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## Audition appointments open for Cleveland Orchestra Choruses



Roger Mastroianni. [More images here.](#) ©

## Grammy Award-winning Composer and Conductor Eric Whitacre joins Cleveland Orchestra Choruses for week-long residency

### No tuition for Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus or Cleveland Orchestra Children's Choruses

**CLEVELAND** – It's an exciting time to join the Cleveland Orchestra Choruses. Audition appointments are now open for The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, The Blossom Festival Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Choruses. Those interested should [click here](#) to register.

Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre will spend a week with the Cleveland Orchestra Choruses, culminating in a concert on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Severance Music Center. Whitacre will conduct The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus in a performance of his 12-movement work *The Sacred Veil*, a collaboration with poet and lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri telling the story of life, love, and loss.

During his time in Cleveland, Whitacre will also hold workshops at Severance Music Center with The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus and local high school and college students.

"I am thrilled to have Eric Whitacre with us in Cleveland next season. The Sacred Veil is a deeply moving work, certain to have a profound impact on our singers and audience members. In addition to having

Whitacre lead The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, we look forward to inviting hundreds of students to Severance Music Center to work with the composer on his music,” said Lisa Wong, director of Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.



(© Marc Royce)

The Cleveland Orchestra and its choruses continue their long-standing efforts to make music education more accessible for young people in the area. That is why, beginning in the 2023-24 season, the Orchestra is removing another barrier. There is no tuition required to join The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Chorus, and The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Preparatory Chorus.

This summer, The Blossom Festival Chorus will help The Cleveland Orchestra kick off its annual [Blossom Music Festival](#) with [Beethoven’s Ode to Joy on July 1](#). Later that month, The Blossom Festival Chorus will return to the Blossom Music Center stage later to perform with The Cleveland Orchestra and The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Chorus during the presentation of [The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers](#).

Auditions for The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and The Blossom Festival Chorus are by appointment on [April 16, April 29, and May 3](#). Additional dates may be added. The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus auditions will be [April 28 and May 18](#). The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Choruses, for students entering fifth through eighth grade in the fall, will have auditions on [May 7 and May 8](#).

“What a perfect time to sing in one of our choruses! I am particularly grateful to our donors who have made it possible for our youngest singers to join us tuition-free. Singing at Severance Music Center is the best start, I can think of to a lifetime of music-making,” Wong said.

Additional information on audition requirements, rehearsal schedules, and performances can be found here: [www.cochorus.com/](http://www.cochorus.com/).

**With Gratitude**

We thank **The Edward and Ruth Wilkof Foundation** for their generous annual support of The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and **Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Outcalt**, whose generous donation has made the Youth Chorus tuition-free for the 2023-24 season.

We thank **The Shari Bierman Singer Family** for their generous support of The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.

We also thank our entire community of donors who support the Annual Fund. Your generosity keeps our music strong for fans around the world. Thank you!

#### **About the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus**

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus is one of the few professionally trained, all-volunteer choruses sponsored by a major American orchestra. In addition to performing with The Cleveland Orchestra in concerts at Severance Music Center each season, the Chorus has appeared with the Orchestra on tour in Boston, Brussels, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, London, Lucerne, Luxembourg, Miami, Paris, and New York, as well as on television and in numerous recordings. The Chorus has also toured on its own, either a cappella or with other ensembles, to the Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico; the Chautauqua Institution in New York; and to venues in England, Wales, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany.

Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and Blossom Festival Chorus members hail from nearly 50 Northeast Ohio communities. Together, the groups' 175 members volunteer more than 50,000 hours annually, through rehearsals and performances. The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus also raises money for their tours through a variety of projects and events.

Today's Cleveland Orchestra Chorus was first formed in 1952 at the request of Music Director George Szell. The Chorus is celebrating its 70th anniversary during the 2022-23 season. During The Cleveland Orchestra's first several decades, several college and guest choruses appeared in performances, along with several short-lived attempts at forming a permanent chorus for the Orchestra's annual seasons. Soon after Severance Hall opened in 1931, the Cleveland Philharmonic Chorus was created and flourished for nearly a decade before going out of existence during World War II. It provided choral forces for the many staged operas presented under Music Director Artur Rodziński's direction.

The Orchestra's fourth music director, George Szell (1946-70), initiated the creation of a permanent chorus to be affiliated with the Orchestra made up of local singers admitted by audition. The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus began performing in 1952, under the joint direction of Russell L. Gee and Robert M. Stofer, and quickly proved its artistic worth. In 1956, Szell invited the young and nationally prominent choral conductor Robert Shaw to join the Orchestra's conducting staff as associate conductor and chorus conductor, further solidifying and expanding the Chorus's national reputation for quality. The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus has maintained its position as a leading American orchestra chorus under the subsequent leadership of choral directors Clayton H. Krehbiel (1967-69), Margaret Hillis (1969-71), Robert Page (1971-89), Gareth Morrell (1989-98), Robert Porco (1998-2017), and Lisa Wong (2017-present).

In addition to The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra has three choruses to help develop young singers in Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus provides a unique opportunity for talented high school students to work together under professional guidance and perform with The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus, which was founded in 1967, is for sixth to eighth-grade students and performs with The Cleveland Orchestra. The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Preparatory Chorus is for less-experienced singers in

grades five through eight who want to learn musical skills and build a solid foundation for vocal production techniques. Many members of The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and The Blossom Festival Chorus started their singing careers in the youth or children's choruses.

There is also The Blossom Festival Chorus, created in 1968 for performances at the Orchestra's summer home, and the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Chorus, which was first assembled in 1989 under the name Cleveland Community Gospel Chorus and formally rechristened with the reopening of Severance Music Center in 2000.

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**Cleveland Orchestra Chorus calendar listing**

**Friday, October 20, 2023, at 7:30pm**

**Severance Music Center**

**Mandel Concert Hall**

Lisa Wong, *conductor*

Eric Whitacre, *conductor*

Mingyao Zhao, *cello*

Daniel Overly, *piano*

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

ESMAIL *When The Violin*

WHITACRE *The Sacred Veil*

Ticket information to be released later.

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***All programs and artists are subject to change***

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