



HOUSTON SYMPHONY FACT SHEET 2017-2018 SEASON

Music Director: Andrés Orozco-Estrada
Roy and Lillie Cullen Chair

Principal POPS Conductor: Steven Reineke

Associate Conductor: Robert Franz
Ms. Marie Taylor Bosarge, Sponsor

Chorus Director: Dr. Betsy Cook Weber

Houston Symphony Society President: Janet F. Clark

Houston Symphony Society Chairman: Bobby Tudor

Houston Symphony Society Chairman Emeritus: Mike Stude

Houston Symphony League President: Beth Wolff

Houston Symphony League – Bay Area President: Martha McWilliams

Budget: \$33.9 million (FY18)

About the Houston Symphony

History: During the 2017-18 season, the Houston Symphony celebrates its fourth season with Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada and continues its second century as one of America's leading orchestras with a full complement of concert, community, education, touring and recording activities. The Houston Symphony, one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas, held its inaugural performance at The Majestic Theater in downtown Houston June 21, 1913. Today, with an annual operating budget of \$33.9 million, the full-time ensemble of 88 professional musicians presents nearly 170 concerts annually, making it the largest performing arts organization in Houston. Additionally, musicians of the orchestra and the Symphony's four Community-Embedded Musicians offer more than 900 community-based performances each year, reaching thousands of people in Greater Houston. For tickets and more information, please visit www.houstonsymphony.org or call 713-224-7575.

People: The Houston Symphony is a full-time, 52-week-per-year orchestra consisting of and supported by:

- Musicians = 88 full-time and 4 community-embedded musicians
- Conductors = 4
- Volunteers (including 146 Board members) = 881
- Staff = 89 (full-time 79; part-time 10)

Touring: Regional tours were common for the Symphony in the 1940s, especially wartime visits to military bases in Texas and Louisiana. In 1950, the orchestra embarked on its first national tour to 17 cities as far north as Chicago. Its Carnegie Hall debut occurred March 11, 1965, as part of the International Festival of Visiting Orchestras. To date, the Symphony has performed 16 times at the world-famous venue; the most recent performance was in May 2012 when the Houston Symphony kicked off the second annual Spring for Music Festival. The orchestra's first overseas trip occurred in June 1990 with an appearance in Japan at the Singapore Festival of Arts. Throughout the 1990s, the Houston Symphony returned to Japan for a residence at the Pacific Music Festival and toured through Europe extensively, with appearances in England, France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. In 2000, the Houston Symphony participated in a five-concert European Festival Tour. In 1994 and 1998, the Houston Symphony toured the U.S. East Coast and Midwest.

In January 2006, the Symphony visited Carnegie Hall in a special performance featuring music by Mozart, Shostakovich and Texas composer Pierre Jalbert. In January 2010, the Symphony performed again at Carnegie Hall, along with appearances in Florida's Kravis and Broward Centers, with the premiere of *The Planets – An HD Odyssey*. Later that year, the orchestra journeyed to the United Kingdom to perform *The Planets – An HD Odyssey* to sold-out crowds in a seven-city tour. In June 2012, the Houston Symphony became the first-ever American orchestra to perform at the Annual Festival of the World's Symphony Orchestras in Moscow, Russia, known as the highlight of the Moscow musical season.

In March 2018, Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada will take the Houston Symphony on a four-country, eight-city tour through some of Europe's most prestigious concert halls and festivals. World-renowned violinist and three-time Grammy Award-winner Hilary Hahn will join the Houston Symphony for all performances. The high-profile tour, which features concerts in Belgium, Germany, Poland and Austria, is Orozco-Estrada's first international tour with the orchestra and the Houston Symphony's first major European tour in more than 20 years.

Recording: The Houston Symphony has recorded under various labels, including Naxos, Koch International Classics, Telarc, RCA Red Seal and Virgin Classics labels and, most recently, Dutch recording label PENTATONE. In addition to recording the last four symphonies of Dvořák, Andrés and the orchestra will soon release a Music of the Americas disc, featuring Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, Revue's *Sensemayá*, Piazzolla's *Tango* and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*, recorded in early 2017. Additional projects with PENTATONE include Haydn's *The Creation*. The Houston Symphony's performance of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* under the direction of then Music Director Hans Graf was released in early 2017 to great acclaim. Recorded in March 1, 2013 on the Naxos label, the two-disc album earned a prestigious ECHO KLASSIK 2017 award in the category of Best Opera *Recording (20th/21st Century Opera)*.

Broadcasts: Classical concerts are broadcast locally on Houston Public Media News 88.7 and streaming online at houstonpublicmedia.org. Select Houston Symphony concerts and repertoire are also broadcast nationally on American Public Media programs *SymphonyCast* and *Performance Today*.

Music: The Houston Symphony's musical offerings include a **Classical Series** featuring major classical repertoire and soloists led by Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada and guest conductors. Each classical concert begins with a free, 30-minute "Prelude" pre-concert conversation that begins 45 minutes before the performance. The Houston Symphony's Season also include a **POPS Series** led by Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke featuring popular artists or themes, **Symphony Specials** or single performances with special guest artists, a four-concert **Family Series** held on select Saturday mornings and led by Associate conductor Robert Franz, and the **Student Concerts**, one-hour school day matinees for grades K through 8. In 2011-12, the Symphony introduced a concert series in Ft. Bend County called the **Sugar Land Series** to bring orchestral music to more people in Greater Houston and beyond. Sugar Land Series subscribers enjoy four exclusive experiences throughout the season.

Other Services: The Houston Symphony hosts a variety of other programs for all ages. Free **Summer Community Concerts** are an annual series of 5-10 free concerts each June, featuring dynamic musical experiences in a relaxed atmosphere in venues throughout Houston (ex. United Methodist Church, Church Without Walls, Ripley House Neighborhood Center). The **Engie Community Connections Program** is designed to broaden our musical contact with our diverse Houston population. It

provides opportunities for musicians to perform or provide instructional coaching in close, personal settings. Each session is approximately one hour in length and includes time for discussion. The Houston Symphony offers two major competitions each year for young musicians. The **Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Competition** is a competition for young musicians, ages 16-26, who play standard orchestral instruments and piano. The **Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition** is a regional competition for musicians aged 18 years and younger. Launched in July 2015, the **Community-Embedded Musicians Program**, is designed to dramatically expand and enhance the impact of the orchestra's growing education and community engagement activities. The primary role of these four Community-Embedded Musicians is to integrate themselves in Houston schools, neighborhoods and health-care settings as a teaching artist and performer, while also performing on stage with members of the Houston Symphony. The Community-Embedded Musicians offer nearly 700 community-based performances each year, both individually and as small ensembles.

Address:

Houston Symphony
Jones Hall
615 Louisiana Street, Suite 102
Houston, TX 77002

Telephone:

713-224-4240 - main
713-224-7575 - tickets
713-337-8500 - donations

Website: www.houstonsymphony.org

Venues: The Houston Symphony performs in a variety of locations throughout the greater Houston area:

- Headquarters = Jones Hall (seating capacity Classical concerts = 2,200; BBVA Compass POPS concerts = 2,800)
- Miller Outdoor Theatre
- Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion (The Woodlands, TX)
- Sugar Land Baptist Church (Sugar Land, TX)
 - Linda and Archie Dunham Theater in the Joella & Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center at Houston Baptist University
- Houston Baptist University
- Stude Concert Hall at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music
- The Centrum (Spring, TX)
- The Toyota Center
- Variety of churches, schools, hospitals and community centers