

Kentucky

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA®

JAMES R. CASSIDY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Summer 2025



Saturdays

in Devou Park
Covington, KY



Sundays

in Tower Park
Fort Thomas, KY

Our 31st Summer in the Parks



SUMMER 2025 PROGRAMS

QUICK LINKS

- From the music director

JULY 12/13: 'WILLIAMS' WONDROUS WORLD'

- Program
- Roster and Profile

AUG. 2/3: 'BLUES' MUSE'

- Program
- Roster and Profiles

AUG. 30/31: 'PRIMITIVE POP'

- Program
- Roster and Profiles

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- 2025-26 Season

- Acknowledgements & KSO staff



*James
Cassidy*

Good evening, neighbors,

For the past 30 years, more than 500,000 friends and families have gathered on the lawn to make the KSO's nostalgic brand of culture and entertainment a Northern Kentucky tradition. Multiple generations have experienced the KSO in the parks, and it is our desire to continue these free, special, memory-making gatherings for decades to come.

Music is often the first stimulus to elicit a reaction from infants, and it is the last to induce responses from the elderly and infirm. Quality music isn't trivial, expendable, or unimportant. It is a gift that the KSO shares with its community each summer. We hope you'll join the foundations and sponsors who help fund these special summer evenings to bring our community together. Visit the donation boxes at the feather flags or scan the QR code below to continue this tradition.

Thank you to all who contribute to provide these opportunities to gather, enjoy, and reminisce. Enjoy tonight's special gift.



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James Cassidy
KSO Music Director



For nearly a century, ArtsWave has been **the primary way Cincy's arts are funded.**

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for a stronger
region**

Kentucky

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7:30 P.M. Saturday, July 12, 2025
 Devou Park Bandshell, Covington, Ky.
 7:30 P.M. Sunday, July 13, 2025
 Tower Park Amphitheater, Fort Thomas, Ky.

James Cassidy, *conductor*
 Rick VanMatre, *saxophone*

“WILLIAMS’ WONDROUS WORLD”

Overture to <i>The Cowboys</i>	John Williams
1960s TV Themes	” ”
<i>Time Tunnel, Land of the Giants, Lost in Space</i>	
Excerpts from <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	” ”
<i>Manami White, violin</i>	
“Shark Theme” from <i>Jaws</i>	” ”
“Escapades” from <i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	” ”
<i>Rick VanMatre, alto saxophone</i>	
“Raiders March” from <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>	” ”
Theme from <i>Jurassic Park</i>	” ”

INTERMISSION

Olympic Fanfare and Theme	Williams
“Devil’s Dance” from <i>The Witches of Eastwick</i>	”
<i>Superman March</i>	”
“Harry’s Wondrous World”	”
from <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</i>	”
“The Wide Receiver”	”
Main Title from <i>Star Wars</i>	”
“Adventures on Earth” from <i>E. T.</i>	”



The KSO thanks **Schneller & Knochelmann** for its generous support of this weekend’s concerts.

The Kentucky Symphony thanks the **H.B., E.W. & F.R. Luther Foundation** and the **Josephine Schell Russell Charitable Trust**, Summer Series presenters, for their support.

The KSO is supported by the generosity of community contributions to the **ArtsWave** campaign.

'WILLIAMS' WONDROUS WORLD'

THE KENTUCKY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

James R. Cassidy,
Music Director

Thomas Consolo,
Associate Conductor

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra uses a system of rotating string seating. Section players after principals are listed in alphabetical order.

First Violins

Manami White, *concertmistress*
The Gloria Goering
Memorial Chair

Shang Yi Chen
Cheng-Chia Chiu
Liam Gibb
Seakyung Hur
Eva Keyser
Youjin Na
Yen-ju Young

Second Violins

Thomas Consolo, *principal*
The Katie & Stephen
Wolnitzek Chair

Austin Budiono
Ed Choi
Lesley Cissell
Luke Coan
Korah Cuff
Evan Hurley
Jude Jones

Violas

Melissa Peraza,
acting principal
The Jim & Erika
Smith Chair

Marcella Farmer
Rebecca Flank
Peter Gorak
Lynn Poffenberger
Susan Scheib

'Cellos

Kat Aguiar, *acting principal*
The Fred Espenscheid
Plumbing Chair

Joshua Bermudez
Gustavo Carpinteyro
Michaela Hubbard
Jacqueline Pegis

Basses

Brendan Carter, *principal*
Tony Neumayr
Corey Watzek

Flutes

Jennifer King, *principal*
The Paul & Geneva
Houston Chair

Jin Hee Hand
Heather Verbeck

Oboes

Liza Saracina, *principal*
Jennifer Kirby

Clarinets

Christine Todey, *principal*
Christian Rucinski
Casey McGuire

Bassoons

Rachael Young,
acting principal
Cedric Quinn

French Horns

Natalie Sweasy, *principal*
The Don & Sue
Corken Chair

Rebekah Lorenz
Andrew Bass
Charlotte Ulmer
Ben Humphries

Trumpets

Brian Buerkle, *principal*
The Wilbert & Ellen
Hackman Ziegler Chair

Ben Hunter
John Zappa
Matt Anklan

Trombones

Evan Hatter, *acting principal*
Austin Pancner
Sean McGhee

Tuba

John Miller
Fred F. & Mary
Espenscheid Chair in honor
of Fred J. Espenscheid

Percussion

Brian Malone,
acting principal
Danny Frank
Kyle Lamb
Hayden Floro
William Mullen

Harp

Jackie Davis

Keyboard

Steve Mason
The Barry & Becky
Schultz Chair

PROFILE

RICK VANMATRE ♦ Rick VanMatre is one of the most exploratory saxophonists in the worlds of jazz, classical, and progressive improvised music. In addition to recording with his own group showcasing his compositions, he has recorded as jazz soloist with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, PsychoAcoustic Orchestra, and New Third Stream Quartet, among others.



Rick has appeared with the Duke Ellington Orchestra led by Mercer Ellington and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra led by Buddy Morrow. He has commissioned five unique jazz/classical concerti and presented them with orchestras in the U.S., China, and South Korea.

Rick is professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where as director of jazz studies he established the master's program in jazz and doctoral program in saxophone, and produced numerous recordings. In 2018 he was inducted into the Cincinnati Jazz Hall of Fame. Please visit his YouTube channel and his website, rickvanmatre.com. ■

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Kentucky

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7:30 P.M. Saturday, August 2, 2025
 Devou Park Bandshell, Covington, Ky.
 7:30 P.M. Sunday, August 3, 2025
 Tower Park Amphitheater, Fort Thomas, Ky.

James Cassidy, *conductor*
 Deondra Means, Tangernika Wyatt,
vocalists

“BLUES’ MUSE”

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”*	Traditional
Spritual Medley†	Traditional
“Keep Your Eye on the Sparrow,”	
“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,” “This Train”	
“The Entertainer”*‡	Scott Joplin
“St. Louis Blues”*	W.C. Handy
“When It’s Sleepy Time Down South”*	Clarence Muse
“Darktown Strutters Ball”*	Shelton Brooks
“The Queen Rag”†	Floyd Willis
“Castle Walk”‡	James Europe
“Struttin’ with some Barbeque”	Lil Hardin Armstrong
“Minnie the Moocher”*	Cab Calloway

INTERMISSION

“The Jumpin’ Jive”†	Cab Calloway
“Nobody Knows ... Down and Out”†	Jimmie Cox
“12th Street Rag”*	Euday Bowman
“Black Bottom Stomp”‡	Jelly Roll Morton
“You Gotta Ho-De-Ho” / “Scat Song”	Billy Hill / Frank Perkins
from Betty Boop’s <i>Old Man on the Mountain</i> †	
“Weary Blues”*	Artie Matthews
Fats Waller Medley*	Fats Waller
“Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Honeysuckle Rose,”	
“Yo’ Feet’s Too Big,” “The Joint is Jumpin’	
“When the Saints Go Marching In”*	Traditional

Arranged or adapted by Scot Woolley, Terry LaBolt†, Gunther Schuller‡.*

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 The KSO is supported by the generosity of community contributions to the **ArtsWave** campaign.*

'BLUES' MUSE'

THE NEWPORT RAGTIME BAND

Violin

Kathryn Woolley

Piano

Everett Moore

WoodwindsJennifer King, *flute/piccolo*Hal Melia, *clarinet***Rhythm**Max Gise, *banjo*Mike Sharfe, *bass*Brian Malone, *drums***Brass**John Zappa, *trumpet*Brian Stevens, *trombone***Vocals**

Deondra Means

Tangernika Wyatt

PROFILES



DEONDRA MEANS ♦ Deondra Means is a master storyteller who served as resident playwright and performer with the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati for 30 years. He offers decades of experience as an actor, singer, and director in performances with the KSO, CSO, the Hues Corporation and several local and regional theaters. He is currently education associate for neurodivergent students at Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati.

Deondra is a Cincinnati native who discovered his passion for the arts through music at church and at Cincinnati's School for the Creative and Performing Arts. He attended Webster University in St. Louis and interned at the renowned St. Louis Black Repertory Company. He has always been interested in arts integration and arts expression, helping children to develop social skills and self-esteem.



TANGERNIKA WYATT ♦ Tangie Wyatt is a dynamic vocal artist and music theater performer, celebrated for her memorable and standout roles in productions like *The Wiz*, *Moana*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *For Colored Girls*. Tangie is thrilled to return for her third appearance with the KSO. The School for Creative and Performing Arts graduate is also a teaching artist for American Legacy Theater, where she inspires children through her love for the arts, drawing from her spiritual upbringing.

Tangie is a U.S. Navy veteran who has served and performed across the globe, including memorable performances at Prince's Glam Slam club in Tokyo. Tangie's range, style, and presence offer audiences a powerful connection between the music and storytelling. ■

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Kentucky

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7:30 P.M. Saturday, August 30, 2025

Devou Park Bandshell, Covington, Ky.

7:30 P.M. Sunday, August 31, 2025

Tower Park Amphitheater, Fort Thomas, Ky.

James Cassidy, *conductor*

Aaron Hollows, Laney McCormick,

Josh Steele, Zack Steele, Lesley Taylor,

Michelle Wells, Adam Wheeler, *vocalists*

“PRIMITIVE POP”

AS PERFORMED BY:

Theme from *A Summer Place*

Percy Faith

“Joy to the World”

Three Dog Night

“Owner of a Lonely Heart”

Yes

“Afternoon Delight”

Starland Vocal Band

’60s Dance Craze Medley

Little Eva, Chubby Checker

“Locomotion,” “Mashed Potato,” “Watusi,” “Do the Freddie,” “Twist”

“Wake Me up Before You Go-Go”

Wham!

“Lady Marmalade”

Patti LaBelle

“Girl from Ipanema”

Astrid Gilberto / Stan Getz

“We Will Rock You” / “We are the Champions”

Queen

“The Boy from New York City”

The Manhattan Transfer

“Aquarius”

Fifth Dimension

INTERMISSION

“Bandstand Boogie”

Barry Manilow

“Venus”

Shocking Blue

“Give It to Me Baby”

Rick James

“Think”

Aretha Franklin

“I’ve Been Searching So Long”

Chicago

“We’ve Only Just Begun”

Carpenters

“You Made Me So Very Happy”

Blood Sweat & Tears

“Sweet Dreams”

The Eurhythmics

“Jungle Boogie”

Kool & the Gang

“Love Shack”

B-52s

“Hit the Road Jack”

Ray Charles



*The KSO thanks **Fischer Homes** for its generous support of Saturday’s concert.*

*The KSO thanks **Regal Maid** for its generous support of Sunday’s concert.*

*The Kentucky Symphony thanks the **H.B., E.W. & F.R. Luther Foundation** and the **Josephine Schell Russell Charitable Trust**, Summer Series presenters, for their support.*

*The KSO is supported by the generosity of community contributions to the **ArtsWave** campaign.*

'PRIMITIVE POP'

K.S.O. BOOGIE BAND

Reeds

Hal Melia, *alto sax, flute*
 Dwayne Irvin, *tenor sax*
 Paul Glader, *baritone sax*

Trumpets

Matt Ankla
 Ralph DiSylvestro
 John Zappa

Trombone

Dominic Marino

Rhythm

Julie Spangler, *keyboard*
 Roger Klug, *guitar*
 Adam Scovanner, *bass*
 Adam Wheeler,
drums, vocals
 Brian Malone, *percussion*

Violins

Manami White
 Jacquie Fennell
 Shannon Mustard
 Tom Consolo
 Evan Hurley
 Jude Jones

'Cellos

Katrina Aguiar
 Julie Lim

Vocalists

Aaron Hollows
 Laney McCormick
 Josh Steele
 Zack Steele

Lesley Taylor
 Michelle Wells
 Adam Wheeler

PROFILES



AARON HOLLOWES ♦ Aaron is a Northern Kentucky native who has been singing throughout the Tristate for the past two decades. You may have heard him with Chrome and Airwave, belting out standards to pop to rock. He joined the KSO Boogie Band last summer and is back for a variety of Primitive Pop hits.



LANEY MCCORMICK ♦ Laney is a versatile vocalist and instrumentalist who has performed with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Queen City Sisters, Tom Daugherty Orchestra, Barry Campbell Big Band, Sinclair Jazz Ensemble, and leads her own jazz combo, Laney and the Tramps. She's also a music supervisor, sync agent, and clearance specialist through Scene Support Music, a company she founded that places Cincinnati music in films, advertisements, and TV shows. Laney served as director of bands at Franklin High School, near Dayton, Ohio, and taught at Badin High School in Hamilton, Ohio, where she founded the Badin Rocks Ensemble, a 45-piece high school rock band. She earned master's degrees in conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University and in music education from Bowling Green State University.



JOSHUA STEELE ♦ Josh has been a part of KSO performances for more than a decade. He is the leader and arranger for the a cappella group No Promises Vocal Band and also performs with his acoustic trio, the Three Bald Guys. Josh is a featured vocalist at Community of the Good Shepherd in Montgomery, Ohio, and has appeared with the Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, as well as many theater companies. When he's not performing, Joshua manages historic Memorial Hall in Over-the-Rhine and teaches voice at Northern Kentucky University. He studied voice at Ohio State University and CCM. Josh lives in Kennedy Heights with his wife, actress Brooke Steele, and their daughters, Daphne and Selene.

ZACK STEELE ♦ Zack is a stage director, actor, singer, and songwriter. He earned a bachelor's degree in acting from Wright State University, a master's in directing from Penn State University, and serves as the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Scholar in Residence in Theatre at the University of Houston. Recent directing credits include *God of Carnage* (Arkansas Rep), *Clue: On Stage* (Millbrook Playhouse) and associate director for *Fiddler on the Roof* (North Shore Music Theatre). Coming up, Zack will be associate director at Chicago's historic Goodman Theatre for the world premiere of *Revolution(s)*, featuring music by rock hall-of-famer Tom Morello.



On stage, Zack played Johnny Cash in the Memorial Hall production of *Ring of Fire*, and Eddy in *Airness*, Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd*, and Patrick in *Mame* (Human Race Theatre Co.). He is a proud Member of AEA and associate member of SDC.



LESLEY TAYLOR ♦ This summer marks Lesley's 26th year as a vocalist with the KSO, from Boogie Band summer concerts to galas, CD recordings, as well as portraying the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Before settling in Cincinnati, Lesley performed across the country from Maine to Alaska, and she had a thriving career in commercials and training videos.

She has enjoyed gracing the stages of the Carnegie, Incline Theatre, Covedale Center for the Performing Arts, Ensemble Theatre, Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, and La Comedia Dinner Theatre. Favorite productions include *Hello Dolly!* (Dolly), *Mama Mia* (Tonya), *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Miss Mona), *Young Frankenstein the Musical* (Frau Blucher), *Next to Normal* (Diana), and the title role in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Thank you for supporting the KSO and live performance!



MICHELLE WELLS ♦ Michelle has been a featured vocalist with the KSO for 23 seasons. She has sung with the Boogie Band since 2002, was featured in KSO programs *The Greatest Showmen* (2022) and *Music of James Bond* (2017), and played Maria in *The Sound of Music* in concert at Devou Park.

Michelle earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from NKU. She performs professionally with many local theater companies, including the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Landmark Productions and the Carnegie. Regional credits include: *Cinderella*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, *Anything Goes*, *Grease*, *Legally Blonde*, *Camelot* and *Mary Poppins*. Michelle also sings with many local cover bands. She is the private vocal instructor at both Seton and Oak Hills high schools in Cincinnati.

Michelle is also busy raising two active boys.



ADAM WHEELER ♦ In addition to drumming and singing for the Boogie Band, Adam performs as drummer and vocalist with Genesis ReTouched (the essence of the Phil Collins era of Genesis), Catalina Wine Mixer Band, Cincinnati Transit Authority (A Tribute to Chicago), Eric Jerardi Band, and the Newbees. Adam has performed for many musical theater companies, including Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, CCM, NKU, Cincinnati Landmark Productions, and Human Race The-

ater. He served as musical director for the international Las Vegas-based comedy show "Stephen Sorrentino's Voices in My Head". In 2013, his original music was choreographed by Gem City Ballet. Adam owns and operates a digital music licensing business, and he lives in Miamisburg, Ohio, with his wife, Courtney, and their canine companions – Australian shepherds Belle and Sebastian. ■

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2025-26



Our 34th season: Get the picture.

OCT. 31

Nosferatu

A Halloween screening of F.W. Murnau's 1922 film with music adapted from Heinrich Marschner's opera *Die Vampyr*.

NOV. 22

MISSA SOLEMNIS

Beethoven's Mt. Everest of sacred music, performed in historic and inspiring Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.

FEB. 7, 2026

Brushes & Bows

Music of Daugherty, Mussorgsky, and Respighi inspired by art of Warhol, Botticelli, and Hartmann.

MARCH. 21, 2026

Sturm und Drang

Musical storm and stress are back ... from the 1760s.

MAY 15, 2026

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme

An evening of Simon and Garfunkel with the KSO Boogie Band.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The K.S.O. thanks the following for their generous support and assistance:

David Bailey
KSO photographer
City of Covington

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