



WESTERN PIEDMONT SYMPHONY

MATTHEW TROY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

62 SEASONS. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

2026-2027 SEASON

*Experience live orchestral music in ways you never expected.
From timeless classics and beloved traditions to bold new works and
unforgettable performances, this season brings world-class artistry to local
stages. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning for
another season, there's a place for you here.*

WPSYMPHONY.ORG

2026-2027 SEASON

Foothills Pops
SYMPHONY OF THE SHIRE
September 12, 2026
J.E. Broyhill Civic Center

Masterworks
MYSTIC HORIZONS
October 24, 2026
P.E. Monroe Auditorium

Masterworks
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
November 19, 2026
St. Luke's UMC

Foothills Pops
HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
December 4, 2026
J.E. Broyhill Civic Center

Masterworks
AMERICAN ROOTS
February 13, 2027
P.E. Monroe Auditorium

Masterworks
SPLENDID TCHAIKOVSKY
March 13, 2027
P.E. Monroe Auditorium

Foothills Pops
THE TEXAS TENORS
April 17, 2027
J.E. Broyhill Civic Center

Masterworks
ROMANTIC MASTERS
May 22, 2027
P.E. Monroe Auditorium

CONNECT WITH US

(828) 324-8603
wpsymphony.org

*NOTE: Programs, artists, venues,
prices, and dates subject to change.*

THIS IS YOUR SYMPHONY. COME AS YOU ARE.

Dear Friends,

As we begin the 62nd season of Western Piedmont Symphony (WPS), I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the successes of this past year. **There is something special that happens when a community gathers for live music.** Today, WPS is recognized throughout the broader community as an energetic and creative organization grounded in musical excellence. Our work together matters.

Every day, I remain inspired by the passion and potential of both our orchestra and our community. WPS continues to grow artistically while expanding the impact of our work through music education, arts advocacy, community partnerships, and more. Together, we have embraced new ideas while remaining committed to delivering performances that deeply resonate with our audiences.

This season, we invite you to join us on a profound and thrilling musical journey as we experience the magic of live music together in the concert hall. Whether you are a longtime supporter or a first-time attendee, our 2026–2027 season offers a dynamic lineup that blends beloved classics with fresh discoveries, featuring world-class guest artists alongside the extraordinary talents of our own WPS musicians.

This is **your** symphony. Come as you are, bring a friend, and allow the music to speak to you.

With appreciation,



Matthew Troy
Music Director





MYSTIC HORIZONS | Sandeep Das, tabla

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

📍 P.E. Monroe Auditorium, Hickory

RICHTER • On the Nature of Daylight

RANJBARAN • Seven Passages

WIJERATNE • Concerto for Tabla and Orchestra

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV • Scheherazade

Join Western Piedmont Symphony for the opening of its 62nd Masterworks season as **Maestro Matthew Troy** and the orchestra are joined by internationally acclaimed tabla virtuoso **Sandeep Das**. Rich with stories, vivid imagery, moments of sublime beauty, and the driving rhythms of North Indian classical music, **MYSTIC HORIZONS** blurs the lines between genre, time, and place. From the meditative beauty of **Max Richter** to the dazzling tales of **Scheherazade**, this captivating program invites audiences on a journey of wonder, adventure, and breathtaking musical color.



HANDEL'S MESSIAH | The Symphony Singers

Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

📍 St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Hickory

Please note: special date and special location for this concert.

HANDEL • Messiah

Experience **HANDEL'S MESSIAH** in the intimate setting of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. This historically informed Baroque performance has been meticulously curated by **Maestro Matthew Troy** to bring renewed clarity and beauty to a cherished holiday tradition. Featuring the Masterworks debut of **The Symphony Singers**, a select ensemble of professional vocal artists from our region, performing alongside a Baroque chamber orchestra. Audiences will be surrounded by soaring voices and the warm acoustics of the sanctuary as they experience one of classical music's most inspiring, enduring, and recognized masterpieces.



AMERICAN ROOTS | Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper

Saturday, February 13, 2027 | 7:30 p.m.

📍 P.E. Monroe Auditorium, Hickory

STILL • Festive Overture

IVES • Variations on "America"

O'CONNOR • Queen Anne's Revenge

COPLAND • Appalachian Spring

VARIOUS SELECTIONS • Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper

Celebrate the rich musical traditions of America, a program that spans from the concert hall to the front porch. Featuring Grammy Award-winning fiddler **Michael Cleveland** and his band **Flamekeeper**, **AMERICAN ROOTS** honors the deep musical heritage of Appalachia and the people who have shaped the sound of our region. Blending the infectious energy of bluegrass and Americana with the power of a symphony orchestra, this unforgettable concert celebrates the artistry, culture, and spirit of North Carolina.



SPLENDID TCHAIKOVSKY | Chaeyoung Park, *piano*

Saturday, March 13, 2027 | 7:30 p.m.

📍 **P.E. Monroe Auditorium, Hickory**

JARRE • *Dr. Zhivago Suite*
TCHAIKOVSKY • Piano Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY • *Marche Slav*
TCHAIKOVSKY • 1812 Overture

When composing the 1812 Overture, **Tchaikovsky** was given free rein in choosing the instruments he would use. He chose cannons. More than a century later, audiences remain captivated by the bold imagination, sweeping melodies, and emotional intensity that define his music. Featuring acclaimed pianist **Chaeyoung Park**, **SPLENDID TCHAIKOVSKY** explores both the beautiful and bombastic sides of one of classical music's most beloved composers, from the lyrical power of the Piano Concerto No. 1 to the thrilling spectacle of the 1812 Overture.



ROMANTIC MASTERS | Andrew Sords, *violin*

Saturday, May 22, 2027 | 7:30 p.m.

📍 **P.E. Monroe Auditorium, Hickory**

SMYTH • Boatswain's Mate Overture
SIBELIUS • Concerto for Violin
DVOŘÁK • Symphony No. 7

Journey through landscapes of passion, drama, and unforgettable beauty in this celebration of Romantic-era music. Featuring acclaimed violinist **Andrew Sords**, **ROMANTIC MASTERS** explores music inspired by national identity, folklore, and the natural world, brought to life through soaring melodies and richly expressive orchestral colors. From dazzling virtuosity to sweeping symphonic grandeur, this program captures the spirit of an era that embraced emotion, imagination, and the power of storytelling through music. A fitting conclusion to Western Piedmont Symphony's 62nd season, this concert promises an evening of inspiration and exhilaration.

*The **Masterworks Series** is about more than classical music. It's about gathering together to share experiences that can't be replicated through a screen. Across five remarkable concerts, you'll encounter music that celebrates cultures, traditions, and centuries, from the driving rhythms of the tabla and the energy of bluegrass to beloved holiday traditions, breathtaking symphonic storytelling, and some of the most powerful music ever written. No two concerts are alike, yet each offers the opportunity to step away from the everyday, even for a little while, and be fully present for something unforgettable.*



MASTERWORKS



*From fantasy adventures and holiday traditions to country, Broadway, classical, and pop favorites, the **Foothills Pops Series** showcases the many ways a symphony orchestra can surprise, delight, and bring people together. Whether you're singing along, dressing in costume, celebrating the season, or discovering a new favorite artist, these concerts are designed to be fun, welcoming, and unforgettable. Join Maestro Matthew Troy and the Western Piedmont Symphony for three unique live experiences that prove great music has no boundaries.*

 **All Foothills Pops concerts take place at J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.**



Saturday, September 12, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Embark on an epic musical adventure with **SYMPHONY OF THE SHIRE**, featuring beloved music from *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones*, *Hook*, *World of Warcraft*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, and more. Western Piedmont Symphony brings these iconic worlds to life in a fantasy-filled evening of excitement, nostalgia, and wonder. Costumes, cosplay, and Renaissance-inspired attire are encouraged.



Friday, December 4, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season with **HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR**, Western Piedmont Symphony's beloved annual holiday tradition. Featuring festive favorites, heartwarming classics, and joyful musical surprises, this Foothills Pops concert captures the spirit of the season for audiences of all ages. Guitarist **Matt Sickels** joins the orchestra for an electrifying tribute to the music of Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Additional guest artists to be announced.



Saturday, April 17, 2027 | 7:30 p.m.

THE TEXAS TENORS bring their signature blend of country, classical, Broadway, and pop to Lenoir for a special performance with Western Piedmont Symphony. Known to millions from **America's Got Talent**, the trio has earned national acclaim for their powerful vocals, engaging stage presence, and unique musical style. Join us for an unforgettable evening with one of America's most popular vocal groups.



FOOTHILLS POPS