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## **The Cleveland Orchestra announces its 80th international tour with eight performances in Berlin, Helsinki, Lucerne, Ansfelden, Bratislava, and Vienna**

**Music Director Franz Welser-Möst leads the Orchestra on the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth in Ansfelden, the composer's hometown**

**The Orchestra returns to Helsinki and Bratislava for the first time since 1965**



*(© Roger Mastroianni)*

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Orchestra and Music Director Franz Welser-Möst announced the details of the ensemble's [80th international tour](#), which will feature eight concerts in six European cities.

Over the course of two weeks from August 26 to September 7, the Orchestra will travel to Berlin, Helsinki, Lucerne, Ansfelden, Bratislava, and Vienna, and will be joined by Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson in Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto for four of the performances.

The tour kicks off at the Berliner Philharmonie with a unique program featuring contemporary American works by frequent Cleveland Orchestra collaborator John Adams and the Orchestra's current Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow, Allison Loggins-Hull. The two works are complemented by Prokofiev's Symphony No. 2, which the Orchestra [recorded](#) and released in 2021 as part of its continued exploration of Prokofiev's symphonies.

The Orchestra then continues its travels through Europe in performances featuring Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, and Wagner's Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*. The concerts in Helsinki and Bratislava mark the first time since 1965 that the ensemble has performed in these cities, making the Orchestra's return this year particularly special.

September 4 in Ansfelden marks another special occasion on the tour, not only for The Cleveland Orchestra but for music lovers around the world. On the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth, Franz Welser-Möst leads The Cleveland Orchestra in Bruckner's beloved Symphony No. 4 in the city of his birth as part of the composer's year-long bicentennial celebration. This special performance opens the International Bruckner Festival Linz 2024. It takes place outside the Ansfelden parish church and will be broadcast live worldwide in partnership with Unitel.

The tour ends on September 6 and 7 in Vienna with two concerts at the Musikverein where The Cleveland Orchestra has a long-standing residency, the first of its kind by an American orchestra. For a recent interview and digital concert with Franz Welser-Möst discussing his relationship with the city while walking through its streets, visit the Orchestra's [Franz in Vienna](#) production on [Adella](#), the Orchestra's digital home.

"As we embark on our landmark 80th international tour, we are thrilled to continue bringing The Cleveland Sound to the world," said André Gremillet, President and CEO of The Cleveland Orchestra. "It is a genuine privilege to represent Cleveland, Ohio, and the United States in some of Europe's most extraordinary halls, showcasing once again why The Cleveland Orchestra and Franz Welser-Möst enjoy such an unparalleled reputation around the world. We are particularly eager to return to Helsinki and Bratislava for the first time in nearly sixty years for what promises to be memorable concerts with the wonderful Víkingur Ólafsson."

"There are many things I look forward to when touring with The Cleveland Orchestra, including meeting music lovers and Cleveland Orchestra fans from around the world, and giving audiences a taste of the artistry that takes place here in Cleveland every week," said Music Director Franz Welser-Möst. "What makes this tour even more unique, however, is the opportunity to conduct Bruckner's Fourth Symphony with The Cleveland Orchestra on his 200th birthday, literally yards away from where he was born. As a fellow Upper Austrian who grew up in the same cultural environment as Bruckner did and who has been fascinated by his music ever since I was an altar boy, this is a full circle moment for me, and I feel both honored and fortunate to lead the Orchestra on that very special day."

The 2024 European tour bookends the Orchestra's [summer season at Blossom Music Center](#) and precedes later in September the launch of its [107th season](#), which also marks the 23rd year of the Orchestra's acclaimed partnership with Franz Welser-Möst.

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## **2024 European Tour Calendar**

### **Berliner Philharmonie, Berlin, Germany**

Monday, August 26, at 8 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL *Can You See?* (European Premiere)  
JOHN ADAMS *Guide to Strange Places*  
PROKOFIEV *Symphony No. 2*

### **Musiikkitalo, Helsinki, Finland**

Wednesday, August 28, at 7 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

R. SCHUMANN *Piano Concerto*  
TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 5*

### **Musiikkitalo, Helsinki, Finland**

Thursday, August 29, at 7 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

PROKOFIEV *Symphony No. 2*  
BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

### **Lucerne Festival, Switzerland**

Sunday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

R. SCHUMANN *Piano Concerto*  
TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 5*

### **Pfarrkirche Ansfelden, Austria**

Wednesday, September 4, at 8:30 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

WAGNER *Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde*  
BRUCKNER *Symphony No. 4, "Romantic"*

### **Reduta Hall, Bratislava, Slovakia**

Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m.  
The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

R. SCHUMANN Piano Concerto  
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5

**Musikverein, Vienna, Austria**

Friday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

WAGNER Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*  
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4, "Romantic"

**Musikverein, Vienna, Austria**

Saturday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

R. SCHUMANN Piano Concerto  
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5

***All programs, artists, and prices are subject to change.***

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**With Gratitude**

The Cleveland Orchestra thanks our supporters and partners, who provide vital support for the Orchestra's international touring:

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### **About The Cleveland Orchestra**

Now firmly in its second century, The Cleveland Orchestra, under the leadership of Franz Welser-Möst since 2002, is one of the most sought-after performing ensembles in the world. Year after year it exemplifies extraordinary artistic excellence, creative programming, and community engagement. In recent years, *The New York Times* has called Cleveland “the best in America” for its virtuosity, elegance of sound, variety of color and chamber-like musical cohesion, “virtually flawless,” and “one of the finest ensembles in the country (if not the world).”

Founded by Adella Prentiss Hughes, the Orchestra performed its inaugural concert in December 1918. By the middle of the century, decades of growth and sustained support had turned the ensemble into one of the most admired around the world.

The past decade has seen an increasing number of young people attending concerts, bringing fresh attention to The Cleveland Orchestra’s legendary sound and committed programming. More recently in 2020, the Orchestra launched several bold digital projects, including Adella, its digital streaming platform, and its own recording label. New initiatives for audience growth and community service have been introduced in recent years, including new technological infrastructure and capabilities at its home, Severance Music Center, to capture the Orchestra’s unique artistry and the musical achievements of the Welser-Möst and Cleveland Orchestra partnership.

The 2023–24 season marks Franz Welser-Möst’s 22nd year as music director, a period in which The Cleveland Orchestra has earned unprecedented acclaim around the world, including a series of residencies at the Musikverein in Vienna, the first of its kind by an American orchestra.

Its acclaimed opera presentations, including Puccini’s *La fanciulla del West* (2023), Verdi’s *Otello* (2022), Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos* (2019), Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2017), Bartók’s *The Miraculous Mandarin* and *Bluebeard’s Castle* (2016), and Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* (2014 and 2017), have showcased the ensemble’s unique artistry and collaborative work ethic.

Since 1918, seven music directors—Nikolai Sokoloff, Artur Rodziński, Erich Leinsdorf, George Szell, Lorin Maazel, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Franz Welser-Möst—have guided and shaped the ensemble’s growth and sound. Through concerts at home and on tour, broadcasts, and a catalog of acclaimed recordings, The Cleveland Orchestra is heard today by a growing group of fans around the world. [Find out more.](#)

### **About Franz Welser-Möst**

Franz Welser-Möst is among today’s most distinguished conductors. The 2023–24 season marks his 22nd year as music director of The Cleveland Orchestra. With the future of their acclaimed partnership extended to 2027, he will be the longest-serving musical leader in the ensemble’s history. *The New York Times* has declared Cleveland under Welser-Möst’s direction to be “America’s most brilliant orchestra,” praising its virtuosity, elegance of sound, variety of color, and chamber-like musical cohesion.

With Welser-Möst, The Cleveland Orchestra has been acclaimed for its inventive programming, its ongoing support for new musical works, and for its innovative work in presenting semi-staged and staged operas. An imaginative approach to juxtaposing newer and older works has opened new dialog and fresh insights for musicians and audiences alike. The Orchestra has also been hugely successful in fostering a new and, notably, young audience. To date, the Orchestra and Welser-Möst have been showcased around the world in more than 20 international tours together. In 2020, despite shutdowns caused by

the global pandemic, the ensemble launched its own recording label—and new streaming broadcast performances on Adella, the Orchestra’s new digital home—to continue and extend sharing their artistry globally.

In addition to his commitment to Cleveland, Welser-Möst enjoys a particularly close and productive relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic as a guest conductor. He conducted its celebrated New Year’s Concert three times, and regularly leads the orchestra in subscription concerts in Vienna, as well as on tours in Japan, China, Australia, and the United States. He is a regular guest at the Salzburg Festival, where his work leading a series of opera performances has been widely admired. These have included *Rusalka*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Fidelio*, *Die Liebe der Danae*, Reimann’s *Lear*, Strauss’s *Salome* and *Elektra*, and Puccini’s *Il Trittico*.

In 2019, Welser-Möst was awarded the Gold Medal in the Arts by the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts in recognition of his long-lasting impact on the international arts community. Other honors include The Cleveland Orchestra’s Distinguished Service Award (given during the ensemble’s 100th season celebrations for his focus on community and education), two Cleveland Arts Prize citations, the Vienna Philharmonic’s “Ring of Honor” for his personal and artistic relationship with the ensemble, recognition from the Western Law Center for Disability Rights, honorary membership in the Vienna Singverein, appointment as an Academician of the European Academy of Yuste, and the Kilenyi Medal from the Bruckner Society of America.

Franz Welser-Möst’s book *From Silence: Finding Calm in a Dissonant World* was published in Austria in July 2020, under the title *Als ich die Stille fand*, and rapidly rose to number one on the German-language bestseller lists, where it remained through much of 2021. The English version of *From Silence* was released worldwide in summer 2021. Read more about [Franz Welser-Möst](#).

### **The Cleveland Orchestra and Touring**

Founded in 1918, The Cleveland Orchestra first went on tour the next year, when the ensemble’s musicians traveled by train to perform in nearby cities, including Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Youngstown, Ohio.

They crossed an international border for the first time in 1922, to perform in Canada, and also made their first appearance at New York City’s Carnegie Hall in 1922. The Orchestra first crossed ocean waters in 1927 to perform in Cuba. Major overseas and international touring began in 1957, with the ensemble’s first trip to Europe, featuring 29 concerts across more than five weeks that spring. As the Orchestra’s fame spread—fanned by recordings and radio broadcasts—new and lengthy concert tours of Europe followed in the 1960s, as well as the first trip to Asia in 1970, featuring twelve concerts in Japan and Korea.

Touring expanded in the following decades, with Cleveland’s first tour to Australia and New Zealand (1973), and South America and Mexico (1975), along with increasingly frequent visits to Europe’s musical capitals and festivals, as well as regular concert tours across the United States and into Canada.

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### **Media Contact:**

Christophe Abi-Nassif, The Cleveland Orchestra, [cabinassif@clevelandorchestra.com](mailto:cabinassif@clevelandorchestra.com), 216-231-7441  
Jen Steer, The Cleveland Orchestra, [jsteer@clevelandorchestra.com](mailto:jsteer@clevelandorchestra.com), 216-231-7637  
Amanda Ameer, First Chair Promotion, [amanda@firstchairpromo.com](mailto:amanda@firstchairpromo.com), 212-368-5949