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Program

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Silver Screen Symphonies

March 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM

FIRST HORIZON FOUNDATION EXTRAS SERIES SILVER SCREEN SYMPHONIES

March 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM
Walker Theatre

Ilya Ram | *conductor*
Alison Lebovitz | *narrator*
Esin Aydingoz | *program consultant*

Video/audio recording of this concert is strictly prohibited.

Doreen Carwithen	<i>Men of Sherwood Forest</i>
Lin-Manuel Miranda (arr. Robert Longfield)	<i>We Don't Talk About Bruno</i> from <i>Encanto</i>
Sharon Farber	<i>When Nietzsche Wept</i>
Esin Aydingoz	<i>Streetlight Secrets</i>
Hildur Guðnadóttir	Music from <i>Tar</i>
Rachel Portman	<i>Emma</i>
Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (arr. Bob Krogstad)	Highlights from <i>Frozen</i>
- INTERMISSION - (20')	
Stephen Schwartz (arr. Ted Ricketts)	Highlights from <i>Wicked</i>
Nami Melumad	<i>Home is Where the Helm Is</i> from <i>Star Trek: Strange New Worlds</i>
Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, with Michael Giacchino and Germaine Franco (arr. Larry Moore)	<i>Coco Medley</i>
Esin Aydingoz	<i>See The Stars</i>

Gustav Mahler

Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Johannes Brahms

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 5

Andrew Blakemore and Mark Robson

I'm Just Ken

(arr. Carl Darby)



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The 24-25 CSO Extras Series is sponsored by the First Horizon Foundation.



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Artist Biographies



ILYA RAM

Music Director Designate

Silver Screen Symphonies

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"Although Ram [...] presents himself as deliberately casual in his shiny silver sneakers, his conducting is the opposite: energetic, spontaneous, yet clear, precise, and attentive to detail."(Leipziger Volkszeitung)

Israeli-American conductor Ilya Ram, praised for his charismatic and energetic performance by Crescendo-Magazine and his "expressive spontaneity" (Diapason), is internationally sought-after for his creative new approach to classical music.

Prize winner of the 5th Evgeny Svetlanov Competition in Montecarlo, Ram has recently been named the next Music Director of the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera, the fourth artistic leader in the organization's 91-year history. He has also served as Music Director of the Akademische Philharmonie Heidelberg since the 23/24 season.

Recent and upcoming highlights include performances with the Szczecin Filharmonia, Orquestra do Algarve, Orchestra Indiana, Deutsche Philharmonie Merck, Magdeburg Philharmoniker, Ensemble Tempus Konnex, Elbland Philharmonie Sachsen, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Ra'anana Sinfonietta, Robert-Schumann Philharmonic, as well as being spotlighted by the IMPULS Festival for contemporary music to which he will return in 24/25. He had the pleasure of working with soloists such as Pekka Kuusisto, Kristne Balanas, Amandine Savary, Ilian Garnetz, Ildikó Szabó and Charlotte Thiele, to name a few.

Equally comfortable in the pit as on stage, Ram made his Semperoper Dresden debut and return premiering Zad Moulta's "Drei Miese, fiese Kerle". He was Guest Resident Conductor at the Theater Chemnitz for the 19/20 season where he led the revival of Udo Zimmermann's Weiße Rose and Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. As scholarship holder of the Akademie-Musiktheater-Heute supported by the Deutsche

Bank Stiftung, he will premiere three new operas with Ensemble Modern in 24/25.

As a strong believer that anyone can achieve the highest musical result through joy, passion, and creative rehearsal strategies, Ram has worked with the German National Youth Ballet and the Youth North-German Philharmonic, the Dresden Special Music Highschool (Spezialschule), and as music director of the Leipzig University Orchestra between 2019-2024.

Always looking to deepen his understanding of current developments in art, Ram is one of the few candidates to have completed the Music.Multimedia.Managemt Project led by the Szczecin Philharmonic in collaboration with Fjord Cadenza Festival and TRAF0 Center for Contemporary Art. Ram has participated in several international masterclasses and festivals, including the first-ever masterclass at the Bayreuther Festspiele for conductors. He has studied with Christian Thielemann, Klaus Mäkelä, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Sakari Oramo, Neeme Järvi, Marek Janowski, Hartmut Haenchen, Robert Treviño, Steven Sloane, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Timothy Redmond, Nicolás Pasquet, Johannes Schlaefli, and Jorma Panula.

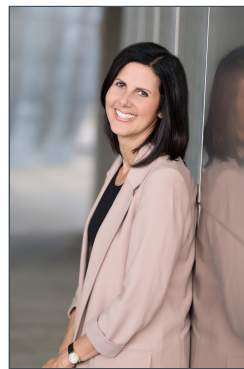
In 2015 Ram graduated Cum Laude from the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in Tel-Aviv with a B.A. in Orchestral Conducting and Musicology. He completed his Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik "Carl Maria von Weber" in Dresden, in the class of Prof. Ekkehard Klemm and has completed the Advanced Professional Training for Conductors Program at the UdK Berlin, studying with Maestros Steven Sloane and Harry Curtis. Throughout his studies he has been supported by generous scholarships from the "Yotzrim" foundation for independent artists, AICF "Sharet", and the DAAD Scholarship.

A firm believer in education and social causes, Ram spent a year before beginning his formal studies volunteering in underprivileged communities in Israel, working with children both in and outside the education system. During his studies in Tel-Aviv, he continued volunteering at the Israeli branch of Physicians for Human Rights.



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ALISON LEBOVITZ

narrator

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Alison Lebovitz is an Emmy-nominated television host, professional speaker, nonprofit executive, author, and podcaster who believes we each have the power and responsibility to make this world a better place. She is entering her 16th season as the host of *The A List with Alison Lebovitz*, a half-hour original interview series produced by WTCI-PBS, and serves as co-founder and president of *One Clip at a Time*, a nonprofit inspired by the Paper Clips Project started in Whitwell, Tennessee, that promotes student activism and supports service learning in classrooms across North America.

As a motivational speaker, Alison combines her penchant for humor with her passion for storytelling to deliver inspiring messages about faith, philanthropy and the power of community, and has been honored to serve as a TedX speaker, coach and emcee. She is also the author of *Am I There Yet?* a collection of her candid essays and life-inspired stories, and in her spare time she hosts a weekly podcast with her sister called *Sis & Tell*.

Driven by her community spirit, faith and insomnia, Alison currently serves on numerous local and national nonprofit boards, including Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, JewBelong, Foundation for Jewish Camp, and the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. She graduated with honors from Brandeis University and holds a master's degree in radio/TV/film from Northwestern University.



ESIN AYDINGOZ

program consultant



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Esin Aydingoz is a composer and conductor with a diverse body of work spanning animation, film, television, video games, and stage musicals. Originally from Istanbul, she moved to the United States to pursue her studies at Berklee College of Music, where she recently served as the Assistant Chair of the Screen Scoring Department. In 2024, Esin earned a Grammy nomination for her cello arrangement of the Rolling Stones' iconic "Paint It Black," featured in Tim Burton's Emmy®-winning Netflix series **Wednesday**. Her arrangement reached #1 on the Billboard Classical Charts.

Esin's debut feature film, **Simchas and Sorrows**, earned her a nomination for the prestigious David Raksin Award for Emerging Talent from the Society of Composers & Lyricists. Her music has been featured across major streaming platforms, including Netflix, Apple TV+, Hulu, Disney+, and Amazon Prime Video. Her latest score, for the critically acclaimed drama **She Taught Love**, has garnered attention following its limited theatrical release. It is currently streaming on Hulu in the U.S. and on Disney+ internationally.

In addition to her work in film and television, Esin also works extensively in the live performance space. She toured with Disney Concerts twice as the conductor and music director for the **Coco** Live-to-Film North American Tour, working alongside the Orquesta Fólclorica Nacional de México, and conducted **The Lion King** in her hometown of Istanbul. Her concert works have been showcased at world-renowned venues, including Carnegie Hall, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Auditorium Stravinski, National Taichung Theater, Zorlu Center, Thailand Cultural Center, Castro Theater, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Esin serves on the board of the Society of Composers & Lyricists (SCL) and is an active leader within the Alliance for Women Film Composers. She is dedicated to making a lasting impact on the world through music and advocacy.

Musicians

Tonight's Musicians

Violin 1

Josh Holritz, Associate Concertmaster
Mark Reneau
David Katz
Nick Hoy
Jeff Brannen
Jason Economides
Mary Margaret Neel
Anna Gibbons

Violin 2

Sheri Peck, Principal
Rachael McFarlane
Jennifer Whittle
Rebecca James
Lee Smith
Mary Benno

Viola

Metiney Suwanawongse, Principal
Katelyn Hoag
Cristian Micci Barreca
Casie Runkle

Cello

Eric Reed, Principal
Annie Camp
Micah Donar
Jenny Hibbard

Double Bass

Taylor Brown, Principal
Dexter Bell

Flute

Gozde Cakir-Ramsey
Brenna Wiinanen

Oboe

Jessica Smithorn, Principal
Carey Shinbaum

Clarinet

Emily Bowland
Amy Humberd



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Bassoon

Eric Anderson, Principal
Shelby Alfredson

French Horn

Joey Demko
Katy Ray
Harry Ditzel
Jacob Cambell

Trumpet

Christian Pagnard, Principal
Gilbert Villagrana

Trombone

Prentiss Hobbs, Principal
James Perez
Evan Clifton

Timpani

Andy Harnsberger

Percussion

Caitlin Jones
Keith Lloyd

Harp

Caroline Brown-Hudson, Principal

CSO Contract Musicians

Violin 1

Joshua Holritz, Associate Concertmaster
Nicholas Naegele, Assistant Concertmaster
Nathan Banks
Caroline Drexler
Jeanne Johnson
David Katz
Calvin Lewis
Mark Reneau
Jasper Sewell

Violin 2

Sheri Peck, Principal Second Violin
Mary Benno
Emily Drexler
Nick Hoy
Rebecca James
Rachael McFarlane
Lee Smith
Jennifer Whittle



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Viola

Metiney Suwanawongse, Principal
Katelyn Hoag
Cristina Micci-Barreca
Casie Runkle
Susan Saliny
Gabriel Schlaffer

Cello

Eric Reed, Principal
Spencer Brewer
Annie Camp
Micah Donar
Suzanne Sims
Paul Vest

Double Bass

Taylor Brown, Principal
Dexter Bell
Kaleb Collins
Jonathan McWilliams

Flute

Kristen Holritz, Principal
Lisa Meyerhofer (Leave of Absence)
Amelia Dicks, Principal Piccolo

Oboe

Jessica Smithorn, Principal
Teresa Spilko
Carey Shinbaum, English Horn

Clarinet

Robert West, Principal (Leave of Absence)
Emily Bowland
Joseph Miller, Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Eric Anderson, Principal
Shelby Jones
G. Eddie McCrary, Contrabassoon

Horn

Gordon James, Principal
Angela DeBoer
Matthew Meadows
Joseph Demko (Leave of Absence)
Mackenzie Newell

Trumpet

Christian Pagnard, Principal
Michael Brown

Trombone

Prentiss Hobbs, Principal
Kevin Dombrowski
Christopher Brown (Leave of Absence)
Evan Clifton

Tuba

Neil Konouchi, Principal

Timpani

Alex Wadner, Principal

Percussion

Matthew West, Principal

Harp

Caroline Brown Hudson, Principal

Keyboard

Alan Nichols, Principal

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Barnett & Company applauds the musicians, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera for their continued dedication to the arts.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera on celebrating 90 years. We are proud to support its continued efforts of inspiring, engaging, and enriching our community through music and music education.

BAKER DONELSON



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Join the Chattanooga Boys Choir in the spring of 2025!

Singers interested in joining the Chattanooga Boys Choir are invited to an **Open House & Audition** on the evening of **Tuesday, January 14** beginning at 5:45pm. Come take a tour of the facilities, sit in on a rehearsal, and observe the choir in action. Sign up at www.chattanoogaboyschoir.org/join today!



- SPRING 2025 EVENTS**
- January 14, 2025** Spring Open House & Audition
 - February 9, 2025** 32nd annual Simmons-O'Neal Memorial Concert
 - February 25, 2025** Chattanooga Boys Choir Middle School Choral Festival
 - March 26, 2025** Training Choirs *Music in Our Schools* Month In-School Concerts
 - March 30, 2025** Training Choirs Spring Recital
 - April 5, 2025** *Hope Sings: Music & Youth Mental Health*
 - April 8, 2025** National Anthem: Chattanooga Lookouts Home Opening Game
 - May 8, 2025** *Finale Spring Concert*
 - June 3-7, 2025** Summer Tour: Atlanta GA - Gainesville FL - St. Augustine FL - Chattanooga TN

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