

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA
BLOSSOM
MUSIC FESTIVAL
2023



NEWS

SEASON PRESENTING SPONSOR
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For Release: Thursday, May 4, 2023

Vocalist Susan Calloway and Akron Symphony Orchestra added to Blossom Music Festival performance of *Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY*



(Photo courtesy: AWR Music)

Conductor Arnie Roth and vocalist Susan Calloway to appear in VIP, post-concert meet-and-greet

CLEVELAND – The Cleveland Orchestra announced the [Akron Symphony Orchestra](#) will perform *Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY* as part of the 2023 Blossom Music Festival on [Saturday, September 9](#).

Grammy Award-winning musician and conductor [Arnie Roth](#) will lead the Akron Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra Chamber Chorus in the concert celebrating the entire *FINAL FANTASY* video game series. They will be joined by vocalist [Susan Calloway](#), the featured vocalist for *Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY*.

A limited number of VIP tickets will be available. These tickets grant access to an autograph session and photo opportunity after the concert with Arnie Roth and Susan Calloway.

The iconic *FINAL FANTASY* soundtrack boasts compositions by many prominent video game composers, including Nobuo Uematsu, who is considered one of the greatest and most prolific composers in video game history. Uematsu specially curated *Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY* to commemorate his incredible music catalog.

This concert includes high-definition presentations from the *FINAL FANTASY* game developers, Square Enix, projected onto screens above the stage and throughout Blossom Music Center's Pavilion.

2023 Tickets Available Now

Tickets are available by contacting Cleveland Orchestra Ticket Services at 216-231-1111, emailing boxoffice@clevelandorchestra.com, or visiting clevelandorchestra.com.

2023 Blossom Music Festival Sponsors

The Cleveland Orchestra is proud to partner with **The J.M. Smucker Co.** as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2023 Blossom Music Festival. We thank Festival Partners **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company** and **Ohio CAT**. The 2023 Blossom Music Festival season is dedicated to **Milton and Tamar Maltz** and **The Milton and Tamar Maltz Family Foundation** in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to The Cleveland Orchestra.

The J.M. Smucker Co. and The Cleveland Orchestra

The J.M. Smucker Co. has supported The Cleveland Orchestra for decades with annual contributions as well as capital gifts for improvements at Blossom Music Center. The company's ongoing, remarkable support has been recognized through concert sponsorship at Blossom for over a decade and has earned membership in the Orchestra's John L. Severance Society — a group of the Orchestra's most dedicated and generous corporate, foundation, and individual supporters. Additionally, The J.M. Smucker Co. was a co-presenting sponsor of The Cleveland Orchestra's Second Century Celebration, bringing the Orchestra's 100th season to life while animating a bold vision for an extraordinary Second Century.

Cleveland Orchestra Board Chair Richard K. Smucker is the Retired Executive Chairman of The J.M. Smucker Co., which was founded 125 years ago by Mr. Smucker's great-grandfather, Jerome Monroe Smucker. Today, The J.M. Smucker Co. is a leading marketer and manufacturer of leading brands across the consumer food, coffee, and pet food and pet snacks categories in North America. While the company's portfolio has dramatically evolved, Smucker remains committed to its values, shaped by its Basic Beliefs, Our Commitment to Each Other, and its Purpose, Feeding Connections That Help Us Thrive — Life Tastes Better Together.

A Special Thank You

We share our deepest thanks to the following funders, whose support makes magical summer evenings at the Blossom Music Festival possible:

The J. M. Smucker Co., **Festival Presenting Sponsor**

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We recognize the following supporters, who established **Endowed Funds in support of Blossom Music Center and Blossom Festival**, providing vital support every year:

Blossom Festival Guest Artist
The Payne Fund

Blossom Festival Family Concerts
David E. and Jane J. Griffiths

Landscaping and Maintenance
The William Bingham Foundation
Family and friends of Emily Blossom
The GAR Foundation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Thank you to everyone in the community who supports the **Blossom Fund** and The Cleveland Orchestra's Annual Fund.

We also thank members of the **Blossom Committee** and the **Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra** for their leadership, time, and support of the Blossom Music Festival.

About Blossom Music Center, Summer Home of The Cleveland Orchestra

Blossom Music Center was created as the summer home of The Cleveland Orchestra and opened in July 1968 with performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony conducted by George Szell. The 200-acre music park features the award-winning and acoustically-acclaimed Blossom Pavilion, designed by renowned Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk and seating more than 5,000 people under cover. The adjoining Blossom Lawn accommodates as many as 15,000 more outside on an expansive natural-bowl amphitheater of grass surrounded by bucolic woods.

In the more than half-century since Blossom's opening, headline makers and yet-to-be-discovered young artists across all genres have created unforgettable musical experiences for more than 21 million visitors. In a typical summer, Blossom serves more than 400,000 visitors, who attend concerts ranging from rock, country, and pop to classical. Live Nation operates Blossom under a long-term contract with The Cleveland Orchestra, dividing each year between the Orchestra's Blossom Music Festival of orchestral performances, and a series of presentations from across many genres.

Located 25 miles south of Cleveland and just north of Akron, Blossom is situated in the rolling hills of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which preserves 33,000 acres of natural parkland along the Cuyahoga River. Blossom Music Center was named to honor the Dudley S. Blossom family, who have been major supporters of The Cleveland Orchestra throughout its history. Blossom lies within the city limits of Cuyahoga Falls, an Ohio community first settled in the early 1800s, at 1145 West Steels Corners Road in Summit County. For more information visit clevelandorchestra.com/discover/blossom-music-center/.

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY

Saturday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Akron Symphony Orchestra

Arnie Roth, *conductor*

Susan Calloway, *vocalist*

Cleveland Orchestra Chamber Chorus

NOBUO UEMATSU Music from FINAL FANTASY

Celebrating the entire *FINAL FANTASY* video game series, *Distant Worlds* features the music of composer Nobuo Uematsu, often called the "John Williams of video games." With high-definition presentations from the *FINAL FANTASY* game developers, Square Enix, projected onto giant screens, *Distant Worlds* showcases the diverse and constantly expanding repertoire of classic Final Fantasy music throughout the history of the game series in an innovative multimedia concert experience that has delighted audiences around the world.

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY is produced by Nobuo Uematsu and Arnie Roth, AWR Music Productions, LLC, and Square Enix. All associated trademarks are owned by and used under license from SQUARE ENIX CO.LTD. © 2022 SQUARE ENIX CO.LTD. All Rights Reserved.

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