

June 17, 2021

NOTE: This is a PDF of an emailed media briefing.

Media Briefing: Creativity Transcends Zip Code

Orchestras are at the epicenter of American artistic ingenuity. Our new series of periodic media briefings spotlights the stories and trends you might have missed, highlighting the spirit of innovation found at orchestras across the country.

Interested in delving into these stories? [Email me to learn more.](#)

The long-awaited return to in-person music-making



Interior of the renovated Bradley Symphony Center, a former movie palace that is home to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Photo: Scott Paulus

A time of optimism: in-person concerts are back! Ambitious artistic programs are planned for this summer and beyond, reflecting the music of our time and the resilience of orchestras.

Here are just a few:

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americanorchestras.org

[Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#)
[Boston Symphony Orchestra / Tanglewood](#)
[Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra](#)
[The Cleveland Orchestra](#)
[Los Angeles Philharmonic / Hollywood Bowl](#)
[Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra](#)
[Nashville Symphony](#)
[The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

And for context: [League COVID-19 Resources](#)

Celebrating Pride Month, virtually



Hosted by [Harmonica Sunbeam](#), the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's virtual pride celebration, June 13-18, is packed with free programs: performances of works by LGBTQ+ composers, interviews, collaborations, and a free Zoom event in partnership with SAGE, a national advocacy and services organization for LGBT elders.

[See the array of virtual events on the NJSO website.](#)

Chicago Sinfonietta continues breaking new ground with pilot pay what you will program for 2021-22 season



The trend-setting Chicago Sinfonietta reveals an exciting pilot Pay What You Can (PWYC) program for the 2021- 22 season, allowing concert goers to pay what they choose for a ticket.

[Preview the upcoming season.](#)

Handel and Haydn Society commissions work based on music by Charles Ignatius Sancho, formerly enslaved black man



Pictured: Jonathan Woody. Photo courtesy of Handel and Haydn Society

Read the [fascinating story in the Boston Herald](#) of composer Charles Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780), born on a ship carrying enslaved people, sold into slavery, and eventually becoming a free man, composer, and business owner. Commissioned by the Handel and Haydn Society, composer Jonathan Woody based his premiere on Sancho's works.

[Listen to Jonathan Woody's Suite for String Orchestra and read more about Charles Ignatius Sancho \(1729-1780\).](#)

Bandwagon 2, musicians in Green-Wood Cemetary, concerts at Bryant Park—the New York Philharmonic hits the town



The New York Philharmonic's Bandwagon 2 performance in Brooklyn, May 7. Photo: Erin Baiano

"The New York Philharmonic has been emerging from its pandemic shell in stages... Impromptu performances from the back of a pickup truck, a string ensemble in an empty church, the first appearance in front of a tiny audience spread through a huge space at the Shed — these bits of concert life have kept the players faintly tethered to their routines." writes [Justin Davidson in New York Magazine](#).

[Read more about Bandwagon 2](#) and [watch video highlights](#).

\$100K from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support orchestra's program for those living with dementia and their caregivers



Photo: Matt Dine.

Orpheus Reflections™, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra's New York-based program, presents intimate performances at private care facilities and public spaces for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and their caregivers.

[Read more about the Orpheus Reflections program.](#)

Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, spotlighting composer Michael-Thomas Foumai



Nainoa Thompson, composer Michael-Thomas Foumai and University of Hawai'i President David Lassner. Photo courtesy of University of Hawai'i

Inspired by cinema, cartoons, poetry, literature, history, and Hawai'i ([University of Hawai'i News](#)): seven orchestral works by composer Michael-Thomas Foumai will be featured this summer at in-person performances by the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra.

Learn more about Michael-Thomas Fomai's music on the [Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra's website](#).

Fridays on the Farm with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra



Photo courtesy of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra

"Everything we do needs to check off at least one of three boxes: musical excellence, economic development, and social advocacy for the communities we serve," states the Elgin Symphony Orchestra's executive director, Erik Malmquist in [Hannah Edgar's Chicago Tribune article](#).

[Check out upcoming Fridays at the Farm.](#)

Three orchestras commission score for Ohio schools with mindfulness theme and input from students



Photo courtesy of Mindful Music Movements

The orchestras of Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus have collaborated on a unique state-wide piece, according to [Zachary Lewis in the Plain Dealer](#). Composed by Brian Raphael Nabors and recorded by four members of each orchestra, the work devotes one movement to each city, plus a fourth about all three cities, with input from students.

[Find out more about Mindful Music Moments.](#)

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