



WACO
SYMPHONY

Lawrence Loh • Music Director

New FRONTIERS

24 | 25 SEASON

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New FRONTIERS

Waco Symphony 2024-2025 Season



Key Notes

A letter from the Executive Director

This year's theme "New Frontiers" is resonant for several reasons: we're welcoming our new Music Director Lawrence Loh to chart a new creative vision for the WSO, and we will explore composers and works from the past and present day who are innovative. Maestro Loh will bring his expertise in conducting live films in concert to the Waco Hall stage with *Jurassic Park* – an epic first for us!

The WSO has been a trail blazer of the performing arts scene in our community since 1962, and we are thankful for your stalwart support. Each of the four season classical concerts will feature acclaimed and award-winning soloists. This marks our fifth year of collaboration with Ballet Frontier of Texas, presenting the only Nutcracker ballet in Central Texas with live orchestra at two performances.

Embark on this exciting journey with us and experience the beauty, harmony, and power of symphonic music!

Carolyn Bess
Executive Director
Waco Symphony Association, Inc.

Special thanks to this year's Opus Classical Season Sponsor

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CREATIVE
WACO

This organization is supported by an American Rescue Plan NEA grant from Creative Waco.



Loh Notes

A letter from the Music Director

Greetings and welcome to the 2024 season of the Waco Symphony and my first season as your new Music Director. We promise to deliver powerful, emotional and scintillating performances all season!



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From the appearance of violinist superstar Ray Chen to a performance of the movie *Jurassic Park*, the very first live film in concert by the WSO, our season has much to look forward to. We will visit the classics like Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 "Eroica,"* as well as newer voices, including Missy Mazzoli and Quinn Mason.

I can't wait to see you at the concert hall!

Lawrence Loh
Music Director
Waco Symphony

Season Highlights



October 3
Rhapsody in Blue
◀ with Orli Shaham

January 21
Violin Superstar
Ray Chen ▶



March 22
Jurassic Park ▶
in Concert





The opening concert of Maestro Lawrence Loh's first season as Music Director celebrates the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with pianist **Orli Shaham**. In addition to performing with orchestras all over the world, Shaham is the co-host of NPR's *From the Top*, a winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a faculty member at The Juilliard School.

Our concert will explore new frontiers with the rhythmic *Danzón No. 2* by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez. Aaron Copland's powerful *Third Symphony* remains one of the most iconic American symphonies and features his popular *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Embark on this musical journey that will delight the soul!

Thursday, October 3, 2024
7:30 p.m. / Waco Hall

Arturo Márquez *Danzón No. 2*
George Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*
Orli Shaham, piano
Aaron Copland *Third Symphony*

Lawrence Loh Music Director and Conductor

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JRBT

Photo: Karjaka Studios



Thursday, November 7, 2024
7:30 p.m. / Waco Hall

Quinn Mason *Inspiration! - Festive Overture*
Sergei Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2*
Jon Nakamatsu, piano
Ludwig van Beethoven *Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"*

Lawrence Loh Music Director and Conductor

Winner of the Gold Medal at the 1997 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, **Jon Nakamatsu** will be featured on the ever-popular *Piano Concerto No. 2* by Rachmaninoff. The inventive and talented Dallas-based composer Quinn Mason will delight audiences with his 2023 work called *Inspiration! - Festive Overture*. Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"* is inspired by the memory of a hero and is one of the most revolutionary symphonies ever written.

Sponsors noted as of July 23.
Visit wacosymphony.com to learn more about supporting WSO concerts and initiatives.

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Ruth and Bill Pitts

Photo: Niles Singer



Photo: John Mac

Born in Taiwan and raised in Australia, violinist **Ray Chen** has exploded on social media over the past decade where he has nearly a million fans on Instagram! His creative and hilarious videos have sparked a new generation of music lovers. He is the very definition of a 21st Century classical music superstar. Ray will be joining Maestro Loh and the Waco Symphony to perform Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*. Missy Mazzoli's *Sinfonia for Orbiting Spheres* features the full orchestra along with a set of harmonicas and, you guessed it, a boom box. Prokofiev's massive *Symphony No. 5*, written during World War II, will be performed on the second half. It is a symphony inspired by humanity's pure and noble spirit.

Tuesday, January 21, 2025
7:30 p.m. / Waco Hall

Missy Mazzoli *Sinfonia for Orbiting Spheres*
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Violin Concerto*
Ray Chen, violin
Sergei Prokofiev *Symphony No. 5*

Lawrence Loh Music Director and Conductor

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Photo: Martin Romero

Our season finale will take us on a scenic journey! Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic **Anthony McGill** performs Richard Danielpour's *Clarinet Concerto "From the Mountaintop"* inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., and the orchestra will perform Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3 "Organ"* featuring the Dallas Symphony's Resident Organist and Baylor graduate, **Bradley Hunter Welch**. This symphony has been featured in several television shows and films, most famously in *Babe* (1995). Conveying a pioneering spirit, the orchestra will also perform Brian Tyler's theme to *Yellowstone* from the hit TV series!

Thursday, April 3, 2025
7:30 p.m. / Waco Hall

Samuel Barber *School for Scandal Overture*
Richard Danielpour *Clarinet Concerto "From the Mountaintop"*
Anthony McGill, clarinet
Brian Tyler *Yellowstone Main Theme*
Camille Saint-Saëns *Symphony No. 3 "Organ"*
Bradley Hunter Welch, organ

Lawrence Loh Music Director and Conductor



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BALLET
FRONTIER

The Nutcracker

DECEMBER 14 AND 15 // 2024



The Nutcracker is not included in season ticket packages. Tickets must be purchased separately.

Saturday, December 14, 2024
7:00 p.m. / Waco Hall

Sunday, December 15, 2024
2:00 p.m. / Waco Hall

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker*

Dr. Beau Benson Guest conductor

Ballet Frontier of Texas

With toy soldiers, dancing snowflakes, and the Sugar Plum Fairy, you won't want to miss *The Nutcracker*—a treasured holiday tradition and the only production with live orchestra in Central Texas. Back by popular demand, **Ballet Frontier** returns to Waco to inspire a childlike wonder in all of us.

With its cast comprised of professional dancers, talented local students, dazzling costumes, world-class choreography, and the Waco Symphony playing Tchaikovsky's beloved score under the baton of Maestro Beau Benson (Music Director/Conductor of the Temple Symphony Orchestra and the Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra), the stage is set for an unforgettable experience for all ages!

Visit the **Nutcracker Market** in the lobby to purchase nutcrackers and themed ornaments. Sales benefit the Waco Symphony.

Bon Bon Cookie and
Snacks Sponsor

The Olive Branch Bakery & Café

Jurassic Park in Concert

MARCH 22 // 2025



“Welcome...to Jurassic Park!” Celebrate the 31st Anniversary of *Jurassic Park* by experiencing this film live in concert. The WSO will perform John Williams's iconic film score while you watch the full-length film projected in HD on a giant screen above the musicians. Featuring visually stunning imagery and groundbreaking special effects, the action-packed adventure of *Jurassic Park* is sheer movie magic 65 million years in the making; it pits man against prehistoric predators in the ultimate battle for survival. Don't miss this unique and entertaining concert experience, an epic first for the Waco Symphony. Visit the website for other fun details.

Note: The concert will last 2.5 hours with intermission.



Saturday, March 22, 2025
7:00 p.m. / Waco Hall

Lawrence Loh Music Director and Conductor

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Jurassic Park is not included in season ticket packages. Tickets must be purchased separately.



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Waco Symphony Council

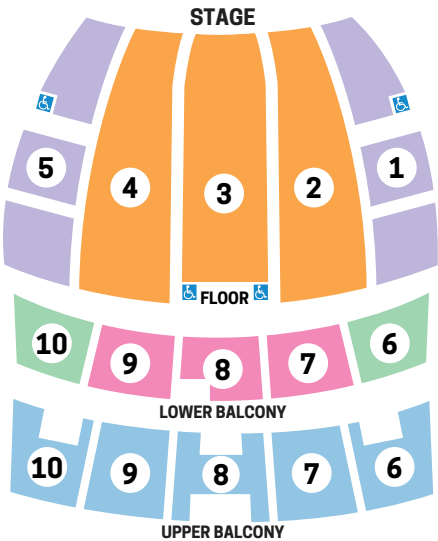
Since 1962, the Waco Symphony Council has supported the Waco Symphony through volunteer service, fundraising, and youth education. It also organizes the Belles & Brass program for sophomore and junior girls and junior boys. The Council welcomes women and men as members and offers many opportunities to socialize with like-minded music lovers, especially at Preview Parties where Music Director Loh shares insights about upcoming concerts. Joining the Council helps keep the Waco Symphony strong. For more information, visit WacoSymphony.com/Council.

Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra

The WSYO welcomes talented student musicians (most in 8th-12th grades) to audition, rehearse, perform, and appreciate orchestral music under professional guidance, led by **Dr. Beau Benson**. The orchestra performs two free concerts each season, one in the fall and one in the spring. For details visit wacosymphony.com/wsyo.

Waco Hall Seating

Waco Hall is not equipped with an elevator, so patrons with limited mobility should select main floor seats. Wheelchair seating is available. Balcony seats are narrower in width and have limited leg room.



2024-2025 WSYO CONCERT SEASON

Fall Concert
Sunday, October 27, 2024 / 6:30 p.m.
Midway High School Theater
 Free Admission

Spring Concert
Sunday, February 23, 2025 / 6:30 p.m.
Midway High School Theater
 Free Admission

Support provided by Waco Symphony Council and Virginia DuPuy.

Tickets & Membership Levels

INCLUDES ONE SEASON TICKET TO FOUR CLASSICAL CONCERTS

October 3, November 7, January 21, and April 3

Donations are included at these membership levels. Thanks for your support!

Grand Conductor's Circle	\$1,500
Conductor's Circle	\$1,250
Grand Benefactor.....	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$800
Patron.....	\$600
Sustainer	\$475
<i>*Belles & Brass parents / sponsors must order season tickets at Sustainer level or higher.</i>	
Concerto Circle (ages 20-40).....	\$425

Season Classical Tickets

Sections 2, 3, & 4.....Sustainer-level members and higher	
Sections 2, 3, & 4.....	\$289
Sections 1 & 5.....	\$229
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (lower balcony).....	\$249
Sections 6 & 10 (lower balcony).....	\$169
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (upper balcony).....	\$129
Sections 6 & 10 (upper balcony).....	\$114
Student (upper balcony).....	\$54
BU Orchestra.....	\$20
<i>If you're purchasing season tickets and want to add one or more student season ticket(s), you can buy them at a 50% discount in any section.</i>	

Single Classical Tickets

Go on sale September 5	
Floor 2, 3, & 4 (rows A-Q)	\$74
Floor 2, 3, & 4 (rows R-BB).....	\$69
Floor 1 & 5	\$59
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (lower balcony).....	\$64
Sections 6 & 10 (lower balcony).....	\$44
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (upper balcony).....	\$34
Sections 6 & 10 (upper balcony).....	\$29
Student (upper balcony).....	\$14
BU Orchestra and WSYO (upper balcony).....	\$5
Limited view seats	\$14



The Nutcracker Tickets

Season ticket renewers have exclusive priority access through August 11.	
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 (rows A-E only)	\$84
Sections 2, 3, & 4 (row F to rear)	\$74
Sections 1 & 5	\$64
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (lower balcony).....	\$64
Sections 6 & 10 (lower balcony).....	\$59
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (upper balcony).....	\$49
Sections 6 & 10 (upper balcony).....	\$25
Limited view seats	\$22
Kingdom of Sweets Package includes	
Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier Prince	
Photo Opp, Cookie, & Souvenir Ornament	
<i>After Sunday matinee performance only.</i>	

Jurassic Park in Concert Tickets

Season ticket renewers have exclusive priority access through August 11.	
Sections 2, 3, & 4.....	\$89
Sections 1 & 5.....	\$69
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (lower balcony).....	\$79
Sections 6 & 10 (lower balcony).....	\$54
Sections 7, 8, & 9 (upper balcony).....	\$49
Sections 6 & 10 (upper balcony).....	\$34
Student (upper balcony).....	\$29
Limited view seats	\$24

Bus Tickets

Season ticket holders have priority access to bus seats during renewal period.	
Ride the bus to all four season concerts	\$40
<i>\$12 per ticket for individual concerts.</i>	

Important Information

Current season ticket holders

Renewal deadline is August 11

New season ticket purchasers

Ticket sales open August 12

Ticket prices do not include handling and processing fees.

Subscriber Benefits

Enjoy a range of exclusive benefits when you subscribe to the 2024/25 Season.

Benefits	Season Ticket	Sustainer	Patron	Benefactor	Grand Benefactor	Conductor's Circle	Grand Conductor's Circle
Discounts over single tickets	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
First-choice seats for subscribers	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Tax deduction for returned tickets, if unable to attend a concert	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Opportunity to buy special performance tickets before the public	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Season tickets in choice main-floor seating		★	★	★	★	★	★
Recognition in season programs		★	★	★	★	★	★
Patron dinner on Thursday, February 20 at Ridgewood Country Club			★	★	★	★	★
Priority parking pass in reserved lot near Waco Hall				★	★	★	★
Encore After Parties with Maestro Loh and guest artists					★	★	★
Conductor's Dinner with Lawrence Loh on Friday, November 8, hosted by Drs. Dianne and Clay Sawyer						★	★
Priority reserved parking adjacent to Waco Hall with personalized sign							★

Reserve Bus Tickets

Don't want to drive at night or search for a parking spot? Reserve your seat on the bus when ordering your concert tickets. **All Waco Transit vehicles are ADA accessible and are equipped with a wheelchair lift or ramp.** A season bus pass allows you to ride the bus to all four season concerts for \$40 (does not include *Nutcracker* or *Jurassic Park in Concert* performances). Bus tickets are \$12 per ticket for individual concerts including the Saturday night *Nutcracker* performance and *Jurassic Park in Concert*. **Classical concert and Nutcracker buses will depart at 6:10 p.m. from Gold's Gym parking lot** on Waco Drive next to El Conquistador restaurant and will arrive in time for Opening Notes talks. ***Jurassic Park in Concert* bus departs at 5:45 p.m.** We will only offer one bus per evening. For questions, call (254) 754-0851. Order online at **WacoSymphony.com**.

Bus partnership provided by Waco Transit System.



Important ticket information

Due to the nature of live entertainment, dates, times, performers, repertoire, and prices are subject to change. All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. No exchanges or refunds. If you can't attend a concert, you can return your ticket(s) and request a tax-deductible contribution by emailing **whtickets@baylor.edu** or by calling (254) 710-3210.



Special Membership for Young Professionals

Concerto Circle (age 20–40)

Socialize with other young professionals over heavy appetizers and drinks at **DiamondBack's** prior to each Waco Symphony season concert.

\$425 allows you to enjoy the following benefits:

- Season ticket in main floor seating
- Social events before the concerts **included** in ticket price
- Recognition in season programs
- Parking pass in reserved lot near Waco Hall

Dinner Before Concerts

Treat yourself to a quick but delicious dinner prior to each Symphony concert. Each participating restaurant will offer either Prix Fixe menu, small plates, or priority service if you make your reservations and state that you will be attending the Symphony. Arrival at the restaurant between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. should have you leaving the restaurant by 7:00 p.m.

Visit **WacoSymphony.com** for a list of participating restaurants.



Opening Notes Pre-Concert Talks

6:40 p.m.–7:10 p.m. Before each classical Season Concert, learn about the lives of the composers and explore their music at Opening Notes, a free pre-concert talk. These can be enlightening and provide insightful information to enhance your concert experience. Location is in **Recital Hall II within Waco Hall**.

Sponsor: Virginia DuPuy

Families with Students

Ideal for families with school-aged children and teens. **If you're purchasing season tickets and want to add one or more student season ticket(s), you can buy them at a 50% discount in any section.** Share the joy of classical music with students in your family, foster their love of music, and experience the WSO together.

Ticketing

Order tickets online 24/7 at **WacoSymphony.com**. To ensure the lowest price and authorized tickets, **purchase directly from our website**. This protects you from accidentally purchasing scalped tickets at a higher price. Avoid lines at the box office; order online until the moment before the performance begins.



Renewing your ticket(s)

Season ticket renewals should be **completed by August 11**. To renew your existing season tickets, log into the account you created last season and complete your purchase online. To change your seats or your level of giving, please call the **Waco Hall Ticket Office at (254) 710-3210** between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Mondays–Fridays or email **whtickets@baylor.edu**.



Ordering by phone or getting help with online ticket orders

To order by phone, ask questions, or for help navigating the online ticketing system, call the Waco Hall Ticket Office at **(254) 710-3210** between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Mondays–Fridays.



Paying by check and ordering tickets in person

To pay by check, visit the **Waco Hall Ticket Office inside Waco Hall**, located at 624 Speight Avenue on the campus of Baylor University. The box office will not accept cash payments.



Receiving your tickets

Select one of four options for receiving your tickets:

- Print them at home.
- Save them to your Apple Wallet or Google Wallet.
- Have them waiting at Will Call.
- For a fee of \$5, have them mailed to your home.

To get additional information or assistance

Contact the Waco Symphony Association office at **info@wacosymphony.com** or call **(254) 754-0851**.



WACO SYMPHONY

Lawrence Loh • Music Director

Waco Symphony Association, Inc.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Order your tickets now for an exciting 2024–2025 season!

Current season ticket holder renewals due by August 11

New season ticket subscriber sales open August 12

Rhapsody in Blue October 3, 2024

Jon Nakamatsu Plays Rachmaninoff November 7, 2024

Violin Superstar Ray Chen January 21, 2025

From Yellowstone to the Mountaintop April 3, 2025

Special Performances

The Nutcracker December 14 and 15, 2024

Jurassic Park in Concert March 22, 2025



Order tickets now!
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