



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[January, 30, 2026]

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**SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2026-27 SEASON**

Season to feature world premieres by Guatemalan-American composer Xavier Beteta, Pulitzer Prize winner Susie Ibarra, and South Dakota's own Paul Lombardi.

Other Classical highlights include Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" Symphony, Beethoven's Missa solemnis, Stravinsky's earth-shaking "Firebird," Rachmaninoff's ravishing Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, and Richard Strauss' haunting Four Last Songs.

Pops programs will celebrate the American blues and Star Wars at 50.

Sioux Falls, SD – Today the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra announced details of the 2026-27 season, its 105<sup>th</sup>. Audiences will enjoy seven classical programs led by Music Director Delta David Gier, annual holiday offerings Handel's "Messiah" and 'Tis the Season, and two programs of popular American music.

The new season opens October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Washington Pavilion with Music Director Delta David Gier leading a program of rhapsodies by Enescu, Liszt, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff, as well as a world premiere commission by Xavier Beteta. Beteta's work is one of three world premieres during the 2026-27 season, with others from Pulitzer Prize winner Susie Ibarra and South Dakota's own Paul Lombardi.

Other highlights include Dvorak's "New World" Symphony (November 21, 2026), Handel's Water Music (January 23, 2027), Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" Symphony (February 6, 2027), and Stravinsky's "The Firebird" (February 27, 2027). The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

will be featured in Handel's *Messiah* (Dec. 4 & 5, 2026) and Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* (April 24, 2027).

On Sunday, April 11, the SDSO will offer a 60-minute concert specifically tailored introducing young listeners to the orchestra. Popular presentations include a salute to America's 250<sup>th</sup> (October 24, 2026) with trumpet sensation Byron Stripling, the annual celebration of the holidays – 'Tis the Season – December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and a celebration of Star Wars at 50 (March 13, 2027).

"Here in Sioux Falls we have an orchestra which is the pride of the city, the state, indeed the country" said SDSO Music Director Delta David Gier. "Each year we create programs which serve our unique community uniquely, and this 2026-27 season is no exception. As you can see, favorites from Tchaikovsky and Beethoven are balanced with exciting new works from prominent composers, and world-class soloists are featured with 'one of America's boldest orchestras'."

Subscription packages for the new season are on sale now through 3e Encore Guest Services at (605) 731-2440 open (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday). A variety of options are available, including the Imperial package which features a discount equivalent to three free concerts.

#### **About the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra**

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) is based in the vibrant and growing city of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The SDSO is the state's premiere performing arts organization with the Washington Pavilion as its home. Led by Maestro Delta David Gier, the SDSO has garnered a national reputation for innovative programming and statewide outreach. The core of SDSO is comprised of nine full-time professional musicians that make up the Dakota String Quartet and the Dakota Wind Quintet.

## 2026-2027 Season

All performances begin at 7:30pm in the Washington Pavilion unless otherwise noted.

### RAVISHING RHAPSODIES

**Saturday, October 3, 2026**

Delta David Gier, conductor

Gabriela Martinez, piano

Liszt	Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2
Rachmaninoff	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Enescu	Romanian Rhapsody 2
Beteta	World Premiere
Ravel	Rapsodie Espagnole

### AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

**Saturday, October 24, 2026**

Byron Stripling, trumpet and conductor

Mamie Parris, singer

Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with a musical journey that captures the heart and soul of the nation through its rich tapestry of sound. This exhilarating concert experience showcases the evolution of American music, from spirituals and gospel tunes that lifted spirits to the rhythms of ragtime and the heartfelt passion of the blues. Stripling's charismatic trumpet and vocals along with the incredible talent of singer Mamie Parris lead the audience through the birth of jazz, the soulful grooves of R&B, and all the vibrant genres that define the American soundscape.

### FROM THE NEW WORLD

**Saturday, November 21, 2026**

Delta David Gier, conductor

Creekside Singers

Dvorak	Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"
Busoni	Indian Fantasy
Bermel	Lakota Refrains

### HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

**Friday, December 4, 7:00pm**

**Saturday, December 5, 7:00pm**

Delta David Gier, conductor

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

The greatest story ever told. The most majestic music ever composed. Experience Handel's "Messiah" – featuring the inspiring Hallelujah Chorus – in the glory of First Lutheran Church.

**‘TIS THE SEASON**

**Saturday, December 12**

**Sunday, December 13, 2:30pm**

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Gather family and friends for the sounds of the season with the South Dakota Symphony and Chorus.

**BAROQUE FAVORITES**

**Saturday, January 23, 2027**

Delta David Gier, conductor

John Tomkins, bassoon

Rameau

Suite from *Les Boréades*

Francaix

Divertissement for Bassoon and String Orchestra

Bacewicz

Concert for String Orchestra

Handel

Water Music Suite No. 1

**TCHAIKOVSKY’S ‘PATHETIQUE’ SYMPHONY**

**Saturday, February 6, 2027**

Delta David Gier, conductor

Sibelius

Symphony No. 6

Lombardi

World Premiere

Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 6, “Pathetique”

**STRAVINSKY’S FIREBIRD**

**Saturday, February 27, 2027**

Delta David Gier, conductor

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Ravel

Le Tombeau de Couperin

Ibarra

World Premiere

Paul/Akipa

Songbird and Goose

Stravinsky

The Firebird Suite

**STAR WARS AT 50**

**Saturday, March 13, 2027**

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra pays tribute to the sounds of “a galaxy far, far, away.” Music from the groundbreaking film “Star Wars: A New Hope” in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its debut, plus highlights from “The Empire Strikes Back” to “The Mandalorian.”

**RICHARD STRAUSS: FOUR LAST SONGS**

**Saturday, APRIL 10, 2027**

Delta David Gier, conductor

Malin Hartelius, soprano

Anne Waltner, piano

Wagner	Lohengrin, Prelude to Act I
Strauss	Death and Transfiguration
Alma Mahler	Hymne
	Ansturm
	Hymne an die Nacht
Roxanna Panufnik	Alma's Songs Without Words
Strauss	Four Last Songs

**CONCERT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES**

**Sunday, APRIL 11, 2027, 4:30pm**

The Concert For Kids & Families will delight audiences of all ages. Designed to ignite your imagination, this 60-minute concert is a great introduction to the orchestra.

**BEETHOVEN MISSA SOLEMNIS**

**Saturday, April 24, 2027**

Delta David Gier, conductor

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Beethoven	Missa solemnis
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