



## **Teddy Abrams and Louisville Orchestra Focus on "New Beginnings" in 2021-22, Celebrating Composers of Color, Women Composers, Latin American Music, and Numerous World Premieres, Including Abrams's New Piano Concerto Performed by Yuja Wang**

**Two free in-person concerts open the season:  
May 22 at the Belvedere and May 26 at Shawnee Park.**

**"American Soul" features Louisville voices Jason Clayborn and Daria Raymore singing music by James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye and more. Both outdoor performances are completely free but reservations are required.**

(7 May 2021... Louisville KY) Now in its eighth season under the inspired and inspiring leadership of galvanizing young Music Director **Teddy Abrams**, the [Louisville Orchestra](#) celebrates diverse musical voices in 2021-22, with works by **composers of color** and **women composers of three centuries**; a three-part festival of **Latin American music** featuring **world premieres** by **Angélica Negrón** and **Dafnis Prieto**; and the first concert in a **multi-season series** exploring **Black and Jewish music**. A major highlight of the season is the **world premiere** of Abrams's **Piano Concerto**, written for and featuring acclaimed pianist **Yuja Wang**. The season also features the **world premiere** of a **Louisville Orchestra commission** from rising young Louisville composer **KiMani Bridges**, a new edition of the popular "**Teddy Talks...**" series deconstructing **Schubert's "Great" Symphony No. 9**, world-class guest conductors and soloists, and much more. Bob Bernhardt, Principal Pops Conductor, celebrates his 40th season with the Louisville Orchestra this year. He launches the 5-concert Pops Series with "Music of Prohibition" and celebrates his anniversary with a concert of music by John Williams. Attendance at all

performances in the 2021-22 season is subject to **currently recommended COVID-19 safety protocols**.

Season tickets are now on sale for the Classics, Pops, Family, and Coffee Concert Series.

Engaging with the orchestra's remarkable past while keeping it at the center of today's vibrant Louisville music scene, Abrams's **"tireless advocacy and community outreach"** are, *Listen* magazine notes, **"putting the history-rich Louisville Orchestra – and classical music – back on the map."** Looking ahead to the new season, the conductor explains:

"Throughout the past year the Louisville Orchestra has reaffirmed its aspirations to function as a core civic service in Louisville, to help lead our community into a new era of growth and creativity. The 2021-22 season is a reflection and amplification of these values. Despite the challenges our city and nation have faced, we felt strongly that a significant and ambitious investment in creative programming was the best thing we could offer Louisville. Our commitments to equity and commissioning new work (derived from the Orchestra's long history of leading in these fields) are intertwined: world premieres from seven local musicians to memorialize the pandemic era are juxtaposed with commissions from composers such as Dafnis Prieto, Angélica Negrón, Adam Schoenberg, and KiMani Bridges. Our annual Festival of American Music focuses on Latin America this season. Dafnis Prieto's new work is a highlight of the Festival: it will be a danceable *concerto grosso* for a 10-member Cuban *timba* band and orchestra. We also begin a four-year exploration of the relationship between Jewish and Black composers, revealing interconnected narratives and mutual inspiration as we rediscover pieces that were suppressed or forgotten from composers of both backgrounds. I'm also very excited about the premiere of my own new work - a monstrously virtuosic piano concerto I've written for my friend Yuja Wang."



**Yuja Wang Plays Abrams**

The *Financial Times* says of **Yuja Wang**: “Her combination of technical ease, colouristic range and sheer power has always been remarkable ... but these days there is an ever-greater depth to her musicianship, drawing you into the world of each composer with compelling immediacy.” Formerly a classmate of Abrams at the Curtis Institute of Music, she appeared with the orchestra in 2017 – the same year she was named “Artist of the Year” by *Musical America* – to celebrate its 80th anniversary with a rapturously received performance of Rachmaninoff’s Fourth Piano Concerto. She performs the **world premiere** of **Abrams’s new Piano Concerto**, written expressly for her, on a program that also includes **Rachmaninoff’s** Tchaikovsky-inspired **Symphony No. 2** (Jan 8).

### **Opening night: A Concert for Unity**

Throughout his tenure as Music Director, Abrams has envisioned the Louisville Orchestra as a focal point, an artistic home inclusive of the entire population of the city. The distress of the community following the tragic killing of Breonna Taylor in early 2020 and the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests inspired a recent livestreamed concert in collaboration with hip-hop artist, activist and Louisville Metro Councilperson Jecorey Arthur charting the history of Black music in America. An NPR interview with Abrams and Arthur about that performance can be found [here](#). As Abrams said:

“As we rebuild ... you want the artists to be leading those conversations. They're the ones that see clearly the connections between people and strive to break those barriers down.”

In keeping with that sentiment and the theme of inclusion, the Classics series opens with “**A Concert for Unity**” (Oct 2), headlined by **Valerie Coleman’s** celebrated **UMOJA, Anthem for Unity**, as well as a roster of local guests artists performing **world premiere songs** that reflect on the past year. Rounding out the program is **Tchaikovsky’s “Pathetique” Symphony**. Coleman, a native of Louisville, was named *Performance Today’s* “Classical Woman of the Year” for 2020, and **UMOJA** was named one of the “Top 101 Great American Ensemble Works” by *Chamber Music America*.

### **Festival of Latin American Music**

It was the inaugural edition of the Louisville Orchestra’s Festival of American Music that prompted *Arts-Louisville* to conclude: “**The orchestra, specifically this orchestra, is a living, breathing, evolving, and relevant art form.**” This season’s festival looks south to **Latin America**: joining the orchestra for the first of the two concerts (March 5) will be the salsa band **People of Earth**, performing the **world premiere** of the Concerto for People of Earth and String Orchestra by **Grammy- and MacArthur Fellowship-winning** Cuban composer **Dafnis Prieto, co-commissioned** by the Louisville Orchestra. Also on the bill is a **world premiere commission** from Puerto Rico native **Angélica Negrón**, and those two new commissions are balanced by a Louisville Orchestra commission from almost 70 years ago: **Villa-Lobos’s** evocative overture *Alvorada na floresta tropical*. Latin American music as filtered through the imagination of **Leonard Bernstein** completes the program in the form of the Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*.

The second program of the Festival includes two Latin American-inspired works by North Americans: **Copland's** *El Salón México*, a tribute to a Mexican nightclub he experienced in the company of Mexican composer Carlos Chávez, and **Gershwin's** *Cuban Overture*, written after a two-week stay in Havana. Two Mexican works, **Arturo Márquez's** *Danzon No. 2* and **José Pablo Moncayo's** *Cumbres*, the latter another early commission by the Louisville Orchestra, are also on the program, along with *Concertino Cusqueño* by **Gabriela Lena Frank**, a 21st-century exponent of Latin American sounds who often draws inspiration from her mother's Peruvian heritage.

### **Reclaimed Treasures: Connections Between Black and Jewish Music**

On April 30, Abrams and the orchestra give a performance exploring the commonalities between **Black and Jewish music**, the first in a projected multi-season series. Featured on the concert is violinist **Julia Noone**, assistant concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra, performing **Korngold's** D-major Violin Concerto. Also on the program is the Louisville Orchestra-commissioned *Notturmo* by **Ernst Toch**, who like Korngold fled his native Austria after the rise of the Nazis but whose fame did not survive his transplantation to the U.S. Crowning the program, the **Louisville Chamber Choir** and soloists to be announced perform the spectacular oratorio *The Ordering of Moses* by **R. Nathaniel Dett**, one of the first conservatory-trained Black musicians in the U.S. He studied at Oberlin Conservatory and with Nadia Boulanger at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France, before earning his Master of Music degree from Eastman. The oratorio, considered his greatest work, was premiered by the Cincinnati Symphony during the May Festival in 1937 and broadcast nationwide, which may have marked the first network broadcast of a major work by a Black composer; unfortunately the broadcast was interrupted two-thirds of the way through for an unknown reason, speculated to be listener complaints.

### **Fantastique: KiMani Bridges world premiere plus Adam Schoenberg**

The orchestra's season finale (May 14) features a **Louisville Orchestra-commissioned** work by **KiMani Bridges**, a freshman at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Winner of several young composer competitions, including the 2020 G. Schirmer Prize, established to recognize students in Missy Mazzoli and Ellen Reid's Luna Composition Lab, Bridges will also have her work performed in the "Celebrating Young Talent" concert on the Music Without Borders series (see below). Also on the program is the world premiere of *Automation* by **Adam Schoenberg**, an Emmy-winning and Grammy-nominated composer who has twice ranked among the top 10 most performed living composers in the U.S. Featuring cellist **Yves Dharamraj**, *Automation* is a double concerto for cello, pre-recorded digital cello and orchestra that also incorporates **multimedia visuals**. Rounding out the season finale program is **Hector Berlioz's** *Symphonie fantastique*.

### **Teddy Talks: Schubert**

The popular "Teddy Talks..." series focuses in 2021-22 on **Franz Schubert's** "Great" **Symphony No. 9**, which marked a revolutionary advance in terms of length, complexity, and formal and harmonic innovation (Oct 30). Now entering its fourth season after a hiatus for the pandemic, the "Teddy Talks..." series is a natural development of Abrams's

engagement with the Louisville community and his insistence on making the orchestra and its music accessible to all. He provides the audience with a window into the mind of the composer, entertainingly deconstructing the music before reassembling it in a full performance after an intermission. According to *Arts-Louisville*, his exposition of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony made "a good case against the decline of classical music," leaving the critic "absolutely enthralled."

### **Rounding out the Classics Series**

The Classics series also includes three concerts featuring guest conductors. "**Schumann & Brahms**" (Nov 20) will be led by **Edwin Outwater**, former Music Director of Canada's Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and former resident conductor at the San Francisco Symphony, who Michael Tilson Thomas called "one of the most innovative conductors on the scene today." Featured in **Schumann's** Piano Concerto is Mexican pianist **Jorge Federico Osorio**, praised by the *Los Angeles Times* as "one of the more elegant and accomplished pianists on the planet." Also on the program are an overture by **Louise Farrenc**, a relatively unsung composer who was the only woman appointed as professor at the Paris Conservatory in all of the nineteenth century; **Lutosławski's** Little Suite; and **Brahms's** Variations on a Theme of Joseph Haydn.

Conductor **Rei Hotoda**, the Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic called "an inexhaustible dynamo" by Spokane's *Spokesman-Review*, leads a program (Jan 29) juxtaposing **Respighi's** *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome* with **Beethoven's** Eighth Symphony and **Lili Boulanger's** *D'un matin de printemps* ("Of a Spring Morning"). Finally, rising star conductor **Jonathon Heyward**, recently named Chief Conductor of the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, leads violinist **Ben Beilman** – praised by the *New York Times* for his "handsome technique, burnished sound, and quiet confidence" – as soloist in **Prokofiev's** First Violin Concerto, along with **Rimsky-Korsakov's** *Sheherazade* and *Kanashibari* by British composer **Hannah Kendall** (April 2). Heyward's debut with the Seattle Symphony in 2019 included the U.S. premiere of another of Kendall's works, and he conducted the U.S. premiere of *Kanashibari* with the same orchestra this past spring.

*The Louisville Orchestra's Classics Series is made possible by the generous support of the Brown-Forman Foundation.*

### **Music Without Borders Series**

The **Music Without Borders** series, which takes the orchestra and Abrams's creative programming out of the concert hall and into the community, begins its season with an Abrams-led program titled "**Backward Glances**" (Oct 14-16), featuring music by twentieth century composers who took their inspiration from the past. The *Capricorn Concerto* for flute, oboe, and trumpet, an early work by **Samuel Barber**, shows the strong influence of Bach. **Erwin Schulhoff's** Concerto for String Quartet and Wind Orchestra is modeled after the Baroque concerto grosso, but inverts the ratio of winds to strings, and **Stravinsky's** ballet *Pulcinella* marked the beginning of his neoclassical period. Also in the fall, Louisville Orchestra concertmaster **Gabriel Lefkowitz** leads a program of "**Baroque and Classical**



**Jewels**” (Nov 11-16), featuring music by **Rameau**, **Vivaldi**, and **Bach**, as well as **Mozart’s** “Haffner” Symphony.

Abrams takes the podium once again for the program “**Celebrating Young Talent**” (Jan 20-22), featuring pianist **Michelle Cann** – who made her orchestral debut at age 14 – performing **Gershwin’s** Second Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra, as well as the Louisville Orchestra-commissioned work that **KiMani Bridges** wrote in her first year out of high school, also programmed in the Classics series. The program is rounded out by **Dvořák’s** Symphony No. 8.

The final concert in the Music Without Borders series, “**Concierto de Aranjuez**” (Mar 25-27), is conducted by **Kalena Bovell**, Assistant Conductor of the Memphis Symphony and Conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony. Part of the Festival of Latin American Music, the performance includes the beloved **Rodrigo** piece of the same name performed by guitarist **Stephen Mattingly**, a founding member of the Tantalus Quartet who directs classical guitar studies at the University of Louisville. **Bizet’s** Suite No. 1 from *Carmen* and **Ginastera’s** *Variaciones concertantes* complete the program.

For a complete schedule of the Louisville Orchestra’s 2021-22 season, visit:  
<https://louisvilleorchestra.org/>

### **About the Louisville Orchestra**

Established in 1937 through the combined efforts of Louisville mayor Charles Farnsley and conductor Robert Whitney, the **Louisville Orchestra** is a cornerstone of the Louisville arts community. 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 music by living composers, thereby earning a place on the international circuit. 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, and their **last two albums** for the Decca Gold label, *All In* (2017) and *The Order of Nature* (2019) – the latter launched with an appearance on ***The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*** – both **topped the Billboard Classical and Crossover charts**. The feature-length, Gramophone Award-winning documentary ***Music Makes a City*** (2010) chronicles the Louisville Orchestra’s founding years, and in spring 2018, Teddy Abrams and the orchestra were profiled on the popular television program ***CBS Sunday Morning***.

High-resolution photos are available [here](#).

[www.louisvilleorchestra.org](http://www.louisvilleorchestra.org)

[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Louisville-Orchestra](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Louisville-Orchestra)

[twitter.com/louorch](https://twitter.com/louorch)

# Louisville Orchestra

## 2021-22 Classics, Pops, Music Without Borders, Family, and Coffee Series

*Except where noted, all concerts take place at 8pm at the Kentucky Center for the Arts*

**SAT 2 OCT 2021**

Classics Series

**[A CONCERT FOR UNITY](#)**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

VALERIE COLEMAN: *UMOJA, Anthem for Unity*

TBD with guest artists: world premiere songs written and performed reflecting on the past year

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique")

**14-16 OCT 2021**

Music Without Borders Series

Locations TBD

**[BACKWARD GLANCES](#)**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

TBD, guest artists

STRAVINSKY: *Pulcinella* Suite

BARBER: *Capricorn Concerto* for flute, oboe, and trumpet

SCHULHOFF: Concerto for String Quartet and Wind Orchestra

**SAT 23 OCT 2021**

Pops Series

**[MUSIC OF PROHIBITION](#)**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Music of the Roaring 20s including Kurt Weill, King Oliver, and more.

**SAT 30 OCT 2021**

Classics Series

**TEDDY TALKS SCHUBERT**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9 in C ("The Great")

**11-16 NOV 2021**

Music Without Borders Series

Locations TBD

**BAROQUE AND CLASSICAL JEWELS**

Gabriel Lefkowitz, conductor

Nicholas Finch and Lillian Pettitt, cellos

Kathleen Karr and Jake Chabot, flutes

RAMEAU (arr. d'Indy): Overture to *Zaïs*

VIVALDI: Concerto for Two Cellos

BACH: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 for two recorders, violin and continuo

MOZART: Symphony No. 35 ("Haffner")

**SAT 20 NOV 2021**

Classics Series

**SCHUMANN & BRAHMS**

Edwin Outwater, conductor

Jorge Federico Osorio, piano

FARRENC: Overture No. 2, Op. 24 in E-flat

SCHUMANN: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra

LUTOSŁAWSKI: Little Suite ("Mała suita")

BRAHMS: Variations on a Theme of Joseph Haydn ("St. Anthony Variations")

**SAT 27 NOV 2021 11AM**

Family Series

**JINGLE BELL CONCERT**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Economical matinee performance with a program for kids of all ages!



**SAT 27 NOV 2021**

Pops Series

**HOLIDAY POPS**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Holiday favorites for the entire family!

**FRI 7 JAN 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

**YUJA WANG PREMIERES ABRAMS CONCERTO**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Yuja Wang, piano

TEDDY ABRAMS: Piano Concerto (world premiere)

RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2 - selected movements

**SAT 8 JAN 2022**

Classics Series

**YUJA WANG PREMIERES ABRAMS CONCERTO**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Yuja Wang, piano

TEDDY ABRAMS: Piano Concerto (world premiere)

RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2

**SAT 15 JAN 2022**

Pops Series

**IRRESISTIBLE JOHN WILLIAMS**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Bernhardt conducts his favorite music by his favorite composer.

40th Anniversary Celebration

**20-22 JAN 2022**

Music Without Borders Series

Locations TBD

**CELEBRATING YOUNG TALENT**

Teddy Abrams, conductor  
Michelle Cann, piano

KIMANI BRIDGES: New work (world premiere, LO commission)  
GERSHWIN: Second Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra  
DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 8

**SUN 23 JAN 2022 3PM**

Family Series  
Brown Theater

**PETER AND THE WOLF**

Robert Franz, conductor

A classic family favorite.

**FRI 28 JAN 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

**PINES OF ROME**

Rei Hotoda, conductor

BOULANGER: *D'un matin de printemps* ("A Spring Morning")  
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8  
RESPIGHI: *Pines of Rome*

**SAT 29 JAN 2022**

Classics Series

**PINES OF ROME**

Rei Hotoda, conductor

BOULANGER: *D'un matin de printemps* ("A Spring Morning")  
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8  
RESPIGHI: *Fountains of Rome*  
RESPIGHI: *Pines of Rome*

**FRI 4 MAR 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

**FESTIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC 1**

Teddy Abrams, conductor  
People of Earth

VILLA-LOBOS: *Alvorada na floresta tropical* ("Dawn in a Tropical Forest") (First Edition 1954)

DAFNIS PRIETO: Concerto for People of Earth and String Orchestra (world premiere, LO co-commission)

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: New work TBA (world premiere, LO commission)

BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

### **SAT 5 MAR 2022**

Classics Series

#### **FESTIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC 1**

Teddy Abrams, conductor  
People of Earth

VILLA-LOBOS: *Alvorada na floresta tropical* ("Dawn in a Tropical Forest") (First Edition 1954)

DAFNIS PRIETO: Concerto for People of Earth and String Orchestra (world premiere, LO co-commission)

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: New work TBA (world premiere, LO commission)

BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

### **FRI 11 MAR 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

#### **FESTIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC 2**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

COPLAND: *El Salón México*

GABRIELA LENA FRANK: *Concertino Cusqueño*

MONCAYO: *Cumbres* (First Edition 1954)

CLARICE ASSAD: *Nhanderú*

ARTURO MARQUEZ: *Danzón No. 2*

GERSHWIN: *Cuban Overture*

### **SAT 12 MAR 2022**

Classics Series

#### **FESTIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC 2**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

COPLAND: *El Salón México*  
GABRIELA LENA FRANK: *Concertino Cusqueño*  
MONCAYO: *Cumbres* (First Edition 1954)  
MARQUEZ: *Danzón No. 2*  
GERSHWIN: *Cuban Overture*

**SAT 19 MAR 2022**

Pops Series

**A TRIBUTE TO ABBA**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Featuring the #1 ABBA tribute band "Arrival"

**25-26 MAR 2022**

Music Without Borders Series

Locations TBD

**CONCIERTO DE ARANJUEZ**

Kalena Bovell, conductor

Stephen Mattingly, guitar

BIZET: Suite No. 1 from *Carmen*

RODRIGO: *Concierto de Aranjuez*

GINASTERA: *Variaciones concertantes*

**SUN 27 MAR 2022 3PM**

Family Series

**EXPLORING THE ORCHESTRA**

Robert Franz, conductor

Featuring the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra."

**FRI 1 APR 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

**SHEHERAZADE**

Jonathon Heyward, conductor

HANNAH KENDALL: *Kanashibari*

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *Sheherazade*

**SAT 2 APR 2022**

Classics Series

**SHEHERAZADE**

Jonathon Heyward, conductor

Benjamin Beilman, violin

HANNAH KENDALL: *Kanashibari*

PROKOFIEV: Violin Concerto No. 1

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *Sheherazade*

**SAT 22 APR 2022**

Pops Series

**MICHAEL CAVANAUGH PLAYS THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN**

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Michael Cavanaugh, piano and vocals

Top hits of Elton John performed by a charismatic piano man.

**SAT 30 APR 2022**

Classics Series

**RECLAIMED TREASURES**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Julia Noone, violin

Louisville Chamber Choir

TBD, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Baritone

TOCH: Notturmo, Op. 77 (First Edition 1954)

KORNGOLD: Concerto for Violin in D

DETT: *The Ordering of Moses*: A Sacred Oratorio for Soloists, Chorus and Orchestra

**FRI 13 MAY 2022 11AM**

Coffee Series

**FANTASTIQUE**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Yves Dharamraj, cello

ADAM SCHOENBERG: *Automation* (world premiere)

BERLIOZ: *Symphonie fantastique* - selected movements

**SAT 14 MAY 2022**

Classics Series

**FANTASTIQUE**

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Yves Dharamraj, cello

KIMANI BRIDGES: New work (world premiere, LO commission)

ADAM SCHOENBERG: *Automation* (world premiere)

BERLIOZ: *Symphonie fantastique*

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

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