



**CONTACT: Nichole Fehrman, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement**  
[nfehrman@apollosfire.org](mailto:nfehrman@apollosfire.org)  
216.320.0012 ext. 4

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apollo's Fire is pleased to announce  
**The 2024-2025 Season**  
Jeannette Sorrell, Artistic Director

**TICKETS & SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW**



*"Sorrell and her dazzling period band... are incandescent."*  
– THE SUNDAY TIMES, LONDON

Apollo's Fire, the GRAMMY-winning baroque orchestra, announces their 33<sup>rd</sup> season under the direction of Artistic Director Jeannette Sorrell. With the theme of "Nourishing the Soul," Sorrell designed the season to feature several masterpieces by J.S. Bach – the composer perhaps most revered for the soulful healing qualities of his music.

The season is bookended by two of Bach's greatest masterpieces: the *Brandenburg Concertos* and the *Mass in B Minor* – as well as a month-long springtime festival of concurrent events, called *BACHANALIA!* The season also features works by Handel, Vivaldi, and Mozart, as well as a return of Sorrell's highly popular Irish-Appalachian holiday program. Soloists for the 2024-25 Season include internationally

acclaimed countertenor Reginald Mobley, trumpeter Caleb Hudson of the Canadian Brass, and concertmaster and Assistant Artistic Director Alan Choo, among many others.

- **At Home:** The 2024/2025 season in Northeast Ohio includes 29 concerts of 7 programs, performed in venues across the region, along with Baroque Bistros, Family Concerts, and educational activities.
- **On Tour:** Apollo's Fire will perform 10 concerts across the U.S., including performances in Chicago, New Mexico, Arizona, and a special appearance at the renowned Ravinia Festival in Illinois, where AF will headline the festival's new Winter Season.

### **BACHANALIA Mini-Festival**

Thanks to generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Apollo's Fire will present a month-long celebration of J.S. Bach, April 4-May 4, 2025. This mini-festival kicks off with mainstage concerts of Bach's magnificent *Mass in B Minor*, featuring a large ensemble with trumpets, timpani, strings, choir, and soloists. Concurrent events will include a Conductors Workshop for Emerging Young Artists, led by GRAMMY-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell; FREE Family Concerts ("Bach's Amazing Musical Family"); semi-staged "Baroque Bistro" performances of Bach's hilarious *Coffee Cantata*; and free workshops for public schools in Cuyahoga and Summit counties.

Regarding the theme of the season, Sorrell said "This year, the music of J.S. Bach is our guidestar as we set out on a journey that feeds the soul in a troubled world. From the joy of the *Brandenburg Concertos* to the magnificence of the *Mass in B Minor*, to the zany satire of the *Coffee Cantata* (which depicts a battle between a rebellious teenage girl and her old-fashioned Papa)... Bach not only had a profound understanding of humanity's need for communal emotional healing, but also a unique power to create that healing through his music," she said. "It's the same thing that the Ancient Greeks called 'catharsis.' And it is most powerful in live performance, when the community comes together. I am thrilled that we will have the honor of sharing these cathartic experiences with our Northeast Ohio community this season."

### **CD Releases and Video Distribution**

Apollo's Fire will release 2 new CD albums in October on British record label AVIE:

- A much-anticipated CD of AF's popular tour program, ***Bach's* Coffeehouse** (concertos and suites by Bach, Telemann, and Vivaldi, all of which were likely performed at an 18<sup>th</sup>-century coffeehouse in Leipzig);
- A special "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition" release of **J.S. Bach's Harpsichord Concertos** with Jeannette Sorrell as soloist; this festive album celebrates 25 years since Sorrell and Apollo's Fire recorded Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto, generally considered the first harpsichord concerto in history. The album also includes the concertos in D minor and F minor.

AF will also continue its partnership with Medici-TV, the world's premiere classical music channel, based in Europe.

### **FIRE for All**

Apollo's Fire continues to promote its mission of *bringing music of the past to audiences of today* with programming that strives to be inclusive and accessible to all Northeast Ohio residents. **Over the past five years, AF's total audience has grown 30%, with much of that growth happening among students and young adults.** Last year, the ensemble welcomed over 22,000 people to programs of world-class baroque and folk music, including over 5,000 first-time ticket-buyers.

AF's Community Access Initiative served over 10,000 people last year through free and reduced-cost programming. This initiative aims to remove barriers to classical music attendance through \$12 Presto Seats, FREE Family Concerts and school workshops, and more. Over 43,000 youth and adults have participated in AF's Community Access Initiatives since its inception in 2017.

AF's Free Family Concerts are held at family-friendly venues, including the Cleveland Museum of Art's Community Art Center at PIVOT, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Akron Art Museum. School workshops, provided FREE to public schools in Cleveland and Akron, continue to connect AF musicians with local students, sharing the power of music. For more information about these and other programs, visit [apollosfire.org/about/education/](http://apollosfire.org/about/education/).

## TICKETS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Subscriptions and Single Tickets for the 2024-25 season** are now available [online](#) or by phone at 216.320.0012 x 1.

Prices range from \$25-85 for single tickets, with discounts available for students, young adults, and seniors. Subscriptions start at \$93 for 4 concerts or \$144 for the entire season. **\$12 Presto Seats**, with seat assignments chosen by the box office, go on sale (by phone only) 3 weeks before each subscription performance.

\$10 Student tickets are reserved seats. Alternatively, youth under 18 and full-time college students with student ID are eligible for FREE Student Rush Tickets, 30 minutes before the concert, contingent on seating availability.

## 2024-2025 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES: SEASON OVERVIEW

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### Program #1:

**BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 6**  
**October 18-22**

The season opens with sizzling virtuosity! Jeannette Sorrell leads the exhilarating Apollo's Fire musicians in Bach's masterpieces – featuring daredevil violinist Alan Choo in No. 4 and dazzling guest trumpeter Caleb Hudson of the Canadian Brass in No. 2.



*“Swaggering and brilliantly played.”*  
— THE LONDON TIMES

Friday, October 18, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS  
Saturday, October 19, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS  
Sunday, October 20, 5:00pm – First United Methodist Church, AKRON  
\*Monday, October 21, 7:30pm – Harkness Chapel, UNIVERSITY CIRCLE  
Tuesday October 22, 7:30pm – ROCKY RIVER Presbyterian Church

*\*On Oct. 21, Brandenburg No. 2 is replaced by Bach’s Orchestral Suite No. 3.*

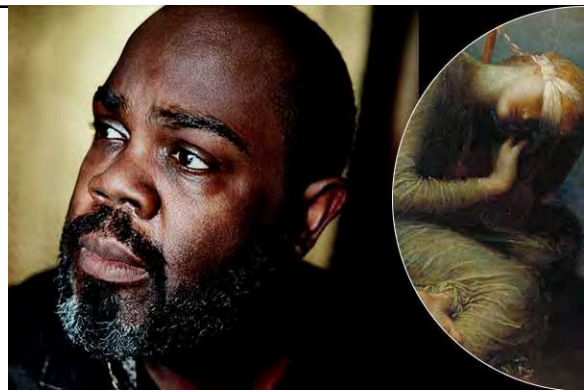
*Generously sponsored by MICHAEL FRANK & PAT SNYDER\* (\*dec’d)*

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**Program #2:**  
**HOPE & SOLITUDE**  
**November 14-17**

Reginald Mobley, countertenor

Gather with internationally acclaimed singer Reggie Mobley, AF concertmaster Alan Choo and 8 AF friends for soulful music of Purcell and Bach, including Purcell’s O Solitude and Bach’s haunting Cantata no. 82, *Ich habe genug*, featuring oboist Debra Nagy. Two uplifting Southern spirituals round out this intimate evening of hope and renewal.



Thursday, November 14, 7:30pm – First United Methodist Church, AKRON  
Friday, November 15, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS  
Saturday, November 16, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS  
Sunday, November 17, 4:00pm – ROCKY RIVER Presbyterian Church

*Generously sponsored by MARILYN & TOM MCLAUGHLIN*

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**Program #3:**  
**WASSAIL! An Irish-Appalachian Christmas**  
**December 3-8**

Jeannette Sorrell’s heartwarming celebration of the Irish immigrant experience is back, with delightful new cast members including children.

On Christmas night in Old Ireland, families and friends gathered for singing, storytelling, and plenty of wassail. From a caroling party through the streets of



Dublin to a holiday barn dance in Virginia... we follow the hopes and fears of the Irish who bravely crossed the Atlantic. Irish singer Fiona Gillespie joins with fiddlers, medieval harp, and hammered dulcimer to welcome Christmas with LOVE, DANCING, and PRAYER. Bring the whole family!

*"Fiona Gillespie sang with power, polish, and idiomatic Irish inflection... with fiddles providing irrepressible Gaelic flair. One wonders if WASSAIL may become another Christmas tradition."*  
– CHICAGO CLASSICAL REVIEW

Tuesday, December 3, 7:00pm – St. Noel Church, WILLOUGHBY HILLS  
Wednesday, December 4, 7:00pm – The BATH Church, UCC  
Saturday, December 7, 7:30pm – CHAGRIN FALLS Performing Arts Center  
Sunday, December 8, 3:00pm – AVON Performing Arts Center

*Generously sponsored by ELLEN & MIKE MEEHAN*

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**Program #4:**  
**Handel's MESSIAH**  
**December 10-14**

Sound the trumpet! Jeannette Sorrell and the acclaimed Apollo's Singers are nationally acclaimed for their dramatic interpretation of Messiah. The soloists become musical storytellers, bringing spirituality and drama to Handel's richly layered masterpiece.



Duration: 2 hrs 15 min. including intermission

*"The performance conducted by Sorrell was a revelation. 'Messiah' has seldom seemed so dramatic, so alive with detail."* — BACHTRACK.COM (LONDON)

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00pm – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, AKRON  
Thursday, December 12, 7:00pm – St. Raphael Church, BAY VILLAGE  
Friday, December 13, 7:30pm – Trinity Cathedral, CLEVELAND  
Saturday, December 14, 7:30pm – Trinity Cathedral, CLEVELAND

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**Program #5:**  
**VIRTUOSO BRILLIANCE from Vivaldi & Telemann**  
**February 6-9**

Apollo's Fire revels in fiery orchestral suites and concertos. Recorder virtuoso Daphna Mor performs Telemann's famous Suite in A Minor for the first time



on the AF stage. Violinists Alan Choo, Emi Tanabe, and Chloe Fedor take the spotlight in thrilling double and triple concertos by Vivaldi.

Thursday, February 6, 7:30pm – First United Methodist Church, AKRON

Friday, February 7, 7:30pm – ROCKY RIVER Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 8, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Sunday, February 9, 4:00pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

*Generously sponsored by KAREN & RICHARD SPECTOR*

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**Program #6:**

**CLASSICAL SPARKS – Mozart, Haydn, & Bologne  
February 27- March 2**

Jonathan Pierce Rhodes, tenor | Alan Choo, violin

Mozart was profoundly influenced by two composers – his teacher, Franz Josef Haydn, and his extraordinary French-African colleague, Joseph Bologne (Chevalier de St-Georges). Haydn’s strikingly virtuosic Symphony no. 8 “Le Soir” and arias by Bologne meet Mozart’s delightful Violin Concerto no. 3 played by Alan Choo.



Thursday, February 27, 7:30pm – First United Methodist Church, AKRON

Friday, February 28, 7:30pm – St. Raphael Church, BAY VILLAGE

Saturday, March 1, 7:30pm – First Baptist Church, SHAKER HEIGHTS

Sunday, March 2, 3:00pm – CLEVELAND Museum of Art

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**Program #7:**

**J.S. Bach’s MASS IN B MINOR: April 4-8**

Bach’s magnificent Mass features a large and colorful orchestra, including several unusual instruments. Praised for her “revelatory performance” (Opera News) of Bach’s sacred works, conductor Jeannette Sorrell leads the festive forces – including trumpets, timpani, strings, choir, and soloists.



*“Glorious... an absorbing performance – luminous playing, genuine emotion, and tasteful drama.”*

– CLEVELAND.COM

Friday, April 4, 7:30pm – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, AKRON  
Saturday, April 5, 7:30pm – Trinity Cathedral, CLEVELAND  
Sunday, April 6, 4:00pm – St. Christopher Church, ROCKY RIVER  
Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm – Trinity Cathedral, CLEVELAND

## **BACHANALIA! Mini-Festival Concurrent Events**

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**April 4 – May 4**

***From restaurants to schools to churches to concert halls... J.S. Bach and Apollo’s Fire take over Northeast Ohio for 30 days!***

Mainstage concerts of Bach’s B Minor Mass along with Family Concerts (“Bach’s Amazing Musical Family”); Baroque Bistro Concerts in restaurants (Bach’s Coffee Cantata); and In-School Workshops in public schools.

For full schedule, see [apollosfire.org/bachanalia](https://apollosfire.org/bachanalia).

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **BAROQUE BISTROS: Fun & casual restaurant performances**

Tickets and information at:

<https://apollosfire.org/event/mediterranean-nights/>

#### **Mediterranean Nights**

**September 19 & 22**

GRAMMY®-winning ensemble Apollo’s Fire invites you back to 1600, when musicians in Spain, Italy, and North Africa loved to jam on traditional folk tunes. Soprano Mira Fu-en Huang sings ballads of love and despair, while dueling violinists Alan Choo and Hanna Bingham join with friends on cello and lute to set sparks flying.

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 8:00PM - BLU Jazz+, AKRON

*Doors open at 6:45 pm. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the event.*

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 12:30PM - Music Box Supper Club, CLEVELAND

*Doors open at 11:15 am. Concert tickets and a table reservation are required for admission.*



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### **FAMILY CONCERTS: FREE Interactive Concerts for Ages 6-69!**

Visit [apollosfire.org/family](https://apollosfire.org/family) for registration and more information.

## FIDDLE FIESTA! Music from Spain and Beyond

Apollo's Fire musicians take you on a musical tour of the sunny lands of the Mediterranean – Spain, Italy, Greece, and Egypt. Dueling fiddles join with the medieval harp, cello, and guitar, as we discover the lively music and culture of this beautiful region. We'll learn an ancient Italian dance called the Galliard, and everyone joins in on body-percussion!



Saturday, September 28, 2024, 11:00AM - CMA Community Arts Center at PIVOT, TREMONT

Saturday, September 28, 2024, 3:30PM - CLEVELAND Museum of Natural History

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 2:00PM - AKRON Art Museum

*Generously sponsored by KARL & AMANDA BEKENY*

## JEANNETTE SORRELL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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*"Sorrell is an absolute dynamo onstage and a pleasure to see conduct...  
a force to be reckoned with."*

– SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

*"Sorrell led a splendid performance. Wonderful vitality... lithe, glowing and elegant."*

– THE NEW YORK TIMES, Anthony Tommasini, chief critic

*(review with the New York Philharmonic)*



GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is the subject of Oscar-winning director Allan Miller's documentary, *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*, commercially released in 2023.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, she studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won First Prize in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing

against over 70 harpsichordists from four continents.



As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her New York Philharmonic debut in 2021 to rave reviews and returned in 2023. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony, and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), and Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain), among others.

In 2024-25, she makes debuts with the Detroit Symphony and New Jersey Symphony, and returns to the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, including 11 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of "30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime" (2022).

With 17 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming. She received an honorary doctorate from Case Western Reserve University and an award from the American Musicological Society.

## ABOUT APOLLO'S FIRE

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"The U.S.A.'s hottest baroque band"  
– **CLASSICAL MUSIC MAGAZINE, UK**

"Sorrell and her dazzling period band... are incandescent."  
– **THE SUNDAY TIMES, LONDON**

"Led by a brilliant harpsichordist, Jeannette Sorrell, the ensemble exudes stylish energy – a blend of scholarship and visceral intensity."  
– **GRAMOPHONE**

Named for the ancient god of music, healing and the sun, Apollo's Fire is a GRAMMY®-winning ensemble. The period-instrument orchestra was founded by award-winning harpsichordist and conductor Jeannette Sorrell. Dedicated to the baroque ideal that music should evoke the various *Affekts* or passions in the listeners, Apollo's Fire brings to life the music of the past for audiences of today, with **Passion. Period.** The Apollo's Fire musicians are creative artists who share Sorrell's passion for drama and rhetoric.

In Europe and the UK, Apollo's Fire has performed 6 tours including sold-out concerts at the **BBC Proms in London**, the **Aldeburgh Festival** (UK), **Madrid's Royal Theatre**, **St Martin-in-the-Fields**, and **Bordeaux's Grand Théâtre de l'Opéra**; with concerts at **Heidelberg Spring Festival**, the **Irish National Concert Hall** (Dublin), the **Irish National Opera House** (Wexford), and venues in Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Portugal. The ensemble has had many live radio broadcasts across Europe. AF's London 2014 concert was chosen by the DAILY TELEGRAPH as one of the "Best 5 Classical Concerts of the Year," with their critic writing, "*An evening of superlative music-making... the group combines European stylishness with American entrepreneurialism.*"

North American tour engagements include **Carnegie Hall** (2018 and 2022), the **Tanglewood Festival** (2015, 2017, and 2021), the **Ravinia Festival** (4 times), the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in NY (numerous times), the **Boston Early Music Festival** series, **the Library of Congress**, the **Aspen Music Festival**, **Caramoor Festival**, and major venues in Toronto, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 2021, Apollo's Singers made their debut with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Jeannette Sorrell, winning rave reviews – with a return engagement in 2023.

At home in Cleveland and Chicago, Apollo's Fire frequently enjoys sold-out performances at its subscription series, which has drawn national attention for creative programming.

With over 17 million views (total) of its YouTube videos, Apollo's Fire is one of the most popular baroque orchestras on the worldwide internet. The ensemble also launched a "Worldwide Watch-at-Home Series" in 2020, bringing its subscription concerts into the homes of patrons around the world.

Apollo's Fire has released **31 commercial CDs** and won a GRAMMY® award in 2019 for the album *Songs of Orpheus* with tenor Karim Sulayman. AF's recordings of the Bach *St John Passion*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and the Monteverdi *Vespers* have been chosen as best in the field by the Sunday Times of London (2020 and 2021) and BBC Magazine (2022). **Twelve of the ensemble's CD releases have become best-sellers on the classical Billboard chart**, including Biber's *Mystery Sonatas* (Billboard Classical #2, 2024), Handel's *Israel in Egypt* (Billboard Classical #6, 2023), Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (Billboard Classical #2, 2021), the Monteverdi *Vespers*, Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos & Harpsichord Concertos*, a disc of Handel arias with soprano Amanda Forsythe titled "The Power of Love" (Billboard Classical #3, 2015), *Songs of Orpheus* (Billboard Classical #5, 2018), and five of Jeannette Sorrell's multicultural programs: *Come to the River – An Early American Gathering* (Billboard Classical #9, 2011); *Sacrum Mysterium – A Celtic Christmas Vespers* (Billboard Classical #11, 2012); *Sugarloaf Mountain – An Appalachian Gathering* (Billboard Classical #5, 2015); *Sephardic Journey – Wanderings of the Spanish Jews* (Billboard World Music Chart #2 and Billboard Classical #5, 2016); and *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* (Billboard #3, 2018).

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**For additional photos or videos, please contact Nichole Fehrman at 216.320.0012, ext. 4, or [nfehrman@apollosfire.org](mailto:nfehrman@apollosfire.org).**