



# **24** Cleveland Pops **25** Concert Season

CONDUCTOR CARL TOPILOW

Sit back, tap your  
toes, hum along, and  
dance in the aisles as  
we create a season  
full of magical  
evenings performing  
the music you love.

Enjoy the show!



Presenting Season Sponsor:  
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THANK YOU TO  
ANNETTE AND  
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for their sponsorship  
of the Cleveland  
Pops Ensemble's  
successful residency  
this past August at  
the YMCA of the  
Rockies' *Arts at  
Altitude* festival in  
Estes Park, Colorado.







## A Message from James M. Stone

Chairman of the Board:  
September 2019-Present

**Welcome patrons, subscribers, concertgoers and guests to the wonderful 28th year of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra!** We are delighted that you can join us., For our 2024-25 season Maestro Carl Topilow has again put together a great series of performances for you of Pops, Broadway, popular, holiday and light classical music.

The Pops you see today is a varied virtuoso orchestra. We perform regularly at Severance Music Center, Playhouse Square, and throughout our region. The arts scene in Cleveland is amazingly vibrant- with an outstanding arts and fine arts scene. Cleveland is one of the best arts and cultural cities in the US, and the Pops is a beloved part of the music scene here, We are proud to be an ever more important part of it.

We feature an outstanding group of professional musicians performing under our Conductor and Music Director, Carl Topilow. Many of our musicians have played with us for years, and we feature the best in guest artists. In addition, we support future musicians through our Gordon and Jean L. Pettitt Memorial Scholarship Competition for students, The Orchestra teams up The Music Settlement to form the Cleveland Pops Youth Orchestra. That ensemble gives talented young performers the chance to play pops music under professional conducting. Even more, The Pops operates its Actual Music program in our area schools, under the leadership of Pops President Shirley Morgenstern. We are pleased to be a part of engaging the next generation in popular symphonic music.

Our success is due to our Conductor, the musicianship of our performers, and our terrific programming, It is also thanks to the support of the Greater Cleveland community. Our audience, including subscribers and individual ticket purchasers, are our life blood. However, ticket sales provide only a portion of our budget. As an independent, 501(c) (3) organization, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra is dependent on the generosity of individuals, corporations, government funding of the arts, and foundations. We appreciate all who support the Pops, including our excellent Board of Directors, our sponsors, many donors, and our benefit honorees and patrons. We are also indebted to the Ohio Arts Council, the Cleveland and Kulas and other foundations, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, to name just a few.

Thanks for keeping the Pops vibrant in the past, now and for decades to come.

# HAWKINS AND COMPANY LLC

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Congratulates the Cleveland Pops Orchestra on a very wonderful 2024-2025 musical season!

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You can reach us at 216-861-1365 or via email at [AHAWKINS@hawkinsandcompanyllc.com](mailto:AHAWKINS@hawkinsandcompanyllc.com) or [JohnHawkins@echawkinsltd.com](mailto:JohnHawkins@echawkinsltd.com)



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# The Cleveland Pops Orchestra

Carl Topilow, *Music Director & Conductor*

Shirley Morgenstern, *President and CEO*

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Thank you for being a supporter of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra! We are looking forward to another fabulous season of the music that you love.

Whether you enjoy the music of Broadway, Hollywood, Sinatra, Motown, or Rock, we have something for everyone. Our lively and interactive programs are sure to entertain and inspire.

Our thanks go to our patrons, donors, orchestra members, board, and staff for their contribution to the success of our orchestra. Performing in beautiful Severance Music Center and for our holiday concert at the Connor Palace Theater in Playhouse Square brings out the best in our performers, and we are anxiously awaiting the start of our season.

The excitement of live performance is what propels our musicians and guest artists to connect in a way that recordings can never do. Our programs are joyful and uplifting, and evenings with the Pops have a way of reverberating with our audience and orchestra.

In addition to our series concerts, this season our orchestra will be performing for Playhouse Square's Strictly Gershwin, the Cleveland Ballet, and Pink Floyd.

So, sit back, tap your toes, hum, along, and dance in the aisles as we create the magical evenings that we so enjoy creating.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Topilow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" and last name "Topilow" clearly distinguishable.





**Shirley Morgenstern**

*President & CEO*  
Cleveland Pops Orchestra

Welcome to our 2024-2025 season!

We are thrilled to be able to bring you the music you love to lift your spirits, make you smile, enjoy memories of past musical experiences and make new ones.

As we embark on this musical journey, now in its 28th year, we would like to thank our orchestra members, patrons, donors, board of directors and staff for their support in making this all happen.

Maestro Carl Topilow has planned a wonderful season of programs with variety and fun, from Broadway to Hollywood, Sinatra, Motown, and Rock and Roll!

This past season saw the Pops, thanks to you, enjoy a dramatic rebound from Covid with increased ticket sales and renewed interest in our orchestra. Due to the many seasons of sold-out Holiday concerts, we have partnered with Playhouse Square to add, on December 1st at the Connor Palace Theater, a 7:00 PM evening performance in addition to our traditional 2:00 PM show. Each performance will include all the things you love to get into the spirit of the Holiday season! Our orchestra will be joined by the Cleveland Pops Chorus, our "Dancing Santas", guest vocalists, adoptable puppies and kittens from many Cleveland animal shelters and, of course, Santa Claus himself.

Another significant venture was the Pops' August residency at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park Colorado for the inaugural "Arts at Altitude" festival. Ten of our fabulous musicians, including Maestro Topilow performing as clarinetist and saxophonist, were joined by extraordinary vocalists Natalie Green and Connor Bogart O'Brien. Our musicians performed in a variety of roles, in concerts featuring jazz, rock, and Broadway, pop-up performances, a jam session, informative discussions, and sessions with children participating in Actual Music, our music education program.

Please feel free to email or call me about your experience at the Pops. Your ideas are always welcome!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Morgenstern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the 'i' in "Morgenstern".

## Foundations, Government and Other Organizations

The Cleveland Pops Orchestra is grateful to the following funders who have made the 2024-2025 season possible:

### \$50,000 & Above

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture  
Ohio Arts Council  
Ohio Department of  
Development  
Ohio Real Title

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Thank you to our Sponsor Partners for  
Supporting our 2024-2025 Concert Season:

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MEET THE  
MAESTRO:

## CARL TOPILOW



Founding conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Carl Topilow's eclectic programs have been acclaimed by audiences and critics alike. He enjoys a dual career as both conductor and clarinetist, often finding an occasion to perform a selection with the Pops on one of his brightly colored clarinets.

Carl is also conductor of the Firelands Symphony Orchestra, based in Sandusky, Ohio. After 42 years as conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer festival in Breckenridge, CO, he is continuing an active role with the orchestra as Conductor Laureate. He was named Faculty Emeritus after 37 years as Conductor and Director of the Orchestral Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music and has served as principal pops conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Mansfield Symphony Orchestra.

Topilow has performed as guest conductor with 133 different orchestras in 37 states and 12 foreign countries. He continues his role as educator with his work as clinician and teacher for conductors.

Topilow's wife Shirley is President and CEO of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra. Their daughter Emily is a marketing associate with the Cleveland Clinic, and their daughter Jenny is a violinist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Carl's new book, *The Orchestral Conductor's Career Handbook*, published by Rowman and Littlefield, is now available through [CarlTopilow.com](http://CarlTopilow.com) and [Rowman.com](http://Rowman.com)



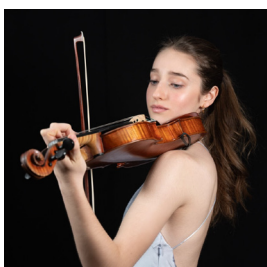
# Gordon & Jean L. Petitt Annual Music Scholarship Competition

Each year, talented young performers from Northeast Ohio compete to receive performance opportunities with The Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and resources to help them continue their musical education. The competition is open to young instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers.

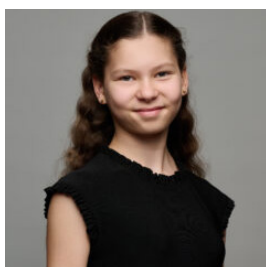
For information or to contribute to this scholarship, visit:  
**[ClevelandPops.com/Education-Outreach/Scholarship](http://ClevelandPops.com/Education-Outreach/Scholarship)**

## *Past Winners:*

2023 Co-Winner  
Eivissa Sorolla,  
violin



2023 Co-Winner  
Sabrina Kerze,  
piano



### **2022:**

Alexandra Newman, vocalist  
Lindsey Ross, vocalist

### **2021:**

Daniel Colaner, piano  
Moshi Tang, violin  
Calista Zajac, vocalist

### **2019:**

Julia Schilz, violin

### **2018:**

Elizabeth Huang, violin  
Alex Zhu, violin

### **2017:**

Kate Klika, vocalist  
Céline Bethoux, violin

### **2016:**

Phoenix Avalon, violin  
J.R. Heckman, vocalist

### **2015:**

Hannah Kulawiak, vocalist  
Sean Yongjoo Lim, violin

### **2014:**

Jieming Tang, violin

### **2013:**

Lewis Zou, piano  
Maria Beltavski, violin

### **2012:**

Jiana Peng, piano

### **2011:**

Kaley Ann Voorhees, vocalist  
Sophia Madorsky, vocalist

### **2010:**

James Thompson, violin

### **2009:**

Alexis Floyd, vocalist

### **2008:**

Sarah Arnold, violin

### **2007:**

Chad Hoopes, violin  
Meredith Kochan, vocalist

### **2006:**

Caroline Goulding, violin

### **2005:**

Jerry Lang, II, piano

### **2004:**

Annie Marie Sivertson,  
vocalist

### **2003:**

Yihao Wu, piano

### **2002:**

Shantelle Jackson, dancer  
Antonio Brown, dancer  
Lisa Moore, vocalist  
Riley Richard, saxophone

### **2001:**

Robbie Spackey,  
saxophone  
Gina DiBello, violin  
Kelly Pekar, vocalist

### **2000:**

Nicholas DiEugenio, violin



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**Proud to support the Cleveland Pops Orchestra.**

We look forward to another outstanding season with Carl  
Topilow and the Cleveland Pops.

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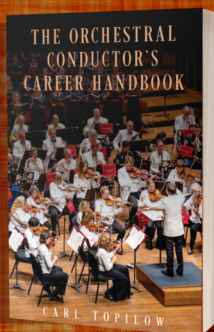
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*An essential guide for aspiring conductors*

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always needed to know about the  
profession, especially when it comes to  
finding your career path. With examples  
from his own life as well as general  
observations, this is a must-read for  
conductors in waiting."

— Leonard Slatkin, internationally  
acclaimed conductor

We look forward to another outstanding season of  
The Cleveland Pops Orchestra  
**Penny and Michael Shemo**

Proud to Support Carl Topilow and the  
Cleveland Pops Orchestra  
**Nancy Glick & Randy Solomon**

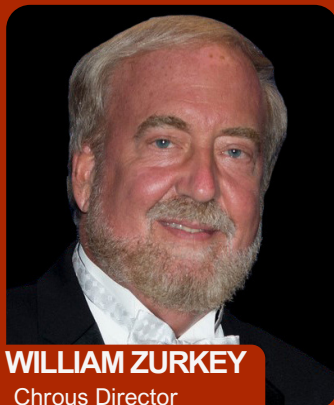
# Cleveland Pops Chorus



The Cleveland Pops Orchestra Chorus' debut performance took place at Severance on Friday, November 2, 2012. Donald Rosenberg, Cleveland Plain Dealer critic, in attendance at the debut concert, wrote, "The chorus will appear regularly with the orchestra, and for this Pops audiences can be truly grateful." Created to partner with Carl Topilow and the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, the chorus has been a wonderful addition to orchestra's Broadway, Holiday, Hollywood, and Armed Forces concerts. In addition to its concerts with the Pops Orchestra, the chorus has also performed with the Cleveland Winds, the Cleveland Philharmonic, the West Shore Chorale, and with Andrea Bocelli and the Pops Orchestra at Rocket Mortgage Field House. This diverse group of individuals from all over the Cleveland area has one commonality; they all love to sing and share the joy of singing with others.

William G. Zurkey is beginning his eleventh season as the director of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra Chorus. In addition to his work with the Pops Chorus, he is an Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Cleveland State University School of Music.

A past president of the Ohio Choral Directors Association, Mr. Zurkey was inducted into the 2018 National High School Hall of Fame and was named Bowling Green State University 2013 College of Musical Arts Distinguished Graduate and the 2013 Regional Mr. Holland's Opus Award. The Avon Lake High School Chorale, under his direction, performed at nine OMEA state conventions and district and regional conventions of MKMEA, and ACDA. Mr. Zurkey has also directed choirs at the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music Outreach Program and as an adjunct Faculty of Music Education at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.



**WILLIAM ZURKEY**  
Chorus Director



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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### Holiday Concert 2024



## It Isn't Christmas Until...

Start the season with this concert filled with all your holiday favorites and a few surprises!

**Dates:** December 14 & 15, 2024

Maltz Performing Arts Center

### Spring Concert 2025

## Beatlemania

Twist and Shout to a concert of classic Beatles hits!

**Dates:** March 15 & 16, 2025

Maltz Performing Arts Center



### Summer Concert 2025



## Reigning Men

Celebrating the hit songs made famous by the best of music's legendary gay icons!

**Dates:** June 14 & 15, 2025

Mimi Ohio Theatre

To order tickets or for more information please visit  
**NCMChorus.org**, contact **[tickets@ncmchorus.org](mailto:tickets@ncmchorus.org)**  
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## Cleveland Pops Orchestra

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**James M. Stone | Principal**  
Chairman of the Board, Cleveland Pops Orchestra  
Park Center Plaza I, Suite 400  
6100 Oak Tree Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44131  
[James.Stone@jacksonlewis.com](mailto:James.Stone@jacksonlewis.com)

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**hairspray**

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2/7 - 2/23



4/4 - 4/27

Disney  
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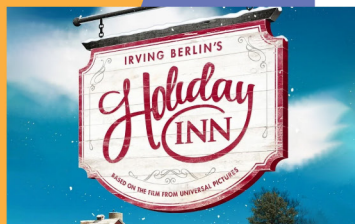
8/8 - 8/24 A NEW MUSICAL!



10/10 - 10/26

**THE FULL  
MONTY**

6/6 - 6/22



12/5 - 12/21

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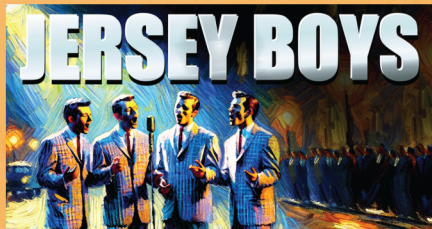
by ALLISON ENGEL & MARGARET ENGEL  
SEPTEMBER 20 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2024



Music by RICHARD ROGERS Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II  
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY & RUSSELL CROUSE  
NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2024



Adapted for the stage by KEN LUDWIG  
JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 8, 2025



Book by MARSHAL BRICKMAN & RICK ELICE  
Music by BOB GAUDIO Lyrics by BOB CREWE  
MARCH 14 - APRIL 6, 2025



Adapted from the screenplay by JONATHAN LYNN Written by  
SANDY RUSTIN with material by HUNTER FOSTER & ERIC PRICE  
MAY 30 - JUNE 14, 2025



Book by BRIDGET CARPENTER  
Music by TOM KITT Lyrics by BRIAN YORKEY  
JULY 25 - AUGUST 16, 2025

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# — THE POPS IN THE COMMUNITY —

## ENTERTAIN. ENRICH. EDUCATE.

The Cleveland Pops Orchestra offers a broad range of experiences from concerts and community events to educational programs and a scholarship opportunity.

### - ENTERTAIN -

- Through our concert series at Severance Music Center, our highly anticipated annual family holiday show at Connor Palace, and our community engagement events, The Cleveland Pops attracts a wide and diverse audience.
  - **62,000+** individuals entertained each year
  - **15-18** concerts & community events



### - ENRICH -

- The Cleveland Pops programs and performances throughout the region promote a love and understanding of music that make a lasting impression on the minds and hearts of thousands.



### - EDUCATE -

- The Pops creates music learning experiences for children from their pre-school stage through high school.

- **ACTUAL MUSIC**

A program designed to engage children in the world of music & dance. The program provides education, participation, listening & visual stimulation for the students.



- **GORDON & JEAN L. PETITT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

Open to vocalists, dancers and instrumentalists up to the age of 18, with prizes including a cash reward and the opportunity to perform on stage at Severance Music Center with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

- **THE CLEVELAND POPS YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Established in collaboration with The Music Settlement, this program was created to nurture & train young musicians. The program promotes critical thinking, self-confidence & leadership skills through music.



## 2024 - 2025 PROFESSIONAL THEATER SEASON

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### THE GLASS MENAGERIE

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by Thomas Q. Fulton  
Starring Derridri Ring as  
Amanda Wingfield  
**STUDIO THEATER**

**OCTOBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

Produced with special arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals.



### UNDER A BASEBALL SKY

By Jose Cruz Gonzalez  
Directed by Eric Schmiedl  
**STUDIO THEATER**  
**APRIL 4 TO MAY 4, 2025**  
Please note there is no show

on Sunday, April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday.  
Presented with special rights by Susan  
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### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Lyrics by Tim Rice  
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Directed by Scott Spence  
Music Director Larry Goodpaster

Choreography by Lauren Marousek

**SENNEY THEATER**

**DECEMBER 6, 2024 TO JANUARY 5, 2025**

with special curtains: THURSDAYS December 12  
at 7:30 pm, December 19 at

7:30 pm, 2024 and January 2, 2025. Saturday

December 7 is 2:30 pm ONLY, Saturday December

14 is 2:30 pm ONLY, Saturday December 21 is

2:30 pm ONLY, Saturday December 28, 2024 is

2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, and Saturday January 4,

2025 is 2:30 pm ONLY. Presented by arrangement

with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really

Useful Group. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)



### THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM

Music by Robert Waldman  
Book and Lyrics by Alfred Uhry  
Directed by Scott Spence  
Music Direction Larry Goodpaster  
Choreography by Lauren Marousek

**STUDIO THEATER**

**MAY 30 TO JUNE 29, 2025**

with THURSDAY June 12, June 19, and  
June 26, 2025.

Produced with special arrangements with MTI  
Musical Theatre International.



### WAITRESS THE MUSICAL

Directed by Victoria Bussert  
Music Direction Matthew Webb  
Choreography Lauren Marousek  
Featuring music and  
lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Book by Jessie Nelson

**SENNEY THEATER**

**FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 9, 2025**

with THURSDAY February 20 at 7:30 pm.,

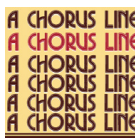
February 27 at 7:30 pm, March 6, 2025 at

7:30 pm. / February 16 & 23 at 2:30 pm and

March 2 & 9 at 2:30 pm. Baldwin Wallace Music

Theatre Program Collaboration. Produced with

special arrangement with MTI Musical Theatre  
International.



### A CHORUS LINE

Music by Marvin Hamlisch  
Lyrics by Edward Kleban  
Book by James Kirkwood Jr.  
and Nicholas Dante  
Directed and

Choreographed by Christopher Chase Carter

**SENNEY THEATER**

**JULY 11 TO AUGUST 10, 2025**

THURSDAYS July 24 at 7:30 pm, July 31 at  
7:30 pm, and August 7, 2025 at 7:30 pm.



**PURCHASE TICKETS HERE**

**17801 DETROIT AVENUE | LAKEWOOD, OH 44107 | 216-521-2540**  
**BECKCENTER.ORG**

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CARL TOPILOW

# THE CLEVELAND POPS YOUTH ORCHESTRA



The renowned Cleveland Pops Orchestra, in collaboration with The Music Settlement, has established The Cleveland Pops Youth Orchestra to nurture and train young musicians to reach their full potential while promoting critical thinking, self-confidence, and leadership skills through music.



*Auditions are ongoing! For more information, visit:*  
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