

**Save the dates: January events  
to log in your classical music calendar**

by Daniel Hathaway



Former assistant conductor **James Gaffigan** will return to the podium at Severance Hall from Thursday, January 5 through Saturday, January 7 to lead **The Cleveland Orchestra** and pianist Kirill Gerstein in Bernard Hermann's *Suite from Psycho*, Arnold Schoenberg's *Piano Concerto*, the original, jazz band version of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and Béla Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Performances include Thursday and Saturday evenings, a Friday matinee and a Fridays@7 event.

From January 6-8, the Philadelphia-based vocal ensemble, **The Crossing**, will give fifteen performances of David Lang's *Lifespan* in Gallery 218 — the glass house that rises above the Cleveland Museum of Art's East Boulevard façade. Surrounding a 4-billion-year-old rock suspended from the ceiling, three vocalists will whistle and breathe, moving the rock like a pendulum, “a poetic form of wind erosion.” Performances are scheduled for Friday at 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 7:45 and 8:30 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday on the hour from noon to 4:00 pm. Weigh in on your experience by sharing your own comments on the ClevelandClassical.com Facebook page.

**Good Company** will present “How Can I Keep From Singing,” a tribute to its late founding director Karen Weaver, at Lakewood Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 pm. Interim director Michael Carney will lead the 20-some voices of the semi-professional ensemble in Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and music by Monteverdi, Duruflé, Britten, Chatman, Larsen, Szymko, and Tavener.

On Thursday, January 12 and Saturday, January 14, music director **Franz Welser-Möst** returns to Severance Hall with pianist **Yefim Bronfman** for a program that includes Jörg

Widmann's *Trauermarsch* for piano and orchestra and Anton Bruckner's marathon *Symphony No. 7*.

Later that weekend, the Orchestra will play its annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Concert** on Sunday, January 15 at 7:00 pm, conducted by Thomas Wilkins and featuring cellist Thomas Mesa and the Celebration Chorus in a program of music by Peter Boyer, Kurt Carr, Antonín Dvořák, Duke Ellington, Charles Floyd, and Morton Gould, as well as traditional spirituals and gospel songs.

**The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** will send pianist Alessio Bax, violinist Ani Kavafian, violinist and violist Yura Lee, and cellist Paul Watkins, cello Cleveland-ward for a concert of piano quintets by Fauré and Brahms on the Cleveland Chamber Music Society Series at Plymouth Church on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm.

**Oberlin Conservatory** is sponsoring a Winter Term Chamber Music Intensive that includes a guest recital by the Ariel Quartet on Wednesday, January 18 at 8:00 pm, and a final celebration on Tuesday, January 24 at 8:00 pm.

CIM faculty pianist **Sergei Babayan** will give the first recital in a two-year cycle of Mozart's complete piano sonatas — along with music by the composer's contemporaries and others who influenced him — on Friday, January 20 at 8:00 pm in Mixon Hall.

**Cleveland Opera Theater** is teaming up with the **Cleveland Composers Guild** for a New Opera Works {NOW} Festival at Baldwin Wallace University from January 20-23 that will include selections and scenes from new operas by CCG members and previews of Nkeiru Okoye and David Cote's *We've Got Our Eye On You*, and Griffin Candey's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. The festival also includes two performances of Larry Delinger's *Amelia Lost*. Watch for a forthcoming preview with further details.

**The Akron Symphony** welcomes guest conductor Benjamin Zander back on Saturday, January 20 at 8:00 pm for a concert that includes Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto with HaeSun Paik, and *Symphony No. 9* with the combined Akron Symphony Chorus and Summit Choral Society.

**Les Délices**, Cleveland's French baroque ensemble, will turn the clock forward to the later part of the 18th century with "Mozart in Paris" on Saturday, January 21 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm. Montréal cellist Elinor Frey is the guest artist, and music by Mozart, Boccherini and Gluck will be featured

The Boston-based, group-managed chamber orchestra, *A Far Cry*, will participate in a Baldwin Wallace residency culminating in a concert on Monday, January 24 at 7:00 pm that includes J.S. Bach's Double Violin Concerto.

**Tuesday Musical's** first concert of 2017 will feature the Imani Winds on Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 pm at Akron's E.J. Thomas Hall. The woodwind quintet will play works by Elliott Carter, Paquito D'Rivera, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Simon Shaheen, and two of its own members — Valerie Coleman & Jeff Scott. ClevelandClassical.com executive editor Mike Telin will emcee pre-concert interviews at 6:30 pm.

Toward the end of the month, Martin Kessler will conduct **The Suburban Symphony** in "Dance Abstractions," featuring Igor Stravinsky's *Danses Concertantes*, Claude Debussy's *Danses Sacrée et Profane*, and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. The concert, on Sunday, January 29 at 3:30 pm, takes place in the newly-renovated auditorium at Beachwood High School.

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