

**THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA**
FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEWS

23
24

For release: February 26, 2024

The Cleveland Orchestra announces ‘An Evening With John Legend’ at Blossom Music Center



CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Orchestra is thrilled to announce it will perform with multi-platinum, 12-time Grammy Award–winner [John Legend](#) at Blossom Music Center on Thursday, August 8.

Legend, an Ohio native, is bringing his live show to select venues across the country this summer and will make his Cleveland Orchestra debut in Cuyahoga Falls.

An Evening With John Legend: A Night of Songs and Stories with The Cleveland Orchestra will feature intimate renditions of his greatest hits (“All of Me,” “Ordinary People,” “Tonight”), alongside unexpected stories from his life and career, as well as tracks from his latest album, *LEGEND* (“Nervous,” “Wonder Woman”), out now on Republic Records.

For an in-depth look at what inspires Legend’s unique blend of storytelling and music, [watch the PBS NewsHour segment](#) profiling his preparation and vision for *An Evening With John Legend: A Night of Songs and Stories*.

Ticket Information

Tickets go on sale to the general public at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 1. Eligible Cleveland Orchestra donors and patrons can purchase their tickets early starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27 using an exclusive promo code. Artist presale starts Wednesday, February 28 at 10 a.m. Limit four tickets per household.

For tickets, contact the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111. Tickets to this performance and Blossom Music Festival packages can also be purchased online at clevelandorchestra.com.

An Evening With John Legend is not eligible for Blossom Festival Lawn Ticket Books or the Under 18s Free program. Live Nation safety rules will be in effect.

About John Legend

John Legend is an EGOT-winning, critically acclaimed, multiplatinum singer-songwriter who has garnered 12 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award, and an Emmy Award, among others.

Beyond his impressive music career, Legend is a principal in Get Lifted Film Co., the founder of personal care line Loved01, and the founder of social impact organization Free America. Legend is an avid advocate for equal opportunity for all people, working to amplify the voices of people of color and their representation in all spaces, including the entertainment, beauty, and personal care industries.

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/.

2024 Blossom Music Festival Sponsors

The Cleveland Orchestra is proud to partner with **The J.M. Smucker Co.** as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2024 Blossom Music Festival. We thank Festival Partner **Ohio CAT**, and our Movie Night Presenter **NOPEC**.

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.

Ohio CAT

As a sales and service enterprise, is to create exceptional value for our Customers and our Communities through proud, knowledgeable, and engaged employees who consistently exceed customer expectations.

NOPEC

NOPEC is an electric and natural gas aggregation in Ohio that uses the bulk buying power of over 240 member communities to negotiate exclusive rates and better terms and conditions for the residents, small businesses, and communities they serve. To learn more about NOPEC, visit nopec.org.

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**

Ohio CAT, **Festival Partner**

CIBC, **Summer Soirée Presenting Sponsor**

NOPEC, **Movie Night Presenter**

Akron Community Foundation

The William Bingham Foundation

The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Chester F. Crone

Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust

Nancy and Richard Dotson

GAR Foundation

Barbara and Michael J. Kaplan

Cynthia Knight

Richard and Christine Kramer

Milton and Tamar Maltz and The Milton and Tamar Maltz Family Foundation

Mr.* and Mrs. Arch J. McCartney

Mrs. Jane B. Nord

The M. G. O'Neil Foundation

The Esther and Hyman Rapport Philanthropic Trust

Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation

Patricia J. Sawvel

The Ralph and Luci Schey Foundation

The Sisler McFawn Foundation
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
Sandra and Richey* Smith
Mr. and Mrs.* Richard K. Smucker
Tom and Shirley* Waltermire
The Welty Family Foundation

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

We 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.

We also 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 Artists

Dr. and Mrs. Murray M. Bett
The Hershey Foundation
The Payne Fund
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Zekan

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

An Evening With John Legend: A Night of Songs and Stories with The Cleveland Orchestra

Thursday, August 8, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Anthony Parther, *conductor*

John Legend, *piano and vocals*

This special performance will feature songs and stories with 12-time Grammy winner John Legend. Experience intimate reimaginings of his greatest hits ("All of Me," "Ordinary People," "Tonight"), unexpected stories from Legend's life and career, and selections from his most recent release, *LEGEND* ("Nervous," "Wonder Woman") at Blossom this summer.

###

Media Contact:

Jen Steer, jsteer@clevelandorchestra.com, 216-231-7637