



A Melange of Art: Music, Pictures, and Dances



Modest Mussorgsky,
arr. Ravel
Pictures at an Exhibition
Karen Gorden, Conductor



Florence Price, arr. Still
Dances in the Canebrakes



Malcolm Arnold
Scottish Dances



Antonín Dvořák
Slavonic Dances, Nos. 4 & 8

Sheldon Bair
Founder and
Music Director

Sunday, October 12, 2025
3:00pm • STAR Centre, Havre de Grace

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49th Season

2025-2026

DECEMBER 2025: THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday, December 6, 2025

NEW 11 a.m. shortened family concert, plus evening concert at 7 p.m.

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe St., Bel Air

Holiday premieres from local composers Richard Maltz and SSO violinist Manfred Reek, popular Christmas and Chanukah tunes, a lovely 'Silent Night' arrangement from the library of Mannheim Steamroller, and audience participation including sing-alongs!

MARCH 2026: OVERCOMING ADVERSITY THROUGH MUSIC

Erich Wolfgang Korngold – Selections from the film *Sea Hawk*

Robert Dauber – Serenade

Yonatan Grinberg, violin

John Williams – Main Theme from *Schindler's List*

Yonatan Grinberg, violin

Felix Mendelssohn – Incidental Music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Mieczyslaw Weinberg – Cello Concerto, Op. 43

Lawrence Stomberg, cello

MAY 2026: SPIRITUAL AMERICANA

Samuel Barber – Adagio for Strings

Jesse Ayers and Charles Myricks, Jr. – 'There's a Stirrin' in the Water

Michael Fili – The Old Line (Concert Fanfare for Brass and Percussion)

George Gershwin – Rhapsody in Blue

George Gershwin – Prelude No. 2

George Gershwin – Cuban Overture (Rumba)

Dates will be announced for March and May concerts when finalized.



49th Season 2025-2026

JUNE 2026: SSO FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.

(rain date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.)

Hopkins Farm Brewery, 3833 Rider Ln., Havre de Grace

Enjoy food trucks, raffles, and the SSO's beautiful music from the patio of Hopkins Farm Brewery, all while supporting the Orchestra at our annual fundraiser event. Bring along the whole family, plus chairs, blankets, picnics, and your sunglasses! Repertoire TBD.

JUNE 2026: BEL AIR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, June 7, 2026

William A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air

Bring a chair or blanket and the whole family for a free outdoor concert! Repertoire TBD. Tickets not required.

All programs are subject to change.

Have questions? Email Amanda the SSO Business Manager at Manager.Orchestra@gmail.com.

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Connecting Our Community Through the Power of Music



The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair, is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. In a series of concerts and outdoor performances, the Orchestra performs standard orchestral repertoire, opera, and ballet, and is known for premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire.

This year marks the 49th Season of the SSO. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert and look forward to many more years of making music!

Our Mission

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is an all-volunteer community arts organization that performs diverse orchestral works to enrich, enlighten, and educate both its talented musicians and engaged audiences. Through a variety of collaborations and partnerships, the SSO contributes to the rich artistic and cultural landscape, which is the heartbeat and soul of Harford County, Maryland, and the surrounding communities.

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Holiday Gift Sale

Saturday, November 1, 2025 10am to 3pm





49th Season 2025-2026

Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank Julia Potler (Town of Bel Air) for her help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations (Robert DeLeva, Principal). We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our donors and advertisers for the support they provide. Their assistance helps the SSO provide our community with excellent orchestral music. Please visit our advertisers and tell them the SSO sent you!



We are also indebted to the Harford Community College Music program for providing rehearsal space (Dr. Kim Davis, Dean of Arts & Humanities).

~ The SSO Musicians, Staff, and Board of Directors



This concert is supported by the Harford County Department of Economic Development and grants from Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and MSAC through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

A Melange of Art: Music, Pictures, and Dances

Modest Mussorgsky, orchestrated by Maurice Ravel – Pictures at an Exhibition
(1839-1881) (1875-1937)

Karen Gorden, conductor

Promenade
Gnomus
The Old Castle
The Tuileries
Bydlo
Ballet of the Unhatched Chickens
Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle
The Market Place of Limoges
Catacombs
The Hut on Fowl's Legs
The Great Gate of Kyiv

Intermission

Florence Price, orchestrated by William Grant Still – Dances in the Canebrakes
(1887-1953) (1895-1978)

Nimble Feet
Silk Hat and Walking Cane
Tropical Noon (Cotton Dance)

Sir Malcolm Arnold – Scottish Dances
(1921-2006)

Pesante
Vivace
Allegretto
Con Brio

Antonin Dvořák – Slavonic Dances Op. 46, two selections:
(1841-1904)

No. 4 in F Major Sousedská
No. 8 in G Minor Furiant

—

The truck rental to transport percussion instruments and equipment was generously funded by Joy and Ray Richardson.

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Allie Bean Photography

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**Founder and Music Director
Sheldon Bair**



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**Guest Conductor
Karen Gorden**

“An admirable and gifted conductor indeed.” -American Composers Orchestra

Karen Gorden is attracting attention as one of the most vibrant and compelling conductors on the

international classical music scene today. Described by the American Composers Orchestra as “a conductor for any ensemble that expects to work at a high level of professionalism and looks to make music with creativity and purpose,” Gorden first came to international attention at the 50th Geneva International Conducting Competition (Concours international

d'exécution musicale de Genève), where she was awarded the jury's Special Prize.

In North America, Gorden has been invited to the podiums of leading symphony orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. As a visiting conductor, she holds the distinction of being invited for return concerts by every orchestra she has guest-conducted.

In Asia, Gorden continues her successful relationship with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra, India's only full-season symphony orchestra. Their partnership, warmly welcomed by Mumbai audiences, spans several seasons with concerts at India's National Centre for the Performing Arts.

In Europe, she enjoys a rich association with the Orchester Grüner Hügel in Bingen. The Orchestra, made up of musicians selected from symphony orchestras across Germany, is in residence at the Kulturzentrum Villa Sachsen - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

No stranger to the opera house, Gorden began her professional career with two seasons at the Staatsoper Berlin. A highlight of her time at the Staatsoper was the Berliner Festtage production of Wagner's Ring cycle.

A champion of 20th- and 21st-century music, she has enjoyed personal collaborations with some of the world's greatest composers of contemporary classical music such as Elliott Carter and Pierre Boulez.

Karen Gorden's contributions to music have been recognized with the Prix Nadia Boulanger (France), and the Opera Prize of the State Theater Opava (Czech Republic).

Gorden counts among her most important mentors the Italian conductor Claudio Abbado. While still a student, she was invited by Kurt Masur to spend a season as conducting fellow with the New York



Philharmonic. Shortly after, she was awarded conducting internships at the prestigious Bayreuth and Salzburg Festivals. She is a graduate, with top honors, of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon, France and the Yale School of Music.

Born in North America, Gorden spent her childhood in South America, and was educated in Europe and the United States. She considers the world her home.

Harford String & Youth Orchestras

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Supporters of the SSO!**



Harford Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12) & Harford String Orchestra (grades 6-8) are offered as noncredit classes through Harford Community College.

Come see the HYO & HSO Fall Concert
Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 1pm
Amoss Center – 200 Thomas Run Rd., Bel Air, MD 21015
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Evening of Jazz series

John Lee's Life Cycle Quartet

John Lee, guitar; Eric Kennedy, drums; Jeff Reed, bass; and Dave Ballou, trumpet, perform Lee's original compositions with adventurous improvisation, global influences, and dynamic interplay.

Sunday, November 16, 3pm

Sunday Afternoon Concert series

Naho Bessho, piano

Pianist Naho Bessho performs solo piano works by Franz Schubert, Camille Saint-Saëns, Robert and Clara Schumann, and Edward McDowell.

General Admission

Evening of Jazz series: \$15

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Program Notes

Mussorgsky/Ravel – Pictures at an Exhibition

- Originally for piano solo, the SSO plays the most popular orchestration today.
- Viktor Hartmann paintings were exhibited at the Imperial Academy of the Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia. Some of the paintings depicted in the music are no longer extant.
- Picture yourself strolling through the art exhibit and enjoying the different paintings and the different emotions they evoke.
- The work ends with the popular and moving “The Great Gate of Kyiv.”

Price – Dances in the Canebrakes

- Price has experienced a resurgence in popularity the last few years.
- “Dances in the Canebrakes” are evocative of the stage and ballroom dances from the early 20th century, like dances by Scott Joplin.
- These dances were composed in the last year of Price’s life and later orchestrated by African American composer William Grant Still.

Arnold – Four Scottish Dances

- These dances by the prolific English composer Sir Malcolm Arnold are evocative of folk songs from Scotland, a country the composer knew well.
- Arnold has been heard quite a lot by SSO audiences and was our guest in March 2000 when the SSO performed the US premiere of his Ninth Symphony.

Dvořák – Slavonic Dances, Op. 46

- Czech composer Dvořák wrote two sets of Slavonic Dances, Op. 46 (1878) and Op. 72.
- A Sousedská is a calm Bohemian dance, while a Furiant is a fast and furious dance, both in three-quarter time.



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Please contact Amanda the Business Manager at
manager.ssorchestra@gmail.com to lend a hand!



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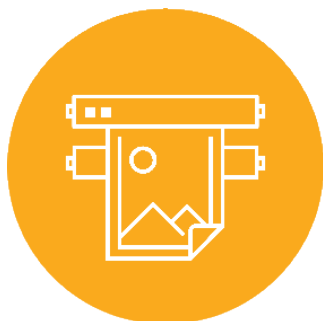
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