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# 25 Cleveland Pops 26 Concert Season

CONDUCTOR CARL TOPILOW

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# THANK YOU TO ANNETTE AND KEN HALLOCK

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, and guests to the wonderful 29th year of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra! We are delighted that you can join us.

For almost thirty years, the Pops has performed regularly at Severance Music Center, Playhouse Square, and elsewhere across the USA. Cleveland, our home, is one of the best arts cities in the U.S. The Pops is a beloved and ever more important part of the music scene here.

Our success is due to our Conductor, our President, our staff, our performers and musicians and audience-oriented programming, It is also thanks to your support. Our audience, including subscribers and individual ticket purchasers, are our life blood.

As an independent, 501(c) (3) organization, private donations are increasingly critical as ticket sales only cover part of our costs. Moreover, government and corporate support for the arts has declined. We thus so much appreciate all who support the Pops, including our wonderful individual donors, our Musical Chair sponsors, our excellent Board of Directors, and our season and concert sponsors. We also thank the Ohio Arts Council, the Cleveland and Kulas and other foundations, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. You keep the Pops vibrant now and for decades to come!

## 2026 G-Clef Gala

**When:** Saturday, May 2, 2026

**Where:** InterContinental Cleveland

**Honoree:** Brian Gevry, CEO and Chairman  
of the Board of Boyd Watterson Global  
Asset Management Group, LLC

Visit: [ClevelandPops.com/Concert/2026-Ball](https://ClevelandPops.com/Concert/2026-Ball)



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Congratulates the Cleveland Pops Orchestra on a very wonderful 2025-2026 musical season!

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# The Cleveland Pops Orchestra

Carl Topilow, *Music Director & Conductor*

Shirley Morgenstern, *President and CEO*

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*Marshall Griffith*

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## A Message from

**Carl Topilow**

*Music Director & Conductor  
Cleveland Pops Orchestra*

**&**

**Shirley Morgenstern**

*President & CEO  
Cleveland Pops Orchestra*



Welcome to the 29th anniversary season of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra! We are excited to bring you the finest in symphony pops music. It has been our pleasure to initiate this venture and to continue to bring you the music you love for many years to come.

This season promises to be upbeat, engaging, and fun, from New Orleans Jazz to Country, and a program featuring magician Michael Grandinetti.

The Cleveland Pops reaches out into your community in several ways. The Cleveland Pops Youth Orchestra, like our parent orchestra, performs the music of Broadway, Hollywood, rock and jazz, and plays selections side by side with the Pops on our holiday concerts.

Our Jean L. Pettit young artists scholarship competition offers a cash prize and the opportunity to perform as soloist at a Cleveland Pops concert at Severance Hall.

Our Actual Music school program works with young children to teach the basics of music, movement, and singing.

The Cleveland Pops can be heard in free summer concerts throughout Northeast Ohio.

Our thanks go to our orchestra, patrons, donors, board, and staff for their contribution to the success of our orchestra.

See you at the Pops!

**Carl Topilow**  
*Music Director and  
Conductor*

**Shirley Morgenstern**  
*President and CEO*



A legacy that brings symphonic pops music for generations to come.

## Join the Pops Legacy Society

For more information about creating your Cleveland Pops Orchestra Legacy, contact Loren Toplitz at 216-765-7677 or [lorentoplitz@clevelandpops.com](mailto:lorentoplitz@clevelandpops.com).



### Bring your Group to the Pops!

**As a group, receive access to a host of excellent benefits!**

We welcome groups to the Cleveland Pops Orchestra's 2025-2026 concert season. We encourage you to take advantage of these great group benefits:

- Significant Savings:
  - 10% discount for groups of 10-19.
  - 20% discount for groups of 20-49.
  - 25% discount for groups of 50+
  - Complimentary ticket for group leader and bus driver(s).
- Reserve your seats with no immediate down payment.
- Personalized service
- Free bus parking
- Group recognition at concert

For more information or to reserve group tickets, contact Kaitlyn Jozwiak at **216.765.7677**

# Foundations, Government and Other Organizations

The Cleveland Pops Orchestra is grateful to the following funders who have made the 2025-2026 season possible:

## \$50,000 & Above

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture  
 John P. Murphy Foundation  
 Kulas Foundation  
 Ohio Arts Council  
 Ohio Real Title



## \$20,000 - \$49,999

Glenmede Trust Company  
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 The Cleveland Foundation  
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## \$10,000 - \$19,999

Bascom Little Fund  
 Parker Skin & Aesthetic Clinic  
 Sam & Esther Friedman Family Foundation  
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## \$5,000-\$9,999

RDM foundation

## \$2000 - \$4,999

Jefferson Fund of Akron Community Foundation

**Thank you to our Sponsor Partners for Supporting our  
 25-26 Concert Season:**

**Presenting Season Sponsor: Don & Sally Messinger**

### WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING HOME

Sponsored by:  
 Ohio Real Title

### JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE

Sponsored by:  
 Northeast Surgical Wound Care, Inc.  
 Hawkins and Company, LLC

### WILLIAMS & SPIELBERG

Sponsored by:  
 James & Winifred Stone

### 250TH CELEBRATION

Sponsored by:  
 Dr. Lawrence Osher &  
 Dr. Margaret Konecky

# Cleveland Pops Orchestra Musical Chair Sponsorship

Do you know, or have, a favorite Pops musician or instrument? Through our Musical Chair Society, you can honor that musician or instrument, while supporting your beloved Cleveland Pops Orchestra!

## Be a part of the music!

Your \$1,000+ gift supports a Pops Musician and enhances your Pops Season with meaningful access and opportunity, including:



Listing in season program book & on signage around the venue.



Red chair cover with name prominently displayed at Pops concerts.

Exclusive invitation to our annual Musical Chair reception.



Personal ticket concierge assistance for Pops concerts.



Connect with your sponsored musician at post-concert receptions

### Sponsorship Levels:

\$5,000 Podium Sponsor  
\$3,500 Concertmaster Sponsor

\$1,500 Principal Chair  
\$1,000 Section Chair

Call Loren at 216.765.7677 to check the availability of your chair selection.



Check out the 25-26 Concert Season!

Subscription concerts take place at Severance at 7:30 P.M.



OCT. 18

When the Saints Go Marching Home



JAN. 30

Legends of Country



FEB. 20

Symphony of Illusions with Michael Grandinetti



MAR. 28

Famous Ladies of Song



APR. 24

Williams & Spielberg



JUN. 6

250th Celebration

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY CONCERT: JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025 | 2PM & 6PM | PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

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 134 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.

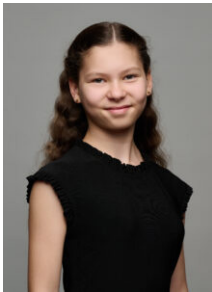
Carl's book, *The Orchestral Conductor's Career Handbook*, published by Rowman and Littlefield, is now available through [CarlTopilow.com](http://CarlTopilow.com) and [Rowman.com](http://Rowman.com)

# 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  
Sabrina Kerze, piano



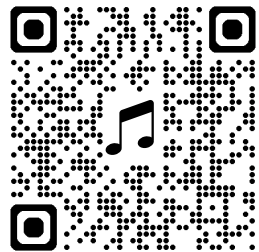
2023 Co-Winner  
Eivissa Sorolla, violin



2024 Winner  
Lizzy Noall, vocalist



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! Scan the QR Code for details.**

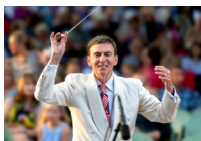


We are proud to support Carl Topilow and the Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

DR. LAWRENCE OSHER  
&  
DR. MARGARET KONECKY

## THE POPS IN THE COMMUNITY

ENTERTAIN. ENRICH. EDUCATE.



**20**

annual performances conducted by Carl Topilow.



**40+**

students educated within our Cleveland Pops Youth Orchestra.



**40**

all time recipients of the Gordon & Jean L. Petitt Scholarship

**1,000+**

yearly subscribers that fill ~50% of our seats every season.



**100,000+**

lives enriched and entertained through community outreach, educational programs and musical performances.

Congratulations to the musicians, staff  
and board on another great season.

*-Carl Topilow & Shirley Morgenstern*



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**



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Celebrate the season with powerful vocals, festive humor, and joyful holiday surprises!

**Dates:** December 13 & 14, 2025  
Maltz Performing Arts Center

## Spring Concert 2026



### SHOELESS:

#### A MUSICAL TALE OF CINDERELLA

Glass slippers, big laughs, and irresistible music – Cinderella has never been this fun!

**Dates:** March 14 & 15, 2026  
Maltz Performing Arts Center

## Summer Concert 2026



### WE BELONG

Feel the love, strength, and unity of Pride in a concert filled with joy, hope, and belonging.

**Dates:** June 13 & 14, 2026  
Maltz Performing Arts Center

To order tickets or for more information please visit [NCMChorus.org](https://www.ncmchorus.org), contact [tickets@ncmchorus.org](mailto:tickets@ncmchorus.org) or call **216.556.0590**

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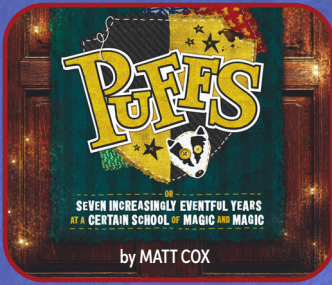
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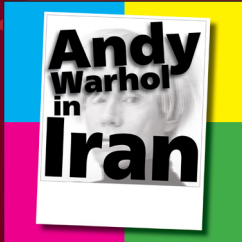
County residents make this arts experience possible through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

[cacgrants.org](http://cacgrants.org)



cuyahoga  
arts & culture

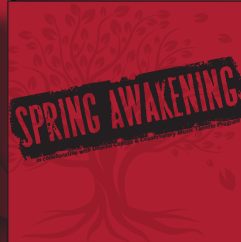
**GET READY! OUR 2025–2026  
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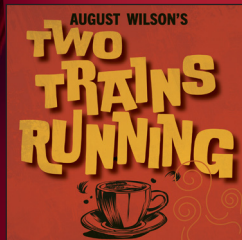
STUDIO THEATER  
OCT 3 – NOV 2, 2025



SENNEY THEATER  
DEC 5, 2025 – JAN 4, 2026



SENNEY THEATER  
FEB 13 – MAR 1, 2026



STUDIO THEATER  
FEB 27 – MAR 29, 2026



STUDIO THEATER  
MAY 29 – JUN 28, 2026



SENNEY THEATER  
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**2025-2026**

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**DECEMBER 12 & 18-21**

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Winter Sparks

**MARCH 5-8**

Palace of VERSAILLES

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2025-2026 Season Series at the Maltz Performing Arts Center

## *Totally Trumpet*

with Terell Stafford

We kick off our season with the terrific trumpet talent, Terell Stafford, who is an incredibly gifted and versatile player and equally inventive writer.



SAT, 9/27

## *Stardust*

The Songs of Hoagy Carmichael

Our 10th annual collaboration with The Musical Theater Project celebrates the songs of Hoagy Carmichael.



SAT, 1/24

## *Clubbin' Unchained*

Django and the Duke

The spirit of Duke Ellington at the Cotton Club mingles with the sounds of Django Reinhardt's Hot Club of France, to create the "CJO Club," with violinist Reed Simon.

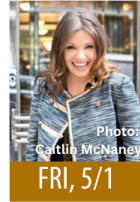


FRI, 3/20

## *Woodstock '26*

Sly, Santana, and Janis

Through jazz fusion and blues evolution, we celebrate the sounds of Sly, Santana, Janis Joplin and beyond, featuring Mary Bridget Davies.



FRI, 5/1

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Call: (216) 368-6062  
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