



Winner of 11 Emmy® Awards
Winner of ASCAP Deems Taylor Award

**29 Programs broadcast nationwide 2013-2025 on
American Public Television stations**

SEASON I first broadcast: 2013

101 Music for the Theatre https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkD-6N_1xek

Emmy® Award “Special Event” 2013

Emmy® Award “Audio Post-Production” 2013

Igor Stravinsky: *Suite from the Firebird*

Maurice Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2*

Bright Sheng: *Prelude to Black Swan*

The legendary impresario Serge Diaghilev of Les Ballet Russes commissioned from Stravinsky and Ravel some of the greatest music for the ballet. His influence stretched from St. Petersburg to Paris to the New York City Ballet founded by Diaghilev’s collaborator Georges Balanchine. Former NYCB Composer in Residence Bright Sheng captures the beauty of the dance with his *Prelude to Black Swan*.

102 What Makes a Masterpiece? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjxkAUR_W8o

Emmy® Award “Special Event” 2014

Emmy® Nomination “Audio Production” 2014

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Symphony No. 5*

Philip Glass: *Harmonium Mountain*

This program explores the creative process, tracing the genesis of Beethoven’s iconic symphony, and the development of a new work by a modern master. Introductory features demonstrate how short rhythmic and melodic motives evolve into vast symphonic organisms. Interviews include leading Beethoven scholars and the All-Star musicians.

103 The New World and Its Music https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFN5Uj_E3bc

Antonin Dvořák: *Symphony No. 9 “From the New World”*

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich: *Avanti!*

Inspired by American dreams and legends, Dvořák created some of his greatest works while living in the United States, above all the “New World” Symphony. This program illuminates the multiple stories and influences – Native American, African-American and Czech – that Dvořák transformed in his most beloved work. Ellen Taaffe Zwilich’s *Avanti!* offers a contemporary interpretation of the American archetype of “moving on.”

104 Politics and Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R28Rcja2c4c>

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 5*

Music has sometimes reflected, and at other times challenged repressive ideologies. Shostakovich abandoned the premiere of his challenging 4th Symphony for fear of reprisals from the Stalinist government. His triumphant 5th Symphony was next, and the authorities were pleased. To this day the 5th is Shostakovich’s most popular symphony. What is its message? What does “political music” mean today?

105 Relationships in Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS8naPIXRjU>

Johannes Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture*

Robert Schumann: *Symphony No. 3 “Rhenish”*

Robert Schumann’s wife Clara was herself a gifted pianist and composer. She became a lifelong friend and source of inspiration for Schumann’s protégé Johannes Brahms. This program will explore the turbulent musical and emotional relationships between these three, and the masterpieces that they produced.

106 The Living Art Form <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFZg5W4vxK4>

Richard Danielpour: *Piano Concerto #4,*

A Hero’s Journey” 3rd Movement, Xiayin Wang, soloist

Samuel Jones: *Concerto for Violoncello, Julian Schwarz, soloist*

Joseph Schwantner: *The Poet’s Hour – Soliloquy for Violin, Yevgeny Kutik, soloist*

This program explores the creation of new concertos and the artistic process.

Outstanding young soloists and leading American composers are featured in performance and in interviews.

107 Music’s Emotional Impact <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w00S4E-V-8>

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 4*

David Stock: *Blast!*

This program delves into Tchaikovsky’s dramatic personal life, his brief marriage, and his intense correspondence with his patroness Nadezhda von Meck, whom he never met, and to whom he dedicated his 4th Symphony. The dramatic brass fanfares that for Tchaikovsky symbolized Fate find a modern echo in David Stock’s *Blast!*

108 Mahler: Love, Sorrow and Transcendence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iOXoivYxRI>

Gustav Mahler: *Symphony No. 2, 1st Movement, Rueckert Lieder*

Augusta Read Thomas: *Of Paradise and Light*

Bernard Rands: *Adieu*

Mahler's turbulent passions are expressed through his music. His settings of poems by Friedrich Ruckert explore themes of love, nature, and otherworldliness. Mahler was haunted throughout his life by the premonition of his own death. The first movement of his 2nd Symphony, which Mahler called "Totenfeier" ("Funerary Rites"), draws stark contrasts between the composer's premonition of doom, and his vision of life. Modern reflections on these themes can be found in *Adieu* by Bernard Rands and *Of Paradise and Light* by Augusta Read Thomas.

SEASON II first broadcast: 2015

201 Rhapsody in Blue – Visions of New York <https://youtu.be/kplzf2AxFbQ>

Emmy® Award "Special Event" 2016

Gershwin's immortal *Rhapsody in Blue* is featured in the rarely heard original jazz-orchestra version from the 1924 premiere, with rising-star pianist Lola Astanova. This iconic work will be paired with Aaron Copland's 1925 jazz-age classic "Music for the Theatre." Robert Beaser's "Ground 0" offers a modern musical perspective of New York after 9/11.

202 "1001 Arabian Nights" – The Legend of Scheherazade

<https://youtu.be/dluchUG8EqQ>

Emmy® Award "Special Event" 2017

Emmy® Award "Audio Post-Production" 2017

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's exotic orchestral showpiece *Scheherazade* is based on fantastical tales that – according to tradition – were told by the ingenious wife of a cruel Sultan so as to prolong her life for 1001 nights. Concertmaster David Kim conveys the voice of the wily heroine in virtuosic violin solos. Take a musical magic carpet ride between the worlds of Arabian folklore and Russian romanticism.

203 A Hero's Life in Music <https://youtu.be/GigbCp-J2qI>

Richard Strauss' orchestral autobiography from 1899, *Ein Heldenleben*, is a unique documentary in music, scored for extra-large orchestra – a sonic spectacular, and a showcase for the All-Star musicians, with extended solos by Concertmaster David Kim and Principal Horn Erik Ralske. In this highly pictorial music, the listener follows the "Hero" as he asserts his independence, falls in love, confronts his critics, engages in battle, creates a legacy of peace, and eventually comes to life's end.

204 Mozart and a World-Premiere <https://youtu.be/Q5QJ4VKw0K0>

Mozart's magical "Posthorn Serenade" is followed by the World-Premiere of Samuel Jones' Violin Concerto with renowned soloist Anne Akiko Meyers performing on the legendary Vieuxtemps Guarneri violin. This rare event of a classical music world-premiere on national TV will showcase the collaboration between composer, soloist, and conductor in bringing a brand-new concerto to life.

SEASON III first broadcast: 2017

301 Russian Treasures <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7xliT5u6gM>

Modest Mussorgsky/Maurice Ravel – *Pictures at an Exhibition*.
The beloved orchestral showpiece: a series of unforgettable musical portraits, with a roof-raising finale “The Great Gate of Kiev.” Next on the program is:
Sergei Prokofiev – *Romeo and Juliet* – excerpts from the ballet
The dramatic selection will include: Capulets and Montagues, the Dance of the Knights, Portrait of Young Juliet, Scene at the Ball, the Fight, and The Death of Tybalt

302 Northern Lights <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I4DFpV183o>

Jan Sibelius – *Symphony #2*

A pinnacle of Nordic Romanticism by the Finnish master – grand, expansive melodies and searing harmonies; a musical contrast of fire and ice.

303 British Enigmas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rM3ZOJwDEs0>

Sir Edward Elgar – *Enigma Variations*

Secret, “enigmatic” portraits of the composer’s friends, each done with great individuality and exquisite musical taste.

Sir Benjamin Britten – *The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra*

The perennial family favorite that showcases – one by one – all the instruments in the orchestra. The perfect introduction to classical music.

304 Mysterious Mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTr71L1GMhk>

Alan Hovhaness – *Symphony # 2 “Mysterious Mountain”*

The most celebrated work by the mystical composer of the Pacific Northwest. A transporting meditation on the magnificence of nature.

Sir Eugene Goossens and Friends – *Jubilee Variations*.

*This is a **world-premiere** TV recording of this unpublished 1944 work created by ELEVEN great 20th Century composers: Goossens, Aaron Copland, Deems Taylor, Howard Hanson, Walter Piston, William Schuman, Roy Harris, Anis Fuleihan, Bernard Rogers, Ernest Bloch, and Paul Creston*

United States Marine Band first broadcast: 2018
An All-Star Orchestra Special

A unique collaboration: the All-Star Orchestra’s Gerard Schwarz conducts the U.S. Marine Band – America’s oldest continually performing musical ensemble - founded by an act of Congress in 1798, and dubbed “The President’s Own” by no less than Thomas Jefferson.

USMB 101 Above and Beyond <https://youtu.be/uL68-f3k9Xo>

The beloved folk melodies and lively dances of Grainger’s “Lincolnshire Posy” start off the program. A fascinating history of the 229-year-old U.S. Marine Band leads into Maestro Schwarz’ own “Above and Beyond” - dedicated to the Marine Band. Next comes Pulitzer Prize-winner Jennifer Higdon’s thrilling “Fanfare Ritmico.” and Sousa’s “Semper Fidelis” March – conducted by the Director of the U.S. Marine Band, Colonel Jason K. Fettig, bring this first episode to a rousing conclusion.

USMB 102 New England Spirit <https://youtu.be/ThLFTQZPMBI>

Emmy® Award “Special Event” 2019

Revolutionary War melodies provide the inspiration for William Schuman’s iconic “New England Triptych” including the moving meditation “When Jesus Wept” and the thrilling “Chester” as performed at several Presidential inaugurations. Next, Vincent Persichetti’s colorful “Masquerade” shows off the Band’s amazing virtuosity. The program concludes with Sousa’s immortal “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

USMB 103 Classic Band Masterpieces https://youtu.be/U7gnTeRi_ig

The First Suite by Gustav Holst (famous composer of “The Planets”) is an early masterpiece in the concert band repertoire, paired here with the first complete Symphony for Band by the great Paul Hindemith. The splendor of Chinese percussion in Bright Sheng’s “Shanghai Overture” brings the series to a spectacular finale.

SEASON IV first broadcast: 2020

401 From Italy and Hungary with Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtTn1vT4dx0>

Emmy® Award “Special Event” 2021

Emmy® Award “Audio Post-Production” 2021

The young Felix Mendelssohn delighted in the free and easy life that he experienced on his 1829 trip to Italy. Later he wove his memories together in the amazingly colorful “Italian Symphony.” Around 1900 the youthful Zoltan Kodaly traveled on foot in the backwoods, high mountains, and steppes of Hungary, Transylvania and Slovakia, gathering folk melodies from shepherds, gypsies, and common folk. Kodaly’s “Dances of Galanta” capture the fiery spirit of this lost world. Pulitzer Prize winning composer Augusta Read Thomas’ “Plea for Peace” concludes the program.

402 Musical Miracles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqJYhUMYEgo>

A huge chandelier fell from the ceiling just before the 1791 London premiere of Joseph Haydn’s latest symphony – but the audience was saved because they had all crowded around the orchestra pit to watch Haydn at work! Thus was born the “Miracle Symphony.” Another amazing event took place when King George I thrilled all of London with a floating barge of musicians playing Handel’s spectacle “Water Music” along the River Thames. The program concludes with the transcendental “Prayer of St Gregory” by Alan Hovhaness.

SEASON V - first broadcast: 2023

501 Celebrating Unity Around the World <https://youtu.be/MyJqxBAP0fg>

The universal language of music brings together rodeos of Argentinian cowboys in *Estancia* by Alberto Ginestera, the mythical worlds of Greek and German legends in Richard Wagner’s *Tannhäuser*, and the African celebration of *Umoja* (“An Anthem of Unity”) by American composer Valerie Coleman.

502 The Pines of Rome, and the Restless Sea <https://youtu.be/pFrHqVEW8pk>

Emmy® Award “Audio Post-Production” 2024

Emmy® Nomination “Arts/Entertainment” 2024

Ottorino Respighi’s great orchestral showpiece “The Pines of Rome” unites nature with the history of Rome, “the Eternal City,” in thrilling tone-pictures. Claude Debussy’s impressionist masterpiece *La Mer* (“The Sea”) portrays the ever-changing sea in its many moods and colors.

503 Vienna Dreams and Barcelona Visions <https://youtu.be/nw6FofhfnjU>

An unforgettable love-story set in a Vienna of long ago comes alive in Richard Strauss’ opera *Der Rosenkavalier* (The Cavalier of the Rose), arranged as a symphonic suite by Gerard Schwarz. The spiritual beauty of Barcelona’s towering cathedral, *La Sagrada Familia*, is evoked by Adolphus Hailstork’s musical meditation *Sagrada*.

504 “Free but Happy” – Brahms’ 3rd Symphony <https://youtu.be/l4UdzvFerUg>

Johannes Brahms expressed his own enigmatic motto, “free but happy,” in musical symbols that weave throughout this beautiful, deeply personal symphony – one of the greatest works of German romanticism. The program opens with Hector Berlioz’ witty Shakespearean overture to *Beatrice and Benedict*.

SEASON VI - first broadcast: 2024

601 A Symphonic Organ Spectacular - <https://youtu.be/Vfh06cp8NBY>

Emmy® Award “Audio Post-Production” 2025

Emmy® Nomination “Entertainment” 2025

The ultimate romantic pairing: a full symphony orchestra with a magnificent organ. French composer Camille Saint-Saëns created his “*Organ Symphony*” in 1886, and it has thrilled audiences worldwide ever since! The program opens with Mexican composer Carlos Chávez’ *Sinfonía india* from 1931 featuring authentic melodies of indigenous peoples and native percussion instruments of Aztec heritage.

602 Symphonic Metamorphosis - <https://youtu.be/p83eiUBIKUk>

The splashy, colorful *Symphonic Metamorphosis* was composed for American audiences by the great Paul Hindemith after he fled Nazi Germany in 1940, and it has been a concert favorite ever since. Catchy themes are transformed by the orchestra into constantly changing shapes and colors. Also featured are the romantic masterpiece *Les Preludes* by Franz Liszt and the exquisitely beautiful *Slow Movement* composed by the young Anton Webern as a gift to his future wife.

603 Concerto for Orchestra - <https://youtu.be/KwF9FLFuZ7I>

Hungary’s greatest composer Béla Bartók moved to New York during World War II, and he overcame serious health problems to create a musical masterpiece showing off all the instruments of the orchestra in unique and unforgettable style. His *Concerto for Orchestra* is truly one of the peaks of the 20th century repertoire.

Opening the program is Bach's magnificent *Prelude and Fugue in D Major* in a spectacular large orchestration by Ottorino Respighi.

604 Schubert's Immortal "Unfinished Symphony" <https://youtu.be/riXxE7adaBU>

When he died in 1828 at age 31, Franz Schubert left behind an unfinished symphony that was discovered only years later. Musicians and the public were stunned by the beauty and profundity of this mysterious work, and its magic continues to enthrall. Also featured are the folkloric *Rounds* by David Diamond and the *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* by one of America's great living composers, Joan Tower.

Educational Partnership with the Khan Academy

The All-Star Orchestra has created a unique music education website now reaching over 6 million students worldwide in partnership with the Khan Academy – the leading free educational website. Lessons include: Music Basics, Instruments of the Orchestra and Concert Band, Composer Interviews, Performances and Analyses of Masterpieces Old and New. Visit: <https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/all-star-orchestra>