare for the Common Man*

ELGAR: Cello Concerto

STRAUSS: *Ein Heldenleben*

Feel the power. Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann leads an unforgettable season debut, opening with the iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*, music so poignant, so gripping—so quintessentially American—it colors significant moments in our lives, from Olympic events to memorials. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra welcomes the “technically flawless and deeply expressive” (*The New York Times*) cellist Alisa Weilerstein for an autumnal gem by Edward Elgar, and Stutzmann whips up some orchestral muscle for the opulent tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* by Richard Strauss.

About Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Alisa Weilerstein is one of the foremost cellists of our time. Known for her consummate artistry, emotional investment and rare interpretive depth, she performs at the most prestigious international venues, such as Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Berliner Philharmonie, in partnership with the world’s preeminent conductors and orchestras.

Next season she premieres three new concertos: Thomas Larcher’s with the New York Philharmonic and Bavarian Radio Symphony, Richard Blackford’s with the Czech Philharmonic, and Gabriela Ortiz’s with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel, with whom she then tours to Carnegie Hall and South America. Other 2024-25 highlights include two solo Carnegie Hall appearances in her Fragments series, which combines Bach’s Cello Suites with 27 new commissions in a production directed by Elkhana Pulitzer, and return engagements with the Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras. Her many accolades include a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship.

About Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

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 her conducting debut 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 will return 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 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, cello and 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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