

AMARILLO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2017-18 SEASON

American jazz master Aaron Diehl to open 93rd season with Gershwin Rhapsodies.

Music Director Jacomo Bairos to conduct symphonies of Beethoven, Mahler, Mozart, and Rachmaninoff.

Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" will cap an American Celebration.

Happy Holiday Pops to return.

Amarillo, TX – The Amarillo Symphony announced details of the 2017-18 season, its 93rd serving music lovers of the Texas Panhandle. The new season will feature eight unique programs at the Globe-News Center from September 22, 2017 through April 28, 2018. Season ticket packages starting at less than \$19 per concert are on sale now.

Highlights of the new season include Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and rarely performed Second Rhapsody, Beethoven's mighty "Eroica" Symphony, Rachmaninoff's ravishing Second Symphony, An American Celebration punctuated by Tchaikovsky's rousing "1812 Overture, and an array of acclaimed guest artists. Happy Holidays Pops, which successfully debuted in December of 2016, will return. Music Director Jacomo Bairos will conduct six of the eight programs.

"In my 5th season as Music Director, we pack each performance with a ground-breaking work from the titans of classical music", said Music Director Jacomo Bairos. "This is our most exciting season yet in my tenure and I cannot wait for Amarillo audiences to join us for the incredible season ahead!"

Remarking on the lineup, Amarillo Symphony Executive Director Corey Cowart said, "Jacomo has created an outstanding season, one that I'm confident our audiences will enjoy, and that will allow the Symphony to build on recent momentum. Ticket sales have been excellent, with several concerts selling out since fall of 2015. I expect demand for 2017-18 to be very high."

"One of my great joys of conducting the Amarillo Symphony has been highlighting our fabulous musicians. We will do this again in January 2018, when violinist Michele Skinner and violist Yael Kleinman-Hyken will perform Mozart's divine Symphonie Concertante", said Bairos. "We will also be joined by some of today's exciting emerging artists. Such as the fabulous Russian pianist Natasha Paremski, Avery Fisher Prize Winner Alexi Kenney, and Aaron Diehl, one of the most brilliant jazz artists of our day."

Acclaimed Soloists

Several acclaimed guest artists will join the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra in 2017-18 including:

Aaron Diehl, one of the most sought after jazz virtuosos of the day.

Natasha Paremski, the Russian-born pianist and Gilmore Young Artist prize-winner.

Alexi Kenney, 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, and heralded violinist.

An American Celebration

In October, guest conductor Michael Rossi will lead the Amarillo Symphony in a program of patriotic favorites including the Armed Forces Salute, rousing Sousa marches, and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

Happy Holidays Pops

In December of 2016, the Amarillo Symphony debuted a holiday pops show sponsored by Happy State Bank. Based on the success of the first year, two performances will be held on December 16, 2017. Happy Holidays Pops features music of the season and family friendly ticket prices.

Bernstein Centennial

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein. In recognition, the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra will join the Amarillo Master Chorale in performing Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms."

2017-18 Amarillo Symphony Season

Gershwin Rhapsodies

Friday, September 22, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

Aaron Diehl, piano

HINDEMITH

Kammermusik No.1

GERSHWIN

Rhapsody in Blue

GERSHWIN

Second Rhapsody

HINDEMITH

Symphonic Metamorphosis

An American Celebration

Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Rossi, guest conductor

The Amarillo Symphony presents a star-spangled celebration of America! Rousing Sousa marches, a salute to the Armed Forces, the 1812 Overture, and more.

Beethoven's "Eroica"

Friday, November 17, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 18, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

PUTS	Symphony No. 2
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica")

HAPPY Holiday Pops

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Come share your favorite holiday music with family and friends. It's a sparkling celebration with carols, classics, sing-a-long and Santa – sure to be a holiday tradition!

Mostly Mozart

Friday, January 19, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

Michelle Skinner, violin

Yael Hyken, viola

ADÉS	<i>Three Couperin Studies</i>
MOZART	Sinfonia Concertante
BACH/STOKOWSKI	<i>Passacaglia and Fugue</i>
MOZART	Symphony No. 40

Ravishing Rachmaninoff

Friday, February 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

Natasha Paremski, piano

SHOSTAKOVICH	Piano Concerto No. 2
RACHMANINOFF	Symphony No. 2

La Mer

Friday, March 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

Alexi Kenney, violin

BRITTEN	<i>Four Sea Interludes</i>
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto
DEBUSSY	<i>La Mer</i>

Mahler Symphony No. 1

Friday, April 27, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Jacomo Bairos, conductor

Amarillo Master Chorale

BERNSTEIN	<i>Chichester Psalms</i>
MAHLER	Symphony No. 1

About the Amarillo Symphony

Founded in 1924, the mission of the Amarillo Symphony (www.AmarilloSymphony.org) is to infuse the Amarillo community with an unbridled enthusiasm for the performance and discovery of great orchestral music. The Amarillo Symphony is the only professional orchestra in the Texas Panhandle and offers an array of successful youth educational programs in addition to regularly scheduled concerts.

The 2017 - 2018 season is sponsored in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts. Learn more about the Amarillo Symphony at www.AmarilloSymphony.org.