



EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lawrence Eckerling, Music Director

2026-2027 CONCERT SERIES

*For
the*
Love
of
Music



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS
OF ARTISTRY, TRADITION AND
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Subscribe at: 847.864.8804
evanstonsymphony.org

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2026

CELEBRATING BEETHOVEN'S BRILLIANCE

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

THE MUSICAL WORLD will celebrate Ludwig van Beethoven in 2027 during the 200th anniversary of his death. The ESO presents our own tribute with three well-known works that demonstrate the breadth of Beethoven's genius. The program begins with the overture to *Fidelio*. Then, ESO favorite Irina Muresanu returns to the ESO to play Beethoven's lyrical, expansive, and expressive Violin Concerto, one of the most-performed and popular works in the repertoire. The program concludes with the composer's 5th Symphony with its iconic four-note opening — perhaps the most famous symphony of all time — a transcendent masterpiece, balancing symphonic grandeur with intense rhythmic drive.



Irina Muresanu,
violin

BEETHOVEN

- **Fidelio Overture**
- **Violin Concerto**
Irina Muresanu, violin
- **Symphony No. 5**



— **EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** —
Winner of the Illinois Council of Orchestras'
2026 Programming of the Year Award

OUR SPONSORS

A GREAT THANK YOU

to our generous sponsors for the 2026–2027 ESO season!



JOHN R. HALLIGAN CHARITABLE FUND

THE GENERATIONS FUND

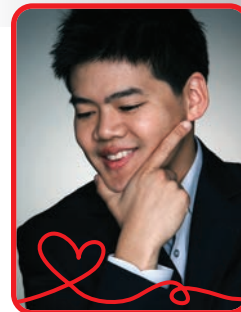
TODD WIENER AND
PAULA JACOBI

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2027

GREAT ROMANTICS

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

TWO LEADING WORKS of Russian Romanticism follow Dmitri Shostakovich's vibrant and energetic *Festive Overture*, composed for the Bolshoi Ballet in 1954. Sergei Rachmaninoff was recovering from debilitating writer's block when he worked on his Piano Concerto No. 2 in 1900 and 1901. He beat back his demons to compose one of the most popular — and lushly romantic — piano works of all time. Dynamic pianist Winston Choi, who heads the Piano Program at Roosevelt University, plays with the ESO. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, an orchestral tour de force based on tales from *The Thousand and One Nights*, is one of the most popular and electrifying works in the orchestral repertoire. This performance, featuring ESO Concertmaster Julie Fischer, commemorates her decade in the chair.

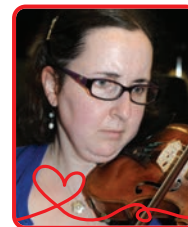


Winston Choi,
piano

SHOSTAKOVICH Festive Overture

RACHMANINOFF
Piano Concerto No. 2
Winston Choi, piano

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade



Julie Fischer,
violin

EVANSTON SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT DECEMBER 2026, DATE TBA

Don't miss Evanston's best holiday event. The ESO leads other local arts groups in a festive program of music, song and dance. It's sure-fire holiday fun with a special visit from Santa and his elves.

**Evanston Township
High School Auditorium**
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

To order:
Tickets will be available September 1

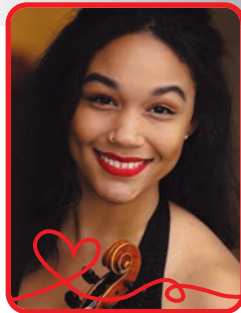


2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2027

SAINT-SAËNS ORGAN SYMPHONY

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS COMPOSED his monumental Symphony No. 3 in C minor, known as the "Organ Symphony," in 1886, dedicating it to the memory of Franz Liszt. This two-part Romantic work famously incorporates a pipe organ with a large orchestra. It evolves from dark restlessness to a majestic, triumphant finale. In addition, Adé Williams joins the ESO for Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier De Saint-Georges' Violin Concerto No. 10 in G, a work that clearly demonstrates the composer's virtuosic style and lyrical gifts. The concert begins with Ottorino Respighi's popular and picturesque *Fountains of Rome*, a four-movement symphonic poem that through lush orchestration blends pastoral scenes, mythology and Roman history to evoke scenes throughout the day before four Roman fountains.



Adé Williams,
violin



RESPIGHI
Fountains of Rome

SAINT-SAËNS
**"Organ Symphony"
Symphony No. 3**



JOSEPH BOULOGNE
Violin Concerto No. 10

Adé Williams, violin



Stephen Alltop,
organ

PRE-CONCERT MUSICAL INSIGHTS



EVERYONE IS INVITED to enjoy a sneak preview of each subscription concert. ESO Music Director Lawrence Eckerling and special guests will take you on an insider tour of the history and highlights behind the music. Join us for Musical Insights at 1:30 p.m. on the Friday preceding each series concert at The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston.



FREE
and open to the public

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY MAY 23, 2027

A MASS FOR PEACE

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

THE ESO, the North Shore Choral Society and soloists present Sir Karl Jenkins' tragic and ultimately life affirming *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. From the pounding drums suggesting marching armies to the soaring final cello solo, featuring ESO Principal Cellist Ellen Frolichstein, this stirring and ambitious work confronts war's horrors yet promises peace. Blending texts from the Christian Mass with Islamic calls to prayer, referencing ancient epics, and modern laments, this monumental work delivers visceral rhythms, tribal menace, and transcendent hope. The program begins with a very different and more traditional view of soldiery, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 100, "The Military." *The Armed Man's* final message of hope is a fitting close to the ESO's 80th anniversary season.



Lawrence Eckerling,
ESO Music Director



Dr. Julia Davids,
NSCS Music Director



JENKINS
**The Armed Man:
A Mass for Peace**
North Shore Choral Society
Tierra Whetstone,
Mezzo Soprano



Tierra Whetstone,
Mezzo Soprano,
NSCS Asst. Conductor



Ellen
Frolichstein,
cello



HAYDN
**Symphony
No. 100
"Military"**

**CONCERT SPONSORED BY
TODD WIENER AND PAULA JACOBI**



GENERAL INFORMATION

Subscribers get the best prices and the best seats!

SAVE \$50 off single-ticket box office prices with a \$138 EARLY BIRD subscription purchased by July 10; seniors **save \$44** with a \$120 EARLY BIRD subscription! Those purchasing regular subscriptions after July 10 **save \$39** off box offices prices, seniors **save \$32**.

GUARANTEED SEATS: Renewing subscribers are guaranteed the same great reserved seats at every assigned seating performance this season and next season when you renew by August 1. Renewing subscribers are also prioritized for seat changes!

FREE EXCHANGES: Subscribers also qualify for free exchanges for a later concert in the 2026–27 series when you call 847.864.8804 at least 24 hours before the concert.

GROUP SAVINGS by calling 847.864.8804 to purchase 10 or more single tickets to a subscription concert!

THREE EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

- **Call** 847.864.8804
- **Mail** your order to: Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318
Evanston, IL 60201
- **Online** at evanstonsymphony.org starting June 8

Please call 847.864.8804 for all orders with free children's tickets and for special seating needs.

QUESTIONS? Email tickets@evanstonsymphony.org or call 847.864.8804.

HEALTH & SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Covid-19, influenza and RSV continue to circulate. If you are sick, please respect your fellow concert-goers and stay home to prevent the spread of illness. The ESO may make changes to these policies depending on developments.

CONCERT VENUES

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES CONCERTS TAKE PLACE AT:

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall,
Northwestern University
50 Arts Circle Dr., Evanston
(just off of Sheridan Rd.).
Free, convenient parking.
Box office opens at 1:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY CONCERT TAKES PLACE AT:

**Evanston Township
High School Auditorium**,
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston.
Free, convenient parking.
Box office opens at 2:00 p.m.

For further details and maps, please visit our website,
evanstonsymphony.org.

2026–2027 ESO SEASON



SUBSCRIBE HERE!

Assigned Seating. Tickets will be mailed in September.

- RENEWING ESO SUBSCRIBER NEW ESO SUBSCRIBER
- Same Seats Indicate your seating *preference*:
- Change my seats Main Floor
- to: _____ Balcony

Note: All credit/debit card ticket purchases after August 1 and purchases at the box office incur a \$5 service fee.

SAVE WITH EARLY BIRD, PURCHASE BY JULY 10!

____ **Early Bird** Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$138 each... = \$ _____

____ **Early Bird** Senior Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$120 each... = \$ _____

____ Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$149 each (After 7/10)... = \$ _____

____ Senior Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$132 each (After 7/10)... = \$ _____

For children's tickets or special seating call 847.864.8804

INDIVIDUAL CONCERT TICKETS

Will be available September 1. Purchase tickets in advance and save.

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TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

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Mail form to: Evanston Symphony Orchestra, 1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318, Evanston, IL 60201
The ESO thanks you for your support. All contributions are tax deductible and will be listed in the concert program.
For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact us at (847) 864-8804 or visit evanstonsymphony.org.