



## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holland Symphony Orchestra Celebrates *The Gift of Music* month with music events on August 6, 8, 9, and 16, 2025

Contact: Michael Naess

Email: [MNaess@hollandsymphony.org](mailto:MNaess@hollandsymphony.org)

Phone: [\(616\) 796-6780](tel:6167966780)

HOLLAND, MI – The Holland Symphony Orchestra (HSO) is proud to present its 2025 *Gift of Music*, a vibrant five-event series blending world-class artistry with homegrown talent and community spirit. From August 6–16, audiences across West Michigan will have an opportunity to experience a dynamic mix of music, dance, and visual art—through both free and ticketed events for all ages.

Headlining the celebration is legendary violinist [Midori](#), whose four-decade career includes groundbreaking performances with the world's top orchestras. Midori is a visionary artist, activist, and educator who explores and builds connections between music and human experience. Since her debut with the New York Philharmonic at age 11, the "simply magical" (Houston Chronicle) violinist has performed with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras and has collaborated with world-renowned musicians including Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma, and many others.

The celebration will begin with a pop-up HSO Brass Ensemble concert at Holland's Farmer's Market the afternoon of **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**, in partnership with Community Action House, which will provide healthy snacks for attendees of all ages. HSO Brass Ensemble will perform favorites from the classical canon, as well as mainstream Pop tunes recognized by all.

Dedicated in memory of local business leader and philanthropist Jack H. Miller, HSO welcomes superstar violinist [Midori](#) to the lakeshore. She will make her Holland debut with music director and conductor Johannes Müller Stosch and the HSO in two performances of Mendelssohn's towering Violin Concerto and Arvo Pärt's raucous double violin concerto entitled *Tabula Rasa* with *ZenViolin* creator and prodigy [Moni Simeonov](#). The program will include Mendelssohn's whimsical Hebrides Overture "Fingal's Cave" and J. S. Bach's regal Orchestral Suite No. 1. The concerts will take place on **Friday, August 8, 2025, at 7:30 pm** and Saturday, **August 9, 2025, at 2 pm** at HSO's new home, the West Ottawa Performing Arts Center. Tickets priced at \$45-\$35 for adults and \$20 for students are available at [www.HollandSymphony.org](http://www.HollandSymphony.org) or by calling 616-796-6780.

A special highlight of our *Gift of Music* month will be our Free Family-Friendly Community Concert! The Holland Symphony Orchestra's annual **Community Concert: *Music Unites Us*** on **Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**,

empowers our community to gather for free music, art, dance, and local food. Over 1,500 community members enjoy dancing in the sunshine, live art making, and orchestral folk music, along with local food vendors such as DaKidd BBQ, Robinson's Popcorn, Dolce Mini Cakes & Tacos, PAC pizza, and the Macatawa Bank Ice Cream truck. The 2025 concert will feature conductor Johannes Müller Stosch and the local Cumbia band [Grupo Super Nova](#) with the Holland Symphony Orchestra and original arrangements by famed local composer [Greg Scheer](#). Cumbia originated in Colombia and is a Latin American style of music and dance that combines African, European, and Indigenous influences. It's known for its percussion-heavy sound and double beat. [Muralist Chris Garcia](#) will accompany the music with live painting! Guests will also enjoy a photo booth and dancing lessons by the Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) Salsarines! **The Family-friendly activities start at 5 PM and the concert at 7 PM.** A special thank you to our event sponsors Corewell Health, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, Gentex, the Michigan Arts & Culture Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"This community event is made possible with the support of the City of Holland and embraces the transformative power of music and movement to unite, enrich, and celebrate our community in shared spaces of accessibility and enlightenment," said Michael Naess, HSO's President & CEO. "Music Unites Us" originated from feedback following HSO's mariachi concert in 2021. Inspired by community requests for more musical events that feature local artists and different genres of music, HSO has developed this free concert to encompass a variety of music, art, and dance experiences.

The *Gift of Music* month concludes with a celebration of HSO's new home, the [West Ottawa Performing Arts Center](#). The free family-friendly *Our New Home* concert on **Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 2 PM** invites the entire West Michigan lakeshore community to explore the new state-of-the-art performance facility and enjoy conductor Johannes Müller Stosch and the HSO in Prokofiev's beloved children's musical folk tale *Peter & the Wolf*. Also on the program will be the first movement of Mozart's D Major Flute Concerto starring HSO principal flute and Susan & Randall Miller chair, [Rebecca VanDeWalker](#). Audiences will also enjoy the orchestra's sublime music-making in the first movements of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major and Haydn's "London" Symphony No. 104 in D Major. To RSVP for this general admission event go to [www.HollandSymphony.org/Events](http://www.HollandSymphony.org/Events) or call 616-796-6780.

Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us for a week to remember!

### **About the Holland Symphony Orchestra (HSO)**

Founded in 1990, the Holland Symphony Orchestra is a community supported ensemble committed to engaging all people through music to enrich the cultural life of West Michigan. To that end, Holland Symphony Orchestra strives to meet the following goals:

- Create varied, quality symphonic concerts to entertain and inspire;
- Provide educational programs to promote a lifelong interest in music;
- Expand relevant community collaborations and respond to community needs;
- Increase audience and patron participation; and
- Assure responsible stewardship of financial and human resources.

Holland Symphony Orchestra will be broadly recognized as an exceptional cultural institution throughout the State of Michigan, the West Michigan area, and within our arts peer groups based on artistic quality, the size and growth of our audience, our fiscal strength and stability, and the success of our education and community programs.

For more information about the Holland Symphony visit [www.HollandSymphony.org](http://www.HollandSymphony.org) or call 616-796-6780.