



**For Immediate Release**

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**Colorado Music Festival Announces 2025 Summer Concert Season  
of Orchestral and Chamber Music, July 3 through August 3**  
*Festival presents Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" & premieres new music by Joan Tower*

**BOULDER, Colo. (January 21, 2025)** – [Colorado Music Festival \(CMF\)](#) announces its 2025 summer concert season from July 3 through August 3 at [Chautauqua](#) Auditorium (900 Baseline Rd., Boulder, Colo.), offering 19 diverse performances of orchestral and chamber music by the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra and guest artists, alongside educational programming.

The Festival features world-class musicians from around the country who arrive in Boulder to perform as the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra under the direction of Peter Oundjian. Additionally, 12 guest artists, two internationally acclaimed string quartets, and four guest conductors will perform throughout the season.

"It is important to me to make every season feel cohesive, varied, and relevant," said Peter Oundjian, music director. "This summer will revisit beloved masterpieces and introduce some new and lesser-known works that will delight our audiences. The extraordinary pianist H el ene Grimaud opens our season with Gershwin, on a program that will also celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Ravel's birth. We'll also be marking the 125th anniversary of Aaron Copland's birth with the breathtaking *Appalachian Spring* and concluding the Festival with the two greatest 9th symphonies of all time by Beethoven and Mahler."

Tickets to the 2025 Festival will be available for purchase on the CMF [website](#) beginning March 4.

Festival highlights include the following.

- On July 3 and 6, pianist H el ene Grimaud opens the 2025 Festival season with Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Ravel's birth, this opening program also includes his famous *Bol ero* and a suite from his ballet *Daphnis et Chlo e*.
- In 2025 the Festival also marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of American composer Aaron Copland with a performance of his seminal *Appalachian Spring* on July 17 & 18 and *An Outdoor Overture* on July 11.

- On July 11, Grammy-winning composer Joan Tower bravely relates her personal experience of grief and remembrance after the loss of her husband in a new saxophone concerto, *Love Returns*. This raw and sentimental new work expands on the theme of *A New Day*, premiered by the Festival in 2021. Saxophonist Steven Banks returns to the Festival to perform this world premiere.
- On July 17 & 18, Latin Grammy-winning violinist Anne Akiko Meyers performs Ravel's fiery *Tzigane* as well as a new violin showpiece commissioned by Meyers herself: *Murmur* by composer Eric Whitacre.
- On July 27, classical guitarist Xuefei Yang performs Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. In this work, Rodrigo set out to evoke "the fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds and the gushing of fountains" of a royal estate in the Spanish city of Aranjuez.
- On July 31 & August 1, Peter Oundjian conducts Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a bucket-list musical masterpiece featuring the iconic "Ode to Joy." This program also includes Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Michael Abels' *Amplify*, co-commissioned by the Festival.
- The Festival welcomes some of today's most talented musicians to create musical fireworks across the season: violinist Benjamin Beilman and conductor Chloé van Soeterstède (July 13); cellist Hayoung Choi and conductor Maurice Cohn (July 20); pianist Yeol Eum Son and conductor Ryan Bancroft (July 24 & 25); and more.
- On Sunday, July 6 at 10:30 a.m., CMF will feature its Family Concert, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro," conducted by Shira Samuels-Shragg. In this musical adventure, all of the musicians are suspects and Sherlock Holmes must investigate each of the instrument families to locate the Maestro before the concert can begin. Tickets are \$10, on sale March 4.

"We are continuing to focus on how our Festival stands apart," said executive director Elizabeth McGuire. "There is a brilliance throughout this season as a result of thoughtful, innovative programming. We delight in introducing our audience to diverse and contemporary voices right alongside — and in conversation with! — the great masterworks."

CMF offers \$10 tickets for youth (ages 18 and under) and students (with current school identification). For more information, visit [coloradomusicfestival.org/ticket-info](https://coloradomusicfestival.org/ticket-info).

For more information about CMF, or to purchase tickets beginning March 4, visit [ColoradoMusicFestival.org](https://ColoradoMusicFestival.org) or call the Chautauqua box office at 303-440-7666.

For a full media kit, including details about performances and events and images, visit [coloradomusicfestival.org/mediakit](https://coloradomusicfestival.org/mediakit).

Colorado Music Festival concerts take place at Chautauqua Auditorium, which was built in 1898. Located at the base of Boulder's Flatirons and one of only 25 National Historic Landmarks in the state of Colorado, the Colorado Chautauqua remains committed to its historic purpose.

### **About Colorado Music Festival**

Founded in 1976, the [Colorado Music Festival \(CMF\)](https://ColoradoMusicFestival.org) presents a summer season of classical music concerts performed by professional musicians from around the world at the historic

[Chautauqua](#) Auditorium in Boulder. Guest artists from Europe, Asia, South America and the U.S. join more than 100 all-star musicians, who comprise the CMF Orchestra, in performances that inspire and engage concertgoers of all ages. Under the music direction of Peter Oundjian, the CMF thrills audiences of more than 20,000 each season with programming that embraces the most beloved classical music repertoire, while integrating world music and the works of exciting modern composers. For more information about CMF, or to purchase tickets, visit [ColoradoMusicFestival.org](#) or call the Chautauqua box office at 303-440-7666.

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