



WHAT IS LIFE?

WILL YOU BE MINE?



WHO AM I?

WHAT IS OUR FATE?



WHAT IS ART?



IS SANTA REAL?

WILL YOU MARRY ME?



WHAT TIME IS THE CONCERT?

WON'T YOU JOIN US?



TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
2018-2019 SEASON

THE  
**BIG**  
QUESTIONS



KYLE WILEY PICKETT  
Music Director & Conductor



TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
2018-2019 SEASON

# THE BIG QUESTIONS

This season, the Topeka Symphony is going to ask **THE BIG QUESTIONS:** *Who am I? Where am I going? What happens after death? What is our destiny? What is the meaning of life?* But don't worry, we won't get too heavy. We'll also ask **THE HAPPY QUESTIONS:** *Will you dance with me? Will you marry me? Will you be mine?* And, since we're an orchestra, we think we ought to ask a few **ARTSY QUESTIONS:** *What inspires us? Does art give life meaning? Are we living in the best of all possible worlds?*

We're going to use classical and popular music to explore big issues about life and death, fate and destiny, art and inspiration, and love and marriage. Composers and artists have grappled with these issues through the centuries and offered their answers in powerful, fascinating, and thought-provoking works which we will showcase in this season of **THE BIG QUESTIONS.**

# THE BIG QUESTIONS

## Why Buy Season Tickets?

- **Support the Symphony**  
Show your support for the Topeka Symphony. Season ticket holders are the backbone of our organization.
- **Save money**  
Buying a Season Ticket package is less expensive than purchasing single tickets.
- **Senior and Student Discount**  
Senior subscribers (65 or over) and Students (age 6-18 and full-time college students) save even more.
- **Create your own season**  
Design your own season by selecting three or more concerts.
- **More savings**  
The more concerts you select the more you save.
- **Additional discount**  
Receive a 10% discount on single tickets for any subscription concert all season long.
- **Seating Priority**  
Season Ticket holders have the first choice of seats at White Concert Hall.
- **Keep your seat**  
Keep the same seats for the entire season and future seasons if you like.



**WHO** better to ponder the meaning of life with than French poets and philosophers? We kick things off with Bernstein's rousing and wild **Candide Overture** from his opera based on Voltaire's comic philosophical novel, in which he ponders if we are living in the "best of all possible worlds." We continue with Liszt's **Les Preludes**, which was inspired by French poet Alphonse de Lamartine's question, "What is life but a series of preludes to that unknown hymn whose first solemn note is intoned by death?" To round out our evening of big ideas, we will be joined by the 2017 Van Cliburn Bronze Medalist Daniel Hsu on Rachmaninoff's enormous and virtuosic **3rd Piano Concerto**. And, in honor of the 50th anniversary of White Concert Hall, we will bring back Theron Kirk's **Kaleidoscope**, which was written for the Topeka Symphony's first performance in the new hall.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**

**Bernstein** – *Candide Overture*

**Theron Kirk** – *Kaleidoscope*

**Liszt** – *Les Preludes*

**Rachmaninoff** – Piano Concerto No. 3

with Daniel Hsu



WHAT IS  
THE **MEANING**  
OF **LIFE**



# DOES ART GIVE LIFE MEANING?



**AT THIS CONCERT** we will perform several pieces of music inspired by great works of art. We look to the life and music of German composer Paul Hindemith to address the meaning of art in our lives. Hindemith was writing during the Nazi regime in Germany and walked a fine line between self-expression and self-preservation. In his **Symphony: Mathis der Maler** (Matthew the Painter), he wrote about the life of Renaissance painter Matthias Grünewald and his paintings for the Isenheim altarpiece in the monastery in Alsace. The three movement symphony moves from angelic to tumultuous as Hindemith “paints” the story for us in music. We will also perform **Spring** and **Birth of Venus** from Respighi’s charming and beautiful **Botticelli Triptych**, inspired by the famous paintings. We also welcome Jane Carl to the stage on Mozart’s ever-popular **Clarinet Concerto**.



**NOVEMBER 3, 2018**

**Mozart** – Clarinet Concerto  
with Jane Carl

**Hindemith** – Symphony:  
*Mathis der Maler*:

**Respighi** – *Botticelli Triptych*

## HOLIDAY POPS CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

Music from your favorite holiday films:

- *Miracle on 34th Street*
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- *The Polar Express*
- and more...

with the **Shawnee Choral Society**

**DECEMBER 12, 2018**

**THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY** is celebrating Christmas at the movies with a concert of music from classic Hollywood holiday soundtracks! We'll play the Christmas classics of the silver screen and favorite holiday television specials, and top it off with our annual carol sing-along to put you in the spirit of the season. We're excited to feature the Shawnee Choral Society as our special guests!

# DO YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA





**Humperdinck** - *Hansel and Gretel* Prelude

**Barber** - *Knoxville - Summer of 1915*

with Jennifer Forni, Soprano

**Mahler** - *Symphony No. 4*

with Jennifer Forni, Soprano



# WHO AM I AND WHERE AM I GOING

**JANUARY 19, 2019**

**AT THIS CONCERT,** we pose these giant philosophical questions and hear artists' responses through poetry and prose, nostalgia and naiveté, and some of the most beautiful and haunting melodies ever written for orchestra. We begin our concert with the prelude from the opera *Hansel and Gretel*, a tale which has at its heart the questions, "Who am I? Where am I going?" Then we move to Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, a reflective meditation on childhood, nostalgia, and self-awareness. Finally, we take on Gustav Mahler's arresting and gorgeous **Fourth Symphony**, which muses on joy and innocence but gives way to much deeper and darker existential musings on life and death.

# WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

**FEBRUARY 16, 2019**

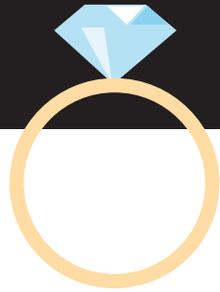
**FRANK SINATRA** is synonymous with jazzy, breezy, romantic ballads, and we are thrilled to bring vocalist Steve Lippia to our stage for a Valentine's evening of Frank's greatest hits. You won't believe your ears – it'll be like Ol' Blue Eyes himself came back to serenade you and your Valentine at a concert of the sweet, romantic, fun songs that Frank made famous. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an evening of extraordinary love songs for a truly memorable date night with the Topeka Symphony.



**SIMPLY SINATRA**

with Steve Lippia

**Maxwell Davies** - *An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise*  
Young Artist Competition Winner  
**Copland** - *Appalachian Spring*



**APRIL 6, 2019**

**OUR PIECES** on this concert take us to two different locations for romance and wedding celebrations. English composer Peter Maxwell Davies's *An Orkney Wedding, With Sunrise* depicts a boisterous Scottish wedding, followed by the sun coming up after the night of parties and dancing. It is one of the only pieces for orchestra that features a bagpiper in full regalia –you won't want to miss this spectacle! Finally, we go to a small village in Pennsylvania for a wedding party in Aaron Copland's Pulitzer Prize-winning ballet *Appalachian Spring*. This beautiful and moving piece depicts the excitement of the wedding, the nervousness of the newlyweds as they begin their life, and the comfort and faith their neighbors give them through the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts*.

**WILL YOU  
MARRY ME**

**MAY 4, 2019**

**WHAT IS MY  
FATE**



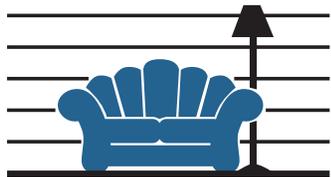
**Brahms** -

Double Concerto  
with Zsolt Eder, Violin  
and Eman Chalshotori,  
Cello

**Tchaikovsky** -

Symphony No. 6 -  
*Pathétique*

**TCHAIKOVSKY'S Sixth Symphony, *Pathétique***, has been interpreted variously as a suicide note, a requiem for a friend, and a meditation on life and fate. The title suggests emotion tinged with suffering. The Russian Orthodox requiem makes a brief but conspicuous appearance in the first movement. The final movement, unlike many of the composer's other works which end in pomp and celebration, ends in somber softness, suggesting the final dimming of the light and life-force. It is moving, powerful, and heart-breaking. We also feature TSO Concertmaster Zsolt Eder and principal cellist Eman Chalshotori for Brahms's beautiful **Double Concerto for Cello and Violin**.



# frugal HOUSE

*in the*  
**COTTONWOOD VILLAS**  
*at* **BREWSTER PLACE**

October 12-14, 2018

## FRUGAL HOUSE

showcases villas decorated  
with re-purposed, up-cycled  
furniture and accessories.

Almost everything will be for  
sale at affordable prices.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE  
TOPEKA SYMPHONY AND  
YOUTH ENSEMBLES



*Save the date!!*

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOPEKA SYMPHONY LEAGUE GALA

Friday, February 1, 2019

Sunflower Ballroom, Maner Conference Center

30

GALA CHAIRS: Barbara Duncan and Michele McCaffrey

HONORARY CHAIRS: Larry and Sue Krische

## Symphony Suppers

Enjoy a pre-concert dinner with your friends on  
Sept. 29, Nov. 3, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Apr. 6, and  
May 4. Maestro Pickett will present "Concert  
Conversations" at 6:30 pm.

### Washburn's Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

Please arrive for dinner by 5:30 p.m.

Seating for the Concert Conversations begins at 6:15 p.m.

### **\$25.00 per person**

For reservations or more information, contact the Symphony  
office at 232-2032 or visit [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org)



**ALL CONCERTS** are held at 7:30 pm in White Concert Hall on the Washburn University campus, 17th and Jewell in Topeka, Kansas.

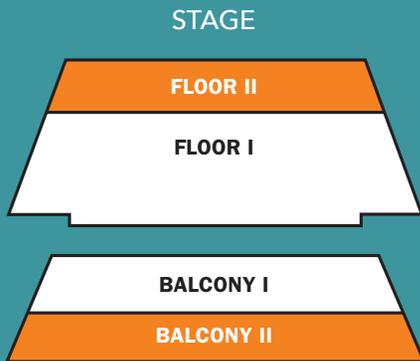
**PLEASE NOTE:**

Programs and artists are subject to change. All sales are final. Tickets are non-refundable.

**ONLINE TICKET SALES**

Visit [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org) for 2018-2019 Season Ticket Sales.

**WHITE CONCERT HALL**



**SEASON TICKET PRICES\***

# OF CONCERTS	7	6	5	4	3
<b>ADULT</b>					
Flr I / Balc I (Rows F-Q / AA-EE)	\$211	\$183	\$154	\$125	\$96
Flr II / Balc II (Rows B-E / FF-JJ)	\$176	\$153	\$129	\$105	\$81
<b>SENIOR CITIZEN (65 OR OVER)</b>					
Flr I / Balc I (Rows F-Q / AA-EE)	\$204	\$177	\$149	\$121	\$93
Flr II / Balc II (Rows B-E / FF-JJ)	\$169	\$147	\$124	\$101	\$78
<b>FULL-TIME STUDENT</b>					
Flr I / Balc I (Rows F-Q / AA-EE)	\$114	\$99	\$84	\$69	\$54
Flr II / Balc II (Rows B-E / FF-JJ)	\$96	\$84	\$72	\$59	\$47

**SINGLE TICKET PRICES\*** (not eligible for 25% savings)

Price based on location—see seating chart. Single tickets for all concerts go on sale September 4, 2018. A handling fee of \$5.00 will be applied to all ticket orders.

	Floor I/Balcony I	Floor II/Balcony II
Adult/Senior Citizen	\$36	\$31
Full-Time Students (half price)	\$18	\$15.50

**FLEX PASS\*** (four admissions) \$124 (not eligible for 25% savings)

Can't commit to concert dates in advance? Get a Flex Pass! The Flex Pass is good for four admissions, best seats available 30 days in advance, to any Topeka Symphony Orchestra subscription concert. You may use the four admissions any way you choose: bring four people to one concert, or two people to two concerts, etc.

\*Prices do not include the handling fee or sales tax

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED  
 CREDIT CARD:  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CVV (SECURITY CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

**Seating Preferences (based on 2017-2018 seating):**

- I'd like to "Hold on to my Seat!" (Must renew by July 13, 2018 to retain your seat)
- I'll call the TSO office (785-232-2032) to discuss my seating options!
- Please assign best available seating based on the seat location I chose!

**Please select your concert choices by checking three to seven concerts:**

- Sept. 29, 2018, 7:30 pm, WCH\*\*
- Nov. 3, 2018, 7:30 pm, WCH
- Dec. 12, 2018, 7:30 pm, WCH
- Jan. 19, 2019, 7:30 pm, WCH
- Feb. 16, 2019, 7:30 pm, WCH
- Apr. 6, 2019, 7:30 pm, WCH
- May 4, 2019, 7:30 pm, WCH

\*\*White Concert Hall

	Section (ex: Floor II)	# of Seats	Price Per Seat	
Adult	_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
Sr. Citizen	_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
Full-Time Student	_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
Flex Pass (4 Admissions)	_____	_____	x \$124	= \$ _____
			Handling Charge	\$ 5.00
			Subtotal	= \$ _____
			9.15% Sales Tax	= \$ _____
			<b>TOTAL</b>	= \$ _____

I'm a new subscriber taking advantage of the 25% savings offer.

**MAIL TO:**

The Topeka Symphony Society  
 PO Box 2206, Topeka, KS 66601-2206



The Topeka Symphony is grateful to Washburn University for use of rehearsal and performance space during the 2018-2019 Season.



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SAVE 25%

# THE BIG QUESTIONS

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
2018-2019 SEASON



Topeka Symphony Orchestra

The Topeka Symphony Society  
PO Box 2206  
Topeka, KS 66601-2206

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