

March 25, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: James Cassidy

(859) 431-6216

jr@kyso.org



## **They're Grrreat!**

(Classical — Period.)

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra journeys back 200 years to hang with prolific Classical composers who died or retired in their 30s. KSO musicians have requested Franz Schubert's 9th Symphony ("The Great") for decades, so the orchestra's music director called upon a long standing cereal advertising campaign to tie Rossini, Mozart and Schubert selections together with — "They're Grrreat!"

Gioachino Rossini wrote 39 operas between 1806 and 1829 then simply retired at the age of 37 (he died at 76). For each of his opera overtures, for which Rossini is most noted (*William Tell*, *Barber of Seville*, etc), he often waited until the day before each opera's premiere before sitting down to write it, leaving copyists (there were no copy machines) and impressarios (producers) frantic. The Overture to *Tancredi* underscores this anticipation with its ever quickening tempo to the end.



The KSO's very first concert in 1992 featured pianist **Michael Chertok**. Michael, now a renowned pianist and conductor, performs internationally, heads the piano faculty at CCM and leads the Blue Ash Symphony. Over three decades, the KSO has featured Mr. Chertock playing Rachmaninoff, MacDowell, Liszt and Gershwin. He returns to perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's spritely Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major K. 488.

Franz Schubert, like Mozart, produced an incredibly large catalog of music for a composer who only lived to age 31. His Symphony No. 9 (The Great) was his last completed symphony, though its unusual length (50-60") and difficulty, prevented it from being publicly performed until ten years following his death. Schubert's Ninth was composed a year after he attended the premiere of Beethoven's immortal 9th Symphony. In the finale to his Symphony, Schubert pays homage to his older Viennese colleague, by slipping in a brief quotation of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

"When orchestras perform the classics, they are sharing a spiritually-inspired gift from which subsequent composers and musicians took their cue and dared to continue to push musical boundaries. It is why we still revere, study and perform the works of these pillars of Western music." — KSO Music Director, James Cassidy.

Join the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, and Michael Chertock for "They're Grrreat" — **7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 25**, at Greaves Concert Hall, on the campus of NKU in Highland Heights, KY. Tickets are \$35-\$19 with children 50% off. For those who are out of the area, or who must stay home, the KSO live streams each concert (with multiple cameras) for your 'at home access' for the price of a single "A" ticket. Tickets are available online at [kyso.org](http://kyso.org) or by phone at **(859) 431-6216**.

For additional information, visit the KSO at [www.kyso.org](http://www.kyso.org) or call **(859) 431-6216**.

P.O. Box 72810 Newport, KY 41072 ● Phone: (859) 431-6216 ● [www.kyso.org](http://www.kyso.org)



# “They’re Grrreat!”

(Classical — Period.)

7:30 P.M. Saturday, March 25, 2023  
Greaves Concert Hall,  
Highland Heights, Kentucky

James Cassidy, *conductor*  
Michael Chertock, *piano*

### Program

Overture to *Tancredi*

Gioachino Rossini

Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K.488  
*Allegro*  
*Adagio*  
*Allegro assai*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Michael Chertock

### INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 9 in C Major, D. 944, The Great  
*Andante; allegro ma non troppo*  
*Andante con moto*  
*Scherzo. Allegro vivace*  
*Finale. Allegro vivace*

Franz Schubert

The KSO thanks tonight’s concert sponsor,



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*The heart of Northern Kentucky*

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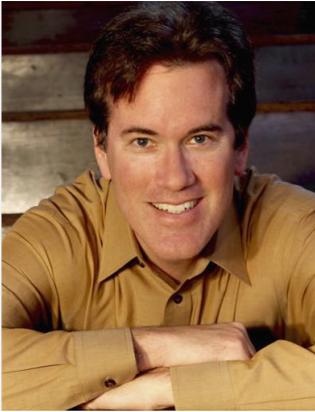
**The William O. Purdy, Jr.  
Foundation**



The KAC provides support with state tax dollars and federal funding from the NEA.

## *Michael Chertock*

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Pianist Michael Chertock has performed as a concerto soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops; the Dallas, Detroit, Montreal and Toronto symphonies, and the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow. In Europe and the U.K. he has performed with the Irish National Symphony, National Youth Orchestra of Britain, and orchestras in Portugal and Germany. He has recorded solo albums of film music on the Telarc label and appears on more than 40 different recordings on multiple labels.

Michael is the conductor of the Blue Ash-Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and he frequently composes and arranges music for that orchestra's concerts. He has also conducted the Cincinnati Symphony, the Columbus Symphony; the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow, and the Moscow Conservatory Orchestra.

Michael has served for over 30 years as principal keyboardist with the Cincinnati Symphony. Formerly a faculty member at Miami University of Ohio, Michael is the chair of the piano department at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He recently recorded a series of podcasts called *The Personal Beethoven*.

Michael lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Maaïke, and three children.