

2021 BLOSSOM MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: GERSHWIN & ELLINGTON

Blossom Festival **Week Three**
The Cleveland Orchestra
CONCERT PRESENTATION
Blossom Music Center
1145 West Steels Corners Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

Sunday, **July 18**, 2021, at 7 p.m.

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA
with **Capathia Jenkins**, *vocalist*
conducted by **Lucas Waldin**

FUNNY FACE OVERTURE — ORCHESTRA
music by **George Gershwin** (1898-1937)

"STRIKE UP THE BAND" from *Strike Up the Band*
lyrics by **Ira Gershwin** (1896-1983)
music by **George Gershwin**

"ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE" from *Very Warm for May*
lyrics by **Jerome Kern** (1885-1945)
music by **Oscar Hammerstein 2d** (1895-1960)

"GET HAPPY"
lyrics by **Ted Koehler** (1894-1973)
music by **Harold Arlen** (1905-1986)

"SATIN DOLL"
lyrics by **Johnny Mercer** (1909-1976)
to music by **Duke Ellington** (1899-1974)
and **Billy Strayhorn** (1915-1967)

"GOODY GOODY"
lyrics by **Johnny Mercer**
music by **Matty Malneck** (1903-1981)

COLE PORTER MEDLEY — ORCHESTRA
music by **Cole Porter** (1891-1964)

"THE MAN I LOVE" from *Lady, Be Good*
by **George and Ira Gershwin**

"FASCINATING RHYTHM" from *Lady, Be Good*
by **George and Ira Gershwin**

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"SUMMERTIME" from *Porgy and Bess*
by **George and Ira Gershwin**

"I GOT RHYTHM" from *Girl Crazy*
by **George and Ira Gershwin**

INTERMISSION

TRIBUTE TO IRVING BERLIN — ORCHESTRA
music by **Irving Berlin** (1888-1989)

"A-TISKET, A-TASKET"
music by **Ella Fitzgerald** (1917-1996)
and **Van Alexander** (1915-2015)

"BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED" from *Pal Joey*
lyrics by **Lorenz Hart** (1895-1943)
music by **Richard Rodgers** (1902-1979)

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE" from *Daddy Long Legs*
music and lyrics by **Johnny Mercer** (1909-1976)

IN THE MOOD — ORCHESTRA
music by **Joe Garland** (1903-1977)
and **Wingy Manone** (1900-1982)

OVER THE RAINBOW — ORCHESTRA
music by **Harold Arlen** (1905-1986)
with words by **Yip Harburg** (1896-1981)

"ZING WENT THE STRINGS OF MY HEART" from *Thumbs Up!*
music and lyrics by **James F. Hanley** (1892-1942)

"BLUES IN THE NIGHT"
lyrics by **Johnny Mercer**
to music by **Harold Arlen**

"HOW HIGH THE MOON" from *Two for the Show*
lyrics by **Nancy Hamilton** (1908-1985)
music by **Morgan "Buddy" Lewis** (1906-1968)

2021 Blossom Music Festival Presenting Sponsor: **The J.M. Smucker Company**

The July 18 concert is sponsored by **Arhaus**.

CONCERT OVERVIEW

AMERICA HAS inspired creative endeavors and ideas from jazz to Southern fried chicken, from telephones to iPhones, from moonshine and Manhattans to blue jeans. And — sitting here in the great outdoors at Blossom — let us not forget the idea and reality of national parks for the benefit of all.

Generations of Americans have also brought new energy and innovation to music, from Broadway to Hollywood, from jazz clubs to big band dance halls, from hoe-down shindigs to symphonic wonders. And, without equal, to the idea of a set of “standard” songs representing the best this country has to offer. Not just songs wrapped in flag-waving patriotism, but a “Great American Songbook” that tells, not so much about love of country, but about living life in this country, filled with tales of love and laughter, heartache and headache. Of America’s rise in the 20th century as an emblem of freedom to be . . . whoever you are.

The Great American Songbook represents a core suite of songs — from stage, screen, dance club, and jazz hall — that was the accompanying soundtrack for this country in the first half of the 20th century, across two world wars to the edge of the Space Age. Breathed into existence by legendary composers and lyricists, singers and musicians, these timeless classics still touch our hearts. Artists such as the Gershwins, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein, Duke Ellington, Yip Harburg, Ella Fitzgerald, and Johnny Mercer have lit up countless nights of romance and revelry, friendship and understanding.

Each of these songs comes to life in melody and words, graced with beauty and poignancy — of optimistic exuberance or rounded off to melancholic loss and yearning. Whether created for the Broadway stage, the silver screen, or in the creative cauldron of Harlem’s Cotton Club, these songs comment directly on life’s universal moments: of living, loving, laughing, lusting, lingering, and lamenting. Our shared experiences with all their cadence and careening, boiled down to one song after another to capture our hearts, our feelings, our humanity anew.

This evening’s concert features Broadway star Capathia Jenkins, whose previous forays at Blossom Music Festivals have shown her sure onstage style and touch, joined tonight by The Cleveland Orchestra led by Lucas Watkins.

So “Strike Up the Band” because we are all “In the Mood” for some “Fascinating Rhythm” with that special someone and “All the Things You Are.” “Something’s Gotta Give” no matter “How High the Moon!” Enjoy and “Get Happy” now!

—Eric Sellen

VOCALIST: CAPATHIA JENKINS

CAPATHIA JENKINS's career spans the arts of acting and music. Gripped with passion for each, she has refused to choose — because both represent her soul. She approaches a song the same way she approaches a script, like an artist. She looks for nuance in every detail, for the secrets hidden within the notes or text — intent on taking audiences on an unforgettable journey.

The Brooklyn-born Jenkins most recently released the critically acclaimed CD *Phenomenal Woman the Maya Angelou Songs* with her collaborator Louis Rosen and they sold out the world-famous Birdland Theatre in New York City for three nights.

She starred as Medda in the Disney production of *Newsies* on Broadway. She made her Broadway debut in *The Civil War*, where she created the role of Harriet Jackson, and subsequently starred in the Off-Broadway 2000 revival of *Godspell*. She returned to Broadway in *The Look of Love*, and created the role of The Washing Machine in *Caroline, Or Change* and Frieda May in *Martin Short-Fame Becomes Me*. In 2007, she went back to Off-Broadway and starred in *(mis)Understanding Mamma — The Hattie McDaniel Story*, for which she was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. Her stage credits also include Nora Ephron's *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*.

As an active concert artist, Ms. Jenkins has appeared with orchestras across North America, from Minnesota to Cleveland, from Atlanta to Seattle, and from San Diego to Toronto, as well as appearing to acclaim in Europe. Her television credits include *30 Rock*, *The Practice*, *Law & Order*, and *The Sopranos*.

For more information, please visit www.capathiajenkins.com.

The Cleveland Orchestra is grateful to these organizations for their ongoing generous support of The Cleveland Orchestra:

National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Ohio and Ohio Arts Council, and to the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

The Cleveland Orchestra is proud of its long-term partnership with Kent State University, made possible in part through generous funding from the State of Ohio.

The Cleveland Orchestra is proud to have its home, Severance Hall, located on the campus of Case Western Reserve University, with whom it has a long history of collaboration and partnership.



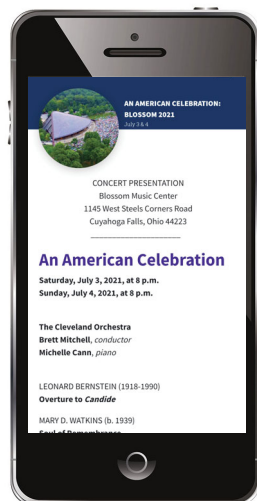
CONDUCTOR: LUCAS WALDIN

LUCAS WALDIN is a dynamic and versatile conductor whose performances have delighted audiences across North America.

Specializing in Symphonic Pops, Mr. Waldin has collaborated with artists including Carly Rae Jepsen, Ben Folds, Chantal Kreviazuk, the Barenaked Ladies, and Buffy Sainte-Marie, in addition to presentations such as Disney in Concert, Blue Planet Live, and Cirque de la Symphony. Mr. Waldin has been a guest conductor for orchestras in Canada and the U.S., including the Houston Symphony, Grant Park Festival Orchestra, Modesto Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the Toronto Symphony.

Mr. Waldin joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as resident conductor in 2009 and was subsequently appointed artist-in-residence and community ambassador (2012-16). He has appeared with the orchestra over 150 times, including a performance in Carnegie Hall during the ESO's participation in the 2012 Spring for Music festival. In recognition of his accomplishments, he was awarded the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestra Conducting by the Canada Council for the Arts and received a Citation Award from the City of Edmonton for outstanding achievements in arts and culture.

A native of Toronto, Mr. Waldin holds degrees in flute and conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music.



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