Return to a World of Joy.
Live Music. The Musicians.
And You.
The 2021-2022 season starts September 24.

Subscribers save as much as 20%!
José Luis Gomez, Music Director
1. Ensure You Hear the Music You Love by Reserving Your Seats in Advance.
Bask in the sounds of TSO’s musicians under José’s baton. Composers you’ll love include Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Bach, John Williams, Berlioz, Stravinsky and dozens more.

2. With Each Concert, Enjoy Journeys Familiar and New.
Travel through new worlds from the most diverse selections of music in TSO’s history.

Get to know the music of Florence Price, the first African-American woman to compose for symphony orchestra—or Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a contemporary of Mozart who was the first composer of African descent. The richness of Gabriela Lena Frank’s music comes in part from songs her Peruvian mother sang to her. And conductor Jessica Cottis and pianist Joyce Yang combine their talents in Jonathan Leshnoff’s Piano Concerto, a co-commission of the TSO.

Not to be forgotten, Tucson’s own composers will be featured, including Daniel Asia, Robert Muczynski and Ulysses Kay.

3. Save Up to 20% Off Individual Ticket Prices.
And with a subscription, you won’t risk missing concerts. Simply exchange for another concert, free.

4. Ease into Your Seats at Newly-Renovated Tucson Music Hall.
Getting there is easier than ever with two new parking garages. A 392-car garage was recently completed, and a 524-car garage will be finished soon.

5. A Note on Subscriptions, Ticketing and Safety
Tucson Symphony Orchestra is pledged to the safety of its audience, its musicians and staff. The COVID-19 situation continues to change, so we will establish health and safety protocols nearer concert dates, following the direction of governmental experts and authorities.

From José Luis Gomez to You...
How I look forward to joining you with our musicians, together again with live music! Music connects to the human soul like no other thing.

This year we’ve worked through the pandemic to share music with you despite its challenges. We’ve also taken time to think about our place in society and how music can help us come together. You’ll see that the music I’ve chosen for you reflects many cultures, music with ties to Tucson, music composed by women and more music from the last century—in addition to the familiar masterpieces you already love.

For the fourth time in my tenure here, we’ve commissioned music from a graduate of our Young Composers Project to be performed on our subscription series. The composer herself, Claire Thai, will play her own harp concerto. As with every piece of music we’ll perform, I’ve selected it for you to discover a yet richer world. Come join us to be part of the music, and return to a world of joy!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Demlow, assistant principal horn
Classic 1: OPENING NIGHT TCHAIKOVSKY FOURTH

Friday, September 24, 2021
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Pacho Flores, trumpet

Still: Festive Overture
Eraína Oscher: Danzas Latinas
Pacho Flores: Morocota, Venezuelan Waltz
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4

José’s Take:
Opening Night is a special occasion for celebration, especially after an enforced absence, and so I’ve chosen one of the most glorious symphonies to crown an evening of reconnection with you, our beloved audience.

The first half is a different kind of celebration of the beautiful diversity of the Americas—the Festive Overture by the dean of African-American composers, William Grant Still, followed by Venezuelan trumpeter Pacho Flores performing contemporary Latin works for you. He’ll play Danzas Latinas—a Puerto Rican Bomba, Argentinian Zamba, Brazilian Samba, Cuban Bembé and Uruguayan Milonga—on five different instruments!

Classic 2: MOZART JUPITER

Friday, October 15, 2021
Sunday, October 17, 2021
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Amit Peled, cello

Muczynski: Dovetail Overture
Mozart: Symphony No. 41, “Jupiter”
Dvořák: Cello Concerto

José’s Take:
I’ll never tire—the world will never tire of the ecstatic counterpoint of the finale of Mozart’s last and most ambitious symphony.

Robert Muczynski is the first of several excellent composers with a Tucson connection whose music we’ll play. And we’ll enjoy Amit Peled’s return, playing the greatest of cello concertos.

Classic 3: SCHEHERAZADE

Friday, November 12, 2021
Sunday, November 14, 2021
Tucson Music Hall
Jessica Gottis, conductor
Joyce Yang, piano

Gabriela Lena Frank: Anolean Elegy
Jonathan Leshnoff: Piano Concerto (Co-commission by Tucson Symphony Orchestra)
Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade

José’s Take:
I like how Rimsky-Korsakov described Scheherazade: “a kaleidoscope of fairy-tale images” from The 1,001 Nights. And we’re proud that TSO had a part in creating the Leshnoff Concerto, which was written especially for one of Tucson’s favorite pianists, Joyce Yang.

Classic 4: THE THRILL OF TCHAIKOVSKY

Friday, December 10, 2021
Sunday, December 12, 2021
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor

Berlioz: Roman Carnival Overture
Tchaikovsky: Capriccio Italian
Respighi: Roman Festivals
Rossini: William Tell Overture

José’s Take:
I may be Venezuela-born with Spanish blood, but I also revel in all things Italian! You too will adore Berlioz’s stirring use of the saltarello dance, Tchaikovsky’s delight in Italian street music, Respighi’s mosaic of fantastic images and Rossini’s electricity. And with regard to William Tell, it’s always fun when people new to music hear passages made famous in television and cartoons.

Classic 5: MAHLER’S VISION OF PARADISE

Friday, January 21, 2022
Sunday, January 23, 2022
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Nicole Cabell, soprano

Price: Dances in the Canebrakes
Barber: Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Mahler: Symphony No. 4

José’s Take:
I’m excited to introduce Tucson audiences to Florence Price, the first female African-American composer of classical music, whose beautiful music is finally enjoying deserved appreciation. Sensational American soprano Nicole Cabell luxuriates in Samuel Barber’s vocal rhapsody, and Mahler’s Fourth Symphony also celebrates song. You’ll hear a light touch in its sleigh bells and bird calls, spice in its sinister concertmaster solo, and a child’s vision of heaven in the final notes.

In partnership with:

Classic 6: DUKE ELLINGTON HARLEM

Friday, February 18, 2022
Sunday, February 20, 2022
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor

J. Strauss II: Die Fledermaus Overture
Kay: Six Dances for String Orchestra
R. Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier Waltzes, First Sequence
Ellington: Harlem
Ravel: La valse

José’s Take:
Come dance with me as I take you across the floor in some wonderful interpretations of the waltz. While you take a breath, listen to the music of Duke Ellington, which the Duke himself played at the piano with leading American orchestras. And allow me to introduce the music of Ulysses Kay, another African-American composer and a native of Tucson who studied at the University of Arizona.

Classic 7: THE SPLENDOR OF BRAHMS

Friday, March 18, 2022
Sunday, March 20, 2022
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Paul Huang, violin

Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No. 1
Brahms: Symphony No. 4

José’s Take:
I imagine Brahms when he wrote his Fourth and final Symphony, a few years before the end of his life. Yet here’s a composer at the peak of his abilities, writing with poignancy and imagination.

Our soloist, Paul Huang, is one of the great young violinists, combining bulletproof virtuosity, sumptuous tone and thoughtful musicality. In his hands, Shostakovich’s First will have everyone on the edge of their seats.

Classic 8: MENDELSSOHN A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

Friday, April 8, 2022
Sunday, April 10, 2022
Tucson Music Hall
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Mendelssohn: Incidental Music from A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Schubert: Symphony No. 9, “Great”

José’s Take:
I wanted our Orchestra to star in the last concert of the season, bringing to life two of the most magical compositions ever written. You all know Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March”, and that’s just one of so many delightful pieces in his A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

I’m particularly fond of Schubert’s Ninth Symphony, which certainly deserves its nickname of “Great.” You never forget hearing it close the season, especially as performed by the excellent players of your Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

All programs, prices and artists are subject to change.
Masterworks 1
BRAHMS AND MOZART
Saturday, October 2, 2021
Catalina Foothills High School
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Martin Kuuskmann, bassoon
Dario Brignoli, clarinet

Mozart: Bassoon Concerto
R. Strauss: Duet Concertino
Brahms: Symphony No. 3

José’s Take:
My Estonian friend Martin Kuuskmann is one of the world’s great bassoonists. How happy I am to have him back! I’ve paired Martin with our Italian-born principal clarinet, Dario Brignoli, in Richard Strauss’ Concertino, a wonderful vehicle to show off their brilliance.

Brahms’ Third Symphony is beloved by audiences everywhere and I love it as well. It’s rich in texture and melodic content as well as highly personal.

Masterworks 3
MENDELSSOHN’S RADIANCE
Saturday, January 8, 2022
Catalina Foothills High School
José Luis Gomez, conductor

Mendelssohn: Sinfonia No. 1
Sowande: African Suite
Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 1

José’s Take:
This is a concert of fresh music that deserves to be far better known. I love how Felix Mendelssohn’s First Symphony explodes with energy and ideas. Composed at an extremely young age, like his Overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the Octet, it’s already nonetheless the work of a master. But then, he had already written thirteen symphonies before deciding this one merited an opus number!

Masterworks 2
MOZART SYMPHONY NO. 40
Saturday, November 6, 2021
Catalina Foothills High School
José Luis Gomez, conductor

Liszt/John Adams: The Black Gondola
Wagner: Siegfried Idyll
Mozart: Symphony No. 40

José’s Take:
At Wagner’s death in Venice Liszt immediately sat down and wrote a mysterious and heart-breaking tribute, The Black Gondola. To follow, I’ve programmed the most beautiful of musical love letters, Wagner’s Siegfried Idyll, written for his wife Cosima–Liszt’s daughter.

Mozart’s next-to-last symphony begins with an unforgettable texture. More than three centuries later, I question whether anyone has equaled its drama and pathos.

Masterworks 4
LAUREN ROTH PLAYS STRAVINSKY
Saturday, February 5, 2022
Catalina Foothills High School
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Lauren Roth, violin

Chevalier de Saint-Georges: Overture to The Anonymous Lover
Stravinsky: Violin Concerto
Schumann: Symphony No. 1, “Spring”

José’s Take:
There aren’t many concertmasters that are up to the challenge of the Stravinsky Violin Concerto! Working with our very own Lauren Roth will be one of the highlights of my year.

To start the concert I’ve chosen music of the first known classical composer of African descent, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. We’ll close with Robert Schumann’s First Symphony, which he called “a longing for Spring.”

All programs, prices and artists are subject to change.

Five Concerts at Catalina Foothills High School on Saturdays at 7:30 pm or Sundays at 2:00 pm.
January–March also Saturdays at 2:00 pm.
Catalina Foothills High School is not available March 5-6, so Masterworks 5 will be held at Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 West Speedway.

Masterworks 5
MOZART AND PROKOFIEV
Saturday, March 5, 2022
Bergen Performing Arts Center
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Claire Thai, harp
Alexander Lipay, flute

Prokofiev: Symphony No. 1, “Classical”
Claire Thai: Harp Concerto
(Commission by TSO/World Premiere)
Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Harp
Stravinsky: Suites Nos. 1 and 2

José’s Take:
Of all that Tucson Symphony Orchestra does, nothing touches my heart more than its Young Composers Project, in which young Tucsonans learn to write music for symphony orchestra. Claire Thai graduated from the program in 2019, and she’s now a harp student at Philadelphia’s Curtis Institute of Music. I’m proud that this is the fourth time under my watch that we’ve commissioned music from a Young Composers alum and performed it on our subscription series.

The Drs. John P. and Helen S. Schaefer Masterworks Series
Five Concerts at Catalina Foothills High School
(520) 882-8585 | tucsonsymphony.org
MESSIAH, CAROLS AND SONGS
Saturday, December 18, 2021, 4:00 pm
Sunday, December 19, 2021, 2:00 pm
Catalina Foothills High School
José Luis Gomez, conductor
Kathryn Mueller, soprano
Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano
Paul D’Arcy, tenor
Paul Max Tipton, baritone
Hassler: Dixit Maria
J.S. Bach: Overture from Orchestral Suite No. 3
Victoria: O Magnum Mysterium
Hindemith: Tutti fäntchen Suite
Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Greensleeves
Traditional: In dulci jubilo
Handel: Selections From Messiah
Hallelujah! It’s Messiah time. Hear a quartet of soloists sing Comfort Ye, Rejoice Greatly, The Trumpet Shall Sound and the Hallelujah Chorus from this most beloved choral work of all, a cathedral of music. As has now become a Tucson tradition, seasonal music by other masters will enchant your family.

In loving memory of Kimberlee Allen
James H. and Frances R. Allen Foundation

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK—IN CONCERT
The Entire Film With Music Performed Live
Friday, February 11, 2021, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 12, 2021, 4:00 pm
Tucson Music Hall
Nicholas Hersh, conductor
Tucson Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to perform Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in concert, playing every note of John Williams’ music as the film in its entirety is projected above on a giant screen. In 2018 Tucson Symphony Orchestra performed Star Wars: A New Hope, the first of the films to be made. Now Tucson audiences can experience the second film of the original trilogy.

Zachary Warren, flute

Support TSO Music Education

Music is for everyone—every age—every gender—every nationality. In fact, music brings us all together. It has been said for generations that music is a universal language. The Tucson Symphony Orchestra is nationally renowned for its music education offerings that inspire, teach and engage young people through concerts, learning labs, clinics and our award-winning Young Composers Project. The TSO Music Education Programs started over 70 years ago with hundreds of thousands of children and teachers benefitting. Today, over 35,000 annually participate in one or more of TSO’s 7 different Education Program areas.

In the upcoming year, TSO welcomes the return of students to the concert hall. Opening for registration this fall, both TSO KinderKonzerts and TSO Young People’s Concerts will invite schools from across Southern Arizona to join the Tucson Symphony Orchestra in fun and educational concert experiences for elementary-aged students. Our musicians look forward to reconnecting with our youngest listeners through Music in the Schools and Just for Kids, presenting chamber ensemble performances in schools. And we will be heading into the 29th season of TSO Young Composers Project when student musicians collaborate with TSO musicians, professional composers, guest artists and TSO staff to dive into the world of orchestral composition. We invite you to join us in continuing this legacy of learning with a gift in support of all of the enriching TSO Music Education Programs. Here are 3 ways to consider making your gift:

1. Add a gift to your ticket order
2. Go online to Support TSO Music Education
3. Direct mail a check to:
   Tucson Symphony Orchestra
   2175 N. Sixth Avenue
   Tucson, AZ 85705

Every gift makes a difference. We thank you for this tremendous show of support of the programs that benefit our young people in the region!

YOUNG COMPOSERS FESTIVAL
May 2022
Each year, two dozen children in primary and secondary schools learn to compose music for the symphony orchestra in Tucson Symphony Orchestra’s Young Composers Project. Students receive professional composition instruction and workshops with musicians and meet guest artists. At the end of the year music director José Luis Gomez and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra perform the music they’ve written in the Young Composers Festival. In 2022 TSO will partner with a major institution to extend the footprint of the Festival nationally.

All programs, prices and artists are subject to change
**Place Your Order Today!**

**1** Choose your series, day, seating and price.

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**2** Choose your special concerts

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Subtotal

**3** Make a contribution

Please join us in continuing our legacy of learning with a gift supporting TSO Music Education.

**4** Total your order.

Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?

**5** Tell us how to contact you.

**6** Tell us how you’d like to pay.

- Check enclosed payable to Tucson Symphony Orchestra
- Charge My Card (a 2.7% service charge will be added)
- Visa  
- Mastercard  
- Discover  
- American Express

Please know that we will not immediately issue tickets. When we know whether concerts will be socially distanced we will reach out to you about your seats.
Together again. Live!
September 24.

The Music You Love
Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony
Mozart’s Symphonies 40 and 41
Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back
Messiah, Carols and Songs

The Musicians You Want to Hear
José Luis Gomez, music director
Nicole Cabell, soprano
Lauren Roth, violin
Martin Kuuskmann, bassoon
Amit Peled, cello

Illustrations by Han Li based on photos by Tom Spitz