



PADUCAH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

2026/2027

GUEST CONDUCTORS

TCHAIKOVSKY'S FOURTH SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Since 2024, **Samuel Hollister** has served as Assistant Conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of its acclaimed Youth Orchestra. Before St. Louis, he led the Civic Orchestra of New Haven and directed orchestral activities at the University of Rhode Island. Along the way, he has assisted some of the most respected conductors working today at institutions ranging from the Baltimore Symphony to the Colorado Music Festival.



SYMPHONIC DANCES OCTOBER 10, 2026

Michael Shapiro's music has been heard everywhere from NPR and the BBC to over 50 public and commercial radio stations across three continents. His catalog of more than 100 works spans solo voice, chamber ensemble, orchestra, opera, film, and television, with recordings on Naxos and Paumanok Records. He currently serves as Laureate Conductor of The Chappaqua Orchestra in Westchester County, New York. Shapiro is perhaps best known for his score to the classic 1931 film *Frankenstein* — premiered with the Chappaqua Orchestra and since performed in over 80 productions internationally, including the Kentucky premier with the PSO during the *October Off the Record* concert on October 30.



AMERICANA AT THE SYMPHONY NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Conductor **Conner Gray Covington** brings an unusually wide-ranging musical appetite to the podium — spanning symphonic, operatic, and film repertoire from the Classical era to today. This season, he makes his debut with six major American orchestras, including the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony, and Houston Symphony, while returning to favorites like the San Francisco Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, and Portland Symphony. He also heads back to the Utah Symphony, where he built a lasting bond during a successful four-year tenure as Associate Conductor and Principal Conductor of the Deer Valley Music Festival.



A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION DECEMBER 12, 2026

Indian American conductor **Roger Kalia** is in his sixth season as Music Director of the Evansville Philharmonic and eighth with Orchestra Santa Monica, and recently added Music Director of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra to his roster. His guest engagements have taken him to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Louisiana Philharmonic, and orchestras across Europe and the Americas. We're delighted to welcome him to our stage as he continues to prove that classical music has plenty of exciting stories left to tell.



LESLIE ODOM, JR. WITH THE PSO JANUARY 22, 2027

Conor Whalen brings more than five years of experience directing choirs across a wide variety of settings. He has held leadership roles with the Conejo Valley Choral Society, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and more. Most recently, he served as Director of Choral Programs at Chaminade College Preparatory High School, and has recently taken the helm as Director of the Bozeman Symphonic Choir. We're delighted to welcome him to our stage fresh from Big Sky Country.





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JOHN WILLIAMS: SYMPHONY ON THE SILVER SCREEN

FEBRUARY 20, 2027

Australian-born conductor **Ron Spigelman** has built one of the most versatile podium careers in American orchestral life — spanning symphonic, ballet, opera, musical theatre, and pops performances across the country. Pops audiences know him best for his mastery of live-to-film concerts: he has conducted all eight *Harry Potter* films in concert, and brings that same cinematic flair to a long list of beloved guest artists including James Taylor, Leslie Odom Jr., Gladys Knight, and Wynonna Judd. Now joining the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra as Principal Pops Conductor, he has also served in that role with the Fort Worth and Syracuse symphonies. There may be no one better suited to lead a celebration of John Williams — and we're thrilled to welcome him to our stage.



BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH

MARCH 13, 2027

Panamanian-American conductor **Kalena Bovell** made history in 2023 as the first Black woman to conduct an opera in Canada, leading a world-premiere reimagining of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*. She serves as an inaugural Conducting Fellow of the San Diego Symphony, and her 2025-26 season included debuts with the New World Symphony, Redlands Symphony, and Acadiana Symphony. A conductor of both power and nuance, Bovell brings exactly the kind of interpretive depth that Beethoven demands — and on the 200th anniversary of his death, we can think of no one better to lead this celebration.



VIVALDI'S GLORIA

APRIL 17, 2027

Music Director of both the Spartanburg Philharmonic and Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra, **John Young Shik Concklin** has built a reputation for creating unforgettable nights — whether for lifelong classical music fans or first-time concertgoers. He also serves as Conductor with the Atlanta Music Project, an organization dedicated to social justice through music. Concklin has served as conductor for Grammy-nominated productions and brought that same energy to the Super Bowl Halftime Show, where he collaborated with Monica, the Grammy-winning R&B artist. His storytelling approach has driven unprecedented artistic growth and ticket sales everywhere he has led. We're honored to welcome him to our stage for what promises to be an unforgettable season finale.



THE ART OF VIDEO GAME MUSIC

MAY 1, 2027

American conductor **Jacob Aaron Schnitzer** harnesses music and storytelling to forge genuine connections with audiences — and few conductors are better positioned to bring a video game concert to life. As Artistic Director of Density512, hailed by Gramophone Magazine as a "crack new-music ensemble," he has led bold performances at the intersection of storytelling, design, and contemporary music, and has conducted world premieres of more than 70 works by living composers. Now entering his ninth season with Density512, he also serves as Music Director of the Gateway Chamber Orchestra and Associate Conductor of The Missouri Symphony, and is a recipient of the Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award.



MEET EACH GUEST CONDUCTOR PRIOR TO THE CONCERT AT THE OVERTURE SERIES, WHICH OCCURS MOST THURSDAYS DURING CONCERT WEEK.

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