



Contact: Michelle Winters, Director of Marketing
mwinters@louisvilleorchestra.org 502.587.8681

LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF CONCERTS *Strikes a Chord of Inspiration, Hope and Creativity*

(Louisville, KY... March 20, 2019) Called "genre-defying" by *Time* magazine, the Louisville Orchestra (LO) announced its 2019-2020 season, the sixth under the galvanizing leadership of Music Director Teddy Abrams.

The season concerts will feature innovative local and world premieres, collaboration with a renowned Gospel choir, a number of guest appearances by emerging stars in the orchestra world, and the culmination of a moving and powerful exhibit of violins rescued from the Holocaust.

"We have a season-wide mission to combine cutting-edge projects with storytelling that connects with our shared human—and local—experiences," Abrams said. "Some of our upcoming major projects include premieres of collaborations with dance, theater, and visual artists. We want the Louisville Orchestra to be a central forum for creativity."

Reconnecting the orchestra with its remarkable past while reestablishing it as the cornerstone of today's vibrant Louisville music scene, Abrams's "tireless advocacy and community outreach" is, *Listen* magazine notes, "putting the history-rich Louisville Orchestra – and classical music – back on the map."

For the opening Classics weekend of the new season, Abrams will lead the LO in concerts welcoming popular violinist [ANNE AKIKO MEYERS](#) and up-and-coming musical powerhouse violinist [ELENA URIOSTE](#) (Sep 27/28). Both musicians, together with Teddy Abrams were named to the "[19 FOR 19: ARTISTS TO WATCH](#)" list by New York Classical Radio WQXR.

Exploring the power of gospel music and the dynamic creativity of contemporary pop music in the “**Fifth Annual Festival of American Music**” (Feb 22 & March 13-14), the LO collaborates with the gospel choir of **St. Stephen’s Baptist Church** for **Duke Ellington’s *Three Black Kings***.

The city-wide exhibition [Violins Of Hope](#) culminates in a performance ***From the Diary of Anne Frank* by Michael Tilson Thomas** (Oct 25-26). Featuring violins rescued from the Holocaust, Violins Of Hope includes an exhibit, lectures, school programs and other concerts in and around Louisville in fall 2019. In addition to Tilson Thomas, contemporary composers Emmy-Award winner [Garth Neustadter](#), [Ljova](#), [Anna Clyne](#), and [Missy Mazzoli](#) will have works performed with Louisville Orchestra premieres throughout the concert season.

The LO performs timeless masterworks of the orchestral repertory including the “**New World Symphony**” of Antonin Dvorak (Sep 28), ***La Mer*** by French composer Claude Debussy (Oct 11/12), ***Three Black Kings*** by Duke Ellington (Feb 22), and the brilliant ***Concerto For Orchestra*** by Bela Bartók (Apr 25). In “**Teddy Talks Mahler**” (Jan 17-18), Abrams continues his series of illuminating deconstructions of famous works of orchestral music and puts the spotlight on the contrasting messages of despair and ecstasy of the ***Symphony No. 5*** by Gustav Mahler.

Three notable guest conductors step up to the LO podium to make their first appearances locally. [Vinay Parameswaran](#), the assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, leads the LO on the journey of ***Don Quixote*** by Richard Strauss (Nov 22-23). [Roderick Cox](#), winner of the 2018 Solti Conducting Fellowship (Jan 31/Feb 1), and [Rei Hotoda](#), Music Director of the Fresno Symphony (Apr 1) each bring a strong and individual perspective to their work and will each offer a Louisville premiere and an orchestral masterwork.

Here’s more from Music Director Teddy Abrams, looking forward to the new season:

“Our ardent commitment to living composers continues to grow next season with attention to diversity amongst the composers of our contemporary works. Our thematic programs include works based on “water” with the music of Garth Neustadter and John Luther Adams, We look to history for truth and music for hope in the inspirational “Violins of Hope” concert featuring Michael Tilson Thomas’ *From the Diary of Anne Frank* and “Gospel at the Symphony” featuring our local St. Stephen Choir, which is considered one of the greatest Gospel choirs in the United States.

“We owe our audiences unique experiences that represent the best of Louisville’s cultural capabilities, and my hope is that this next season offers programs that inspire and unify the broadest of audiences possible in our town.”

**Multi-concert packages are now available at the lowest rates and can be purchased by calling 502.587.8681 or online at LouisvilleOrchestra.org.
Single tickets will be available August 1.**

A FULL SEASON OF PERFORMANCES

In addition to the Classics Series, the orchestra plays an eight-concert Friday morning **Coffee Series** with music selected from the Classics Series concerts. Fans of the orchestra's five-concert **Pops Series** will be treated to the music of movie blockbusters including *Dr. Zhivago*, *Moon River*, and *Gone With the Wind* in an evening of **Hollywood Hits**" (Sep 21). Under the direction of Principal Pops Conductor Bob Bernhardt, this set of concerts also includes our **"Holiday Pops"** (Nov 30), a tribute to the great music of Motown in **"Dancing In The Streets"** (Jan 25), and an evening with piano man **Michael Cavanaugh** as he plays and sings the songs of Elton John, Paul McCartney, the Eagles and more. The dazzling talents of **Arrival from Sweden** bring their **"Tribute to ABBA"** to Louisville for one thrilling night only on March 25, 2020.

The three-concert LO **Family Series** brings the joy of music to our youngsters with three concerts designed just for the 3- to 12-year-old set. Performances kick-off with a "Superheroes" theme (Oct 5 at the Brown Theatre) with all children invited to dress in costume as their favorite hero. Our annual holiday concert (Nov 30 at the Kentucky Center) is fun for the entire family; and reprising their performance from the 2017-18 season, Squallis Puppeteers join the LO for "Peter & The Wolf" (March 21 at the Brown Theatre) featuring those bigger than life puppets that make this Louisville-based company renowned for their creativity.

Currently, the LO **Music Without Borders Concerts** and four-concert **Music Without Borders Series at IUS** are being developed with dates and programs to be announced in coming weeks. The Louisville Orchestra is proud to perform with the Louisville Ballet and Kentucky Opera for performances presented by those organizations.

The Louisville Orchestra education programs are offered to metro-area schools and include the annual **MakingMUSIC** performances held at the Kentucky Center. Generations of school children have had their first experience with the Louisville Orchestra at these performances. In addition, the LO provides in-school ensemble performances that bring small groups of musicians into schools for a highly-interactive "informance" and in-school masterclasses with Music Director Teddy Abrams.

About the Louisville Orchestra

Established in 1937 through the combined efforts of Dann C. Byck of the Louisville Civic Arts Association, Louisville mayor Charles Farnsley, and conductor Robert Whitney, the **Louisville Orchestra** is a cornerstone of the Louisville arts community. In

a bold move to create a new model for a symphony orchestra in America, the Louisville Orchestra started to invest in commissioning and presenting new works to audiences instead of embracing the standard of featuring traveling virtuoso soloists with historic orchestral selections. With the launch of **First Edition Recordings** in 1947, it became the first American orchestra to own a recording label. Six years later it received a Rockefeller grant of \$500,000 to commission, record, and premiere 20th-century music by living composers, thereby earning a place on the international circuit and an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall. New works were created by composers including Roy Harris, Darius Milhaud, Joaquin Rodrigo, Robert Russell Bennett, David Diamond, Paul Hindemith, Aaron Copland, and many others. In 2001, the Louisville Orchestra received the **Leonard Bernstein Award for Excellence in Educational Programming**, presented annually to a North American orchestra. Continuing its commitment to new music, the Louisville Orchestra has earned **19 ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music** and was also-awarded large grants from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the National Endowment for the Arts, both for the purpose of producing, manufacturing and marketing its historic First Edition Recordings collections. Over the years, the orchestra has performed for prestigious events at the White House, Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and on tour in Mexico City. The feature-length, Gramophone Award-winning documentary **Music Makes A City** (2010) chronicles the Louisville Orchestra's founding years. The web series **Music Makes A City Now** (2014-16) chronicled the first season and subsequent key performances of current Music Director Teddy Abrams.

High-resolution photos are available [HERE](#)

Louisville Orchestra 2019-20 Season by SERIES

CLASSICS SERIES | Saturday at 8PM at the Kentucky Center for the Arts

29 NOV 2019 "FROM THE NEW WORLD"

Anne Akiko Meyers, violin | Elena Urioste, violin | Teddy Abrams, conductor
ANTONIN DVORÁK: Symphony No. 9 ("From the New World")

Selections for violin TBA

Featuring the sweeping melody that inspired the song "Goin' Home," this symphony is a beloved masterpiece.

12 NOV 2019 "FROM THE SEA"

The Percussion Collective | Teddy Abrams, conductor

JEAN SIBELIUS: *The Oceanides*

GARTH NEUSTADTER: *Seaborne* (First performance of the fully-orchestrated version) CLAUDE DEBUSSY: *La Mer*

Your evening includes music of the Finnish composer Sibelius who wrote of sea nymphs; Seaborne a work with percussion and stunning film shot in Hawaii composed by a Grammy-Award winning composer; and La Mer, one of the supreme achievements of symphonic literature.

25 OCT 2019 "VIOLINS OF HOPE"

Gabriel Lefkowitz, violin | TBA, narrator | Teddy Abrams, conductor

LJOVA: Klezmer music TBA

JOHN WILLIAMS: Three pieces from *Schindler's List*

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: *From The Diary of Anne Frank*

"Violins of Hope" comes to Louisville. The touring exhibit provides an opportunity for learning and reflection through restored violins that survived the Holocaust. The Louisville Orchestra is proud to be a partner in giving voice to these amazing instruments in this performance.

23 NOV 2019 "DON QUIXOTE + OTHER JOURNEYS"

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor | Nicholas Finch, cello

ANNA CLYNE: *Night Ferry*

RICHARD STRAUSS: *Don Quixote*

Featuring LO principal cellist, Nicholas Finch as the intrepid Don, Strauss's virtuoso piece for orchestra is one of his most profound works. Equally comic and philosophical, the hero of this fairy-tale draws us into our own deepest emotions.

18 JAN 2020 "TEDDY TALKS MAHLER"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

GUSTAV MAHLER: Symphony No. 5

With the most tender love letter ever written in music at its heart and a finale of unalloyed joy, Mahler's Fifth is a miracle of symphonic music. Before intermission, Teddy Abrams offers a program reminiscent of the 1950s "Omnibus" series, demonstrating and explaining the musical elements of the work with the orchestra's help with a complete performance following.

01 FEB 2020 BRAHMS THIRD

Roderick Cox, conductor | TBA, piano

EDVARD GRIEG, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra

JOHANNES BRAHMS: Symphony No. 3

Winner of the 2018 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award and now earning international acclaim, Roderick Cox takes the podium for the rich, mysterious, and bold virtuosity of the Third Symphony of Brahms.

23 FEB 2020 "GOSPEL AT THE SYMPHONY": FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN MUSIC 1

St. Stephen Baptist Church Choir | Teddy Abrams, conductor

"DUKE" ELLINGTON: *Three Black Kings*

Gospel selections with Orchestra TBA

In this first concert of the Festival of American Music, the tradition of gospel music is the focus of this celebration featuring St. Stephen Baptist Church Choir.

Ellington's Three Black Kings offers a musical tribute to Balthazar, Solomon, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

14 MAR 2020 FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN MUSIC 2

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Program TBA

11 APR 2020 "BEETHOVEN + RACHMANINOFF"

Rei Hotoda, conductor

MISSY MAZZOLI: *River Rouge Transfiguration*

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2

Passionate and yearning, Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony builds in waves of emotional intensity from the menacing growl of the opening strings to the powerful chorus of brass at the end. Plus, we celebrate Beethoven's 250th "birthday" with his witty and buoyantly inventive Eighth Symphony.

23 APR 2020 "CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

GRIMES, NEGRON, NOVA, SHAW, KIRKLAND-SNIDER: *Blue Hour*

BELA BARTOK: Concerto For Orchestra

Composed by Rachel Grimes, Angélica Negrón, Shara Nova, Caroline Shaw, and Sarah Kirkland Snider on a text by Carolyn Forché, Blue Hour seeks the precious individual in the rush of the difficulties of life on our Earth.

POPS SERIES | 8PM at the Kentucky Center

SAT 21 SEP 2019 "HOLLYWOOD HITS"

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Featuring the majestic and beautiful music from some of the world's greatest films. Thrill to blockbuster movie themes from Gone With The Wind, The Magnificent 7, Dr. Zhivago, Moon River, Ben Hur and many more.

SAT 30 NOV 2019 "HOLIDAY POPS"

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

We're dreaming up some holiday treats for you next season with a brand-new variety show for the entire family! You'll get a special delivery of Yuletide favorite music with singers, dancers, and an important visitor from the North.

SAT 25 JAN 2020 "DANCING IN THE STREETS: The Music of Motown"

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

You know the words to this music! Three hot singers perform smash hits of the Motown Era including "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "I'll Be There," "Dancing In The Street," "My Girl," "Superstition," and more. You heard these hits first on your transistor radio but hear them live with a full orchestra.

SAT 28 MAR 2020 "ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN: A Tribute to ABBA"

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN is the world's greatest ABBA tribute show performing ABBA hits with the passion and happiness of the original 70s band. MAMMA MIA! It's time for you to bring out your inner dancing queen and have fun at the Pops.

FRI 17 APR 2020 MICHAEL CAVANAUGH PLAYS THE SONGS OF ELTON JOHN and more

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Michael Cavanaugh is the new voice of the American Rock & Roll Songbook. Hand-picked by Billy Joel to portray the Piano Man in his Broadway Musical, *Movin' Out*, and Cavanaugh has the mad piano skills and the charisma to bring audiences to their feet. He plays the music of Elton John, Paul McCartney, The Eagles and more.

COFFEE SERIES — *Fridays at 11AM at the Kentucky Center*

27 SEP 2019 "FROM THE NEW WORLD"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

ANTONIN DVORAK: Symphony No. 9, ("From the New World")

11 OCT 2019 "FROM THE SEA"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

LJOVA: Klezmer Music

JOHN WILLIAMS: Three Pieces from *Schindler's List*

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: *From The Diary of Anne Frank*

22 OCT 2019 "DON QUIXOTE + OTHER JOURNEYS"

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor | Nicholas Finch, cello

ANNA CLYNE: *Night Ferry*

RICHARD STRAUSS: *Don Quixote*

17 JAN 2020 "TEDDY TALKS MAHLER"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

GUSTAV MAHLER: Symphony No. 5

31 JAN 2020 "BRAHMS THIRD"

Roderick Cox, conductor

JOHANNES BRAHMS: Symphony No. 3

13 MAR 2020 "FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN MUSIC 2"

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Program: TBA

10 APR 2020 "BEETHOVEN + RACHMANINOFF"

Rei Hotoda, conductor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2, mvts 2 & 4

FAMILY SERIES | *Saturdays at 11AM*

Pre-concert activities start at 10AM in the lobby with projects and interactive fun to entertain and engage the youngsters. Concerts are approximately one-hour long and include music that is traditionally classical plus music that might be familiar to children from movies, video games, and popular culture.

5 OCT 2019
"SUPERHEROES"

30 NOV 2019
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY"
Bob Bernhardt, conductor

21 MAR 2020
"PETER AND THE WOLF"
Squallis Puppeteers

For a complete concert listing visit www.LouisvilleOrchestra.org

All programs, dates, artists, and venues are subject to change.