

# The 2008/2009 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance

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Every year, I put together a little pocket guide to the Seattle Symphony subscription season for my symphony friends to help them decide which ticket package they want. As before, you might find it helpful, you might not, but here it is anyway.

Weekend	Program	Comments	22	13
09/25/2008	Mahler: Symphony #8	Polarizing		
10/02/2008	Albert: Anthems and Processionals Shostakovich: Cello Concerto #1 R. Strauss: Ein Heldenleben	Nervous? Good Good		
10/09/2008	Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto #2 Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade	Good Awesome		
10/17/2008	Handel: Concerto Grosso Op. 6, #6 Vivaldi: Violin Concertos Bach/Respighi: Three Choral Preludes Respighi: Ancient Airs and Dances #1 Bach/Schwarz: Art of the Fugue, Nos. I, III, VII, IX	Good Excellent Good? Excellent Good?		
10/23/2008	Haydn: Symphony #16 Mozart: Horn Concerto #4 Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Haydn: Symphony #82 "The Bear"	Excellent Awesome Awesome Awesome		
11/06/2008	Mozart: Overture to Le nozze di Figaro Mozart: Symphony #39 Vaughan Williams: Symphony #5	Awesome Awesome Okay?		
11/13/2008	Gerschwin: Concerto in F Beethoven: Symphony #7	Excellent Awesome		

11/20/2008	Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Sibelius: Symphony #2	Awesome Awesome Awesome		
12/11/2008	Handel: Concerto Grosso Vivaldi: Oboe Concerto in C, RV 447 Tchaikovsky: Symphony # 1	Good Awesome Excellent		
01/02/2009	Beethoven: Symphony #1 Beethoven: Symphony #9	Excellent Awesome		
01/09/2009	Bach: Orchestral Suite #1 Bach: Violin Concerto #1 in a CPE Bach: Symphony Leclar: Suite from Scylla et Glaucus	Excellent Awesome Good Wildcard		
01/15/2009	M. Haydn: Symphony in G, MH 334 Mozart: Piano Concerto #24, K 491 Haydn: Symphony #60 "Il distratto"	Excellent Awesome Good		
01/21/2009	Tilson Thomas: Street Song Prokofiev: Piano Concerto #5 Tchaikovsky: Symphony #5	Wildcard Polarizing Awesome		
01/29/2009	Borodin: Symphony #2 Tchaikovsky: Rococo Variations Shostakovich: Symphony #9	Awesome Awesome Okay		
02/05/2009	Berlioz: Béatrice et Bénédict Overture R. Strauss: Burleske Liszt: Piano Concerto #1 Hanson: Symphony #1 "Nordic"	Good Excellent Awesome Nervous		
02/12/2009	Ravel: La Valse Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto #1 Fauré: Requiem	Awesome Awesome Good		
02/19/2009	Mozart: Symphony #41 "Jupiter" Vanhala: Double Bass Concerto Schubert: Symphony #5	Awesome Nervous? Awesome		
03/06/2009	Vivaldi: The Four Seasons Patterson: Lusławice Variations Piazzolla: The Four Seasons	Awesome Wildcard Nervous		
03/12/2009	Elgar: Violin Concerto Dvořák: Symphony #6	Okay Excellent		
03/19/2009	Friedman: Revelation Stravinsky: Violin Concerto Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique	Wildcard Wildcard Excellent		

03/26/2009	Grieg: Piano Concerto Bruckner: Symphony #3	Awesome Polarizing		
04/02/2009	Diamond: Rounds for String Orchestra Samuel Jones: Trombone Concerto† Brahms: Violin Concerto	Nervous? Nervous? Awesome		
04/16/2009	Schumann: Symphony #4 Hovhanness: Lousadzak "The Coming of Light" Bartók: The Miraculous Mandarin Suite	Excellent Nervous? Okay		
04/23/2009	Liszt: Mazeppa Schubert-Liszt: Wanderer Fantasy Liszt: Totentanz Schubert: Symphony #3	Okay Awesome Awesome Awesome		
05/07/2009	Donizetti: Concertino Ravel: Tzigane Saint-Saëns: Havanaise R. Strauss: Le Bourgeois Gentlehomme	Good? Excellent Excellent Polarizing?		
05/28/2009	D. Stock: Cello Concerto† Rachmaninov: Symphonic Dances	Nervous? Awesome		
06/04/2009	Stravinsky: Song of the Nightingale Conus: Violin Concerto Liadov: Baba Yaga, Kikimora, A Musical Snuff-Box Scriabin: The Poem of Ecstasy	Nervous Nervous Nervous Nervous		
06/11/2009	Mussorgsky: Night on Bald Mountain Adès: Violin Concerto "Concentric Paths" Stravinsky: The Firebird	Awesome Nervous Excellent		
06/18/2009	J. S. Bach: Violin Concerto #2 in E Schnittke: Rondo Schubert: Rondo in A Prokofiev: Symphony #5	Awesome Nervous Good Polarizing		
06/25/2009	Kernis: New Work† Holst: The Planets	Nervous Awesome		
			<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>

† Premiere

MS Musically Speaking

BB Basically Baroque

MM Mainly Mozart

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PC Popular Classics

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BS Boeing Symphony

Notes: This chart doesn't include "one-off" concert series such as the Visiting Orchestras or Distinguished Artists series. Explanations for the partial blocks: The Musically Speaking concert on 10/19 includes only one of the Vivaldi concertos, and the concert on 2/12 omits the Rachmaninov. The comments column very crudely categorizes the works to assist my less-classically-aware friends. This is, of course, a highly subjective rating system, but I tried to view each piece from the ears of somebody new. Thus, I rated downward pieces that I personally like but which others might not and rated up pieces that I may not find musically satisfying but which nevertheless tend to be crowd-pleasers. These predictions have, of course, proven wrong in the past. For example, last season, my rating of "Okay" for Copland's *Music for the Theatre* was too optimistic. Here's what the comments mean. Note that they do not indicate whether the piece is significant in a musicological sense; they're just my guess as to whether my friends are going to like it.

- Awesome: Guaranteed crowd-pleaser.
- Excellent: You will definitely like this piece.
- Good: You will probably like this piece.
- Okay: You may like this piece.
- Nervous: I have a bad feeling about this one.
- Polarizing: Some people will love it; others will hate it.
- Wildcard: I have no idea what will happen.

A question mark means that I am not familiar with the piece and am basing my evaluation on what I know about the composer (or am just guessing).

And who knows, maybe by next season they'll know who their concertmaster is.

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