

To: All Media
From: Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes
Re: OSFL 23-24 Concert Season
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CORNING – The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes announces its 23-24 lineup of concerts with season tickets on sale now.

OSFL 23-24 CONCERT SEASON

October 14, 2023 through June 7, 2024

Concerts at various venues in Elmira and Corning

Season Ticket Packages \$30 to \$190

FREE for all attendees under 18, sponsored by the Anderson Foundation

Season tickets and information available at: <https://www.osfl.org/>

The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes will perform four main stage concerts for the 23-24 Season and five chamber music concerts. “This season, we have curated a program that traverses time and genre, designed to ignite your senses and spark your imagination,” says OSFL Music Director & Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada.

Season ticket packages include the 4 full-orchestra concerts and the 5 concerts in the Musicians’ Choice Chamber Series, offering significant savings over single ticket pricing. Season tickets are available now through the end of September by contacting the OSFL office at 607-936-2873 or ordering online at OSFL.org

The season begins with the orchestra in concert at the historic Park Church in Elmira on Saturday, October 14 at 7 PM. The first piece of the season will be *Overture to L’Amant Anonyme* by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a contemporary of Mozart whose artistry has long been overlooked. Dubbed the Black Mozart or the Black Violinist, Bologne was a free man of Creole descent and is the subject of the movie *Chevalier* released in April this year by Searchlight Pictures.

“In everything we perform this season, we are prioritizing music education for all,” says Karen Dusek, Managing Director of the OSFL. “In this age of information at our fingertips, audiences get the most out of live concerts by being informed prior to coming to the concert hall. We are offering pre-concert lectures, educational activity packets for all ages, and now a popular option of holding a movie night.” Prior to the first concert, the movie *Chevalier* is scheduled for Thursday, October 12 at 7 PM at the Park Church.

The October 14 concert will also feature the OSFL’s principal trumpet, Frank Gabriel Campos playing Hummel’s *Trumpet Concerto*. Mendelssohn’s *Italian Symphony* will close out the first concert.

The season continues with “Holiday Traditions Together” on Saturday, December 9 at 3 PM at the Clemens Center in Elmira, with a stage filled with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Southern Finger

Lakes, the Honors Chorus from the Alternative School for Math and Science, and young dancers from Rafael Grigorian Ballet. Professor Rachel Schutz from Ithaca College will be the soprano soloist. The holiday tradition continues after the festive concert with the OSFL's annual gala "Afterglow."

"Side by Side Through the Ages" is the title of the March 10, 2024 concert at 4 PM at the Corning Museum of Glass. It is a concert for and by all ages. The OSFL's youth ensembles will perform side-by-side with the OSFL. The Hertzog Concerto and Aria Competition winner, Riley Hubisz (flute) will perform as soloist with the OSFL. Three versions of Romeo and Juliet will be compared—by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, and the modern version by Leonard Bernstein who was teacher and mentor to the OSFL's Music Director & Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada. Corning Community College students under the direction of Mary Guzzy will add a dramatic presentation to the concert.

The final full-orchestra concert will be May 11 at 7 PM and is titled "A Grand Gershwin Celebration." The Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes will join the Orchestra and soloists Fredd Redd (baritone) and Dimery Alexis (Soprano) for Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Professor Dmitri Novgorodsky of Ithaca College will be the OSFL's guest pianist.

The Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series will showcase OSFL musicians and guests representing the woodwinds, brass and string sections from the orchestra. These concerts are shorter, performed without intermission, and include the musicians themselves giving verbal program notes to inform and educate listeners about the music. Chamber music concerts are on Fridays at 7:30 on November 10, January 12 and 26, April 26, and June 7. The music includes classical standards as well as jazz, contemporary, and more. These concerts are hosted in unique venues, such as the Rockwell Museum, the Arnot Art Museum, and North Presbyterian Church. Pre-concert receptions include tastings by Lakewood Vineyards, Wagner Vineyards, and Krooked Tusker Distillery. The opening chamber music concert on November 10th will feature acrylic artwork by Youth Orchestra alumnus, Suyen Lau.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

The OSFL offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side-by-side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, concerts by the Youth Orchestra, and educational concerts for children. Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own youth ensembles and the Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition for young artists in grades 9 through 12. The OSFL collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to advance our mutual artistic growth in the greater Elmira-Corning area.

Support for the OSFL comes from the Corning Incorporated Foundation, the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Hilliard Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the governor and the New York State Legislature. *FREE Under 18* is provided by the Anderson Foundation.

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