



FORT WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROBERT SPANO, MUSIC DIRECTOR

KEVIN JOHN EDUSEI, PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

KEITH CERNY, Ph.D., PRESIDENT AND CEO

For Immediate Release

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Announces

The Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series 2024



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FORT WORTH, TX – April 2, 2024 – This summer’s concert series will look a little different for fans of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO). The FWSO is excited to announce The Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series, featuring intimate live performances, new partnerships, and community engagements.

Last November, the FWSO announced the pause of Concerts in the Garden while the Fort Worth Botanic Garden (FWBG) constructs an outdoor amphitheater as part of their master plan. Until Concerts in the Garden returns, the FWSO is committed to keeping the summer tradition of live music alive for the Fort Worth community. The Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series schedule is offered in collaboration with local businesses and arts organizations. The FWSO proudly continues its partnership with the FWBG this summer, offering a series of indoor concerts in the FWBG Lecture Hall.

“We value our longstanding partnership with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and eagerly await the opportunity to showcase Fort Worth’s cherished summer tradition, Concerts in the Garden, on our brand-new stage,” noted Patrick Newman, CEO and President of the FWBG.

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FWSO President and CEO, Keith Cerny said, “We are thrilled with the plans the Fort Worth Botanic Garden has in including a purpose-built stage in its master plan for development of the gardens. We look forward to partnering with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for many years and especially this summer as part of their summer camps for kids and our Night of Strings at the Garden concerts in June.”

The FWSO is also excited to bring the symphony to the CR Smith Museum and offer a free family-friendly concert on the lawn of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, making live music more accessible than ever.

American Airlines CR Smith Museum’s Executive Director, Uli Sailer Das adds, “The CR Smith Museum is excited to partner with the FWSO to offer our community the unique opportunity to enjoy a captivating musical program under the historic DC-3 aircraft.

The full lineup for The Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series, presented by BNSF with additional support by Gilchrist Automotive, will provide a variety of musical experiences for all ages.

After Hours in the Garden presents the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra:

The Sounds of the Summer Series launches at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden’s familiar Friday event, “After Hours in the Garden.” This concert offers an all-string program sampling some FWSO favorites. The strings’ use of playful pizzicato means they literally *Plink Plank Plunk!* in Leroy Anderson’s work. William Grant Still captures Panama’s vibrant cultural heritage and folk music in *Danzas de Panama*. This performance also features a collection of best-loved string serenades from Dvořák, Tchaikovsky, and Elgar.

Friday, May 17

6:30PM

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall

Tickets: \$18 for FWBG members and \$25 for non-members

Visit: www.fwbg.org

Night of Strings at the Garden:

FWSO invites you to an intimate chamber experience featuring classics from Mozart, Grieg, Dvořák, and Tchaikovsky, alongside Coleridge-Taylor’s Novelette No. 1. As a violinist himself, Coleridge-Taylor’s vibrant work shows a deep appreciation for the instrument. Also, kick up some dust as we briefly journey to the western frontier with Grofe’s “On the Trail” from *Grand Canyon Suite* and an exciting strings-only version of “Hoe-Down” from *Rodeo!*

Friday, June 7

7:30PM

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall

Tickets: \$25

Visit: www.fwsymphony.org

Concert on the Lawn @ Amon Carter Museum of American Art:

A patriotic lawn party at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art! We'll celebrate with the official National March of the United States - John Philip Sousa's iconic *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Schulman's *Ben Franklin Suite* and John Williams' "With Malice Toward None" from *Lincoln* will lead us to reflect on historical American figures. Additionally, we'll revisit classic American Westerns with "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo*, music from *The Magnificent Seven*, and "Galop" from *William Tell Overture*, famously used in *The Lone Ranger*.

Sunday, June 9

8:30PM

Amon Carter Museum of American Art

Tickets: Free Admission

Visit: www.fwsymphony.org

FWSO presents *Peter and the Wolf* at CR Smith Museum

FWSO's very own Buddy Bray narrates *Peter and the Wolf*, the perfect symphonic tale to introduce children to the different instruments of the orchestra. This family-oriented concert also includes other narrative-driven works, exploring the different moods classical music can portray. Mozart's *A Little Night Music* is spirited and bright, *Valse triste* by Sibelius literally translates to "Sad Waltz," and Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*, based on local folk music, capture many emotional expressions.

Saturday, June 15

11:00AM

CR Smith Museum

Tickets: Free with Museum Admission

Visit: <https://crsmithmuseum.org/>

Night of Strings at the Garden:

Bassoon, oboe, and harpsichord join the strings for a Baroque chamber orchestra! This concert features two concerto grossi, where the melody passes between a small group of FWSO soloists as they play in an intricate dialogue with the larger group. Karl Jenkin's *Palladio* calls back to this style despite being composed between 1993 and 1995, and you may recognize it from a 1993 De Beers diamond commercial. Also included in the program are Bach's Suite No. 1 and "Air" from Suite No. 3.

Friday, June 21

7:30PM

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall

Tickets: \$25

Visit: www.fwsymphony.org

Night of Strings at the Garden:

Join FWSO for “a little night music,” including Mozart’s *Eine kleine Nachtmusik!* Haydn’s Symphony No. 44, “Mourning,” epitomizes his *sturm und drang* (storm and stress) period. Despite the overall dramatic expression, the third movement is gentle and graceful music that reflects Haydn’s deeply Catholic views about death. In fact, he requested that it play at his funeral. Benjamin Franklin, a man of many talents, had a few musical endeavors, including improving the glass harmonica (later used by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Saint-Saëns) and composing a string quartet. Alan Schulman arranges these themes into the *Ben Franklin Suite*.

Friday, June 28

7:30PM

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall

Tickets: \$25

Visit: www.fwsymphony.org

2024 PianoTexas International Festival at Texas Christian University:

PianoTexas International Festival & Academy presents a [full calendar of piano events](#) during the month of June that places Fort Worth on the cultural map of the world. Events include piano recitals, masterclasses, and concerto performances with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

June 16, 23 & 30

5PM

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

For more information visit: www.pianotexas.tcu.edu

S.E.E.D. Camp in the Garden:

In partnership with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the FWSO will be featured in select camps presenting a Sounds of Nature concert for campers.

June 3 – 7 and June 10-14

Bugs Among Us (ages 4 - 5 years)

Texas Native Treasures (ages 6 – 7 years)

Nature Innovators (ages 8 – 11 years)

Visit: www.fwbg.org/camps

For more information on The Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series, visit the FWSO website (fwsymphony.org/SoundsOfTheSummer).

About Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Robert Spano is deeply committed to uniting its community through presenting over 120 performances, education, and outreach concerts, reaching an audience of more than 150,000 annually. Since its beginnings in 1912, the FWSO has been an essential thread in the city's cultural fabric and the very foundation of Fort Worth's performing arts. The FWSO has performed at Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras. The FWSO has released 13 recordings – with several being world premiere releases – garnering international acclaim. The FWSO has embraced creative collaborations through residencies, partnerships, and commissions. As the principal resident company of the acoustically superb Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, the Orchestra performs a full season of concerts featuring internationally acclaimed guest artists and works by living composers. The Orchestra performs and partners with the Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, The Cliburn, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Dallas Black Dance Theater, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, and Performing Arts Fort Worth. The FWSO keeps exceptional musical experiences at the heart of its community.

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