

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Contact:

Caroline Nickel

cnickel@modestosymphony.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / APRIL 3, 2024

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(Pictured from left to right: top row: Nicholas Hersh, music director; Branford Marsalis, saxophone; Audrey Wright, violin; MSO Chorus; bottom row: Picnic at the Pops, Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ in Concert)

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRINGS NEW ENERGY TO 2024-2025 SEASON

- The MSO's 94th season features outstanding programming, world-renown guest artists, and the MSO Chorus.
- The season opens with a special one-night-only event, featuring Branford Marsalis!
- The Classics Series will feature the works of Vivaldi, Saint-Saëns, Modesto's own Andrew Norman, and Verdi. It also includes Disney's Fantasia Live in Concert!
- The Pops Series will feature the hits of Aretha Franklin sung by Broadway star, Capathia Jenkins and Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ in Concert.
- Picnic at the Pops! returns with Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown.

MODESTO, CA – The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO) presents their 94th season led by MSO Music Director [Nicholas Hersh](#). The MSO's season will kick off with [Picnic at the Pops! Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown](#), featuring the music of Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops, Michael Jackson, and Diana Ross.

The MSO's first concert at the Gallo Center for the Arts will be in October with a special one-night-only [Opening Night concert](#) featuring Grammy Award-winning jazz saxophonist [Branford Marsalis](#), performing **Darius Milhaud's *Scaramouche*** and **John Williams' *Escapades*** from Steven Spielberg's 2002 comedy, *Catch Me If You Can*.

This year there will be four Classics concerts with performances on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 PM at the Gallo Center for the Arts. The Classics Series will feature the works of [Vivaldi](#), [Saint-Saëns](#), Modesto's own Grammy-nominated composer **Andrew Norman**, and [Verdi](#). The Classics Series also welcomes the addition of a live-to-film performance of [Disney's Fantasia Live in Concert](#).

In addition to the Classics Series, the MSO also offers a three-concert Pops Series led by Principal Pops Conductor [Ryan Murray](#), which includes [Aretha: A Tribute](#) featuring Broadway star [Capathia Jenkins](#), and [Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ in Concert](#).

"I am overjoyed to welcome the Modesto community to our '24-25 season! My collaboration with the MSO in our first year working together has been beyond rewarding, and I am honored to continue deepening our relationship in the year to come," said Music Director Nicholas Hersh. "There is a wonderful sense of energy in each concert program we will offer, from the virtuosity of guest artists like Branford Marsalis, to the beloved marriage of animation and orchestra in Fantasia, to simply the music leaping off the page of masterworks like Verdi's timeless Requiem. There is truly something for everyone in our community to enjoy, and I look forward to welcoming audiences of all ages back to the Gallo Center next season!"

MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2024-25 SEASON OVERVIEW

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT: The MSO's 94th Season opens with [Branford Marsalis and Symphonic Dances](#). This special one-night-only concert features Grammy Award-winning jazz saxophonist [Branford Marsalis](#), performing **Darius Milhaud's *Scaramouche*** and **John Williams' *Escapades*** from Steven Spielberg's 2002 comedy, *Catch Me If You Can*. The evening will conclude with Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances.

CLASSICS SERIES: 4 concerts performed on both Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM in the Mary Stuart Rogers Theater at Gallo Center for the Arts

The MSO begins the Classics Series on November 1 & 2, 2024 with [The Four Seasons Mixtape](#). The evening will start with **Mendelssohn's romantic Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and **Ortiz's *La Calaca*** which features driving rhythms and stirring melodies inspired by the traditions of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) that celebrate the afterlife in Mexican culture. The MSO will dive deeper into each season with a "mixtape" from Hersh featuring one movement each from **Vivaldi**, **Richter**, **Ysaÿe**, and **Piazzolla** to create an exploration not only of the seasons, but of each of their cultures.

The Classics Series welcomes the addition of a live-to-film performance of [Disney's Fantasia Live in Concert](#) on February 7 & 8, 2025. Families of all ages will enjoy iconic scenes from the original 1940 film and *Fantasia 2000* paired with orchestral masterpieces like Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, performed live by the MSO and conductor **Ryan Murray**.

On April 11 & 12, 2025, the MSO performs [Camille Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals](#), as well as a piece by Modesto's own and two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, composer **Andrew Norman**. The evening concludes with the MSO performing **Copland's Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo**, with the young musicians of the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra playing side-by-side on Hoedown.

The Classics Series concludes on May 9 & 10, 2025 with the MSO and MSO Chorus performing [Verdi's Requiem](#).

POPS SERIES: Three concerts on Fridays at 7:30 pm and two Saturday matinee performances at 2 pm, performed in the Mary Stuart Rogers Theater at the Gallo Center for the Arts conducted by **Principal Pops Conductor Ryan Murray**.

The Pops Series begins with a celebration of the Holiday Season with the ever-popular [Holiday Pops](#) concert. The MSO will be joined by the MSO Chorus on December 6, 2024 at 7:30 pm and December 7, 2024 at 2pm.

The second concert in the Pops Series will be on March 14, 2025 with [Aretha: A Tribute](#). This high-energy, glittering tribute to the Queen of Soul features your Modesto Symphony Orchestra with Broadway star **Capathia Jenkins!** The evening will feature **Aretha Franklin's** iconic hits like "Respect," "Think," "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools," "Amazing Grace," and many more.

The Pops Series will close with [Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ in Concert](#). Fans will be able to experience the full movie with the MSO performing the full score live to film on May 30 & 31, 2025.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY CONCERTS: Picnic at the Pops on September 7, 2024 and the Holiday Candlelight Concert on December 17, 2024.

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra will present their [28th Annual Picnic at the Pops!](#) on September 7, 2024 with **Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown**. Grounds open at 5 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm at the E. & J. Gallo Winery.

MSO Chorus Director Dr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr. once again leads the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, plus the Opus Handbell Ensemble in a special concert that has become a treasured community tradition, the [Holiday Candlelight Concert](#) on December 17, 2024 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.

TICKETS:

Subscription packages and single tickets for the MSO's 2024-25 season will be on sale starting June 3, 2024 online, by phone, and at the Gallo Center Ticket Office. Visit [ModestoSymphony.org](https://www.ModestoSymphony.org) for full details.

Gallo Center Ticket Office

Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Phone: 209.338.2100

FULL MSO 2024-25 SEASON LISTING

Nicholas Hersh, Music Director

SEASON OPENER:

Branford Marsalis & Symphonic Dances

October 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Nicholas Hersh, *conductor*

Branford Marsalis, *saxophone*

Program:

- **Alexander Borodin:** Polovtsian Dances from *Prince Igor*
- **Darius Milhaud:** *Scaramouche*
- **John Williams:** Escapades from *Catch Me If You Can*
- **Sergei Rachmaninoff:** Symphonic Dances

CLASSICS SERIES:

The Four Seasons Mixtape

November 1 & 2, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Nicholas Hersh, *conductor*

Audrey Wright, *violin*

Program:

- **Felix Mendelssohn:** Overture from *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 21
- **Gabriela Ortiz:** *La Calaca* for String Orchestra
- **The Four Seasons Mixtape:**
 - **Antonio Vivaldi:** *L'estate* (Summer)
 - **Max Richter:** Autumn from *The Four Seasons Recomposed*
 - **Eugène Ysaÿe:** *Chant d'hiver* (Wintersong)
 - **Astor Piazzolla:** *Primavera porteña* (Buenos Aires Spring)

Disney's Fantasia Live in Concert

February 7 & 8, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

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Carnival of the Animals

April 11 & 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Nicholas Hersh, *conductor*

Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra, side-by-side

Program:

- **George Gershwin (arr. Nicholas Hersh):** Three Preludes
- **Camille Saint-Saëns:** Carnival of the Animals
- **Andrew Norman:** *Drip Blip Sparkle Spin Glint Glide Glow Float Flop Chop Pop Shatter Splash*
- **Aaron Copland:** Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo*

Verdi's Requiem

May 9 & 10, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Nicholas Hersh, *conductor*

MSO Chorus, Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

Program:

- **Giuseppe Verdi:** Requiem

POPS SERIES:

Ryan Murray, Principal Pops Conductor

Holiday Pops!

December 6, 2024 at 7:30 pm

December 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

MSO Chorus, Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

To Be Announced, *guest vocalist*

Aretha: A Tribute

March 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

Capathia Jenkins, *guest vocalist*

Ryan Shaw, *guest vocalist*

Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ in Concert

Live Orchestra with Full Length Film

May 30, 2025 at 7:30 pm

May 31, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

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SPECIAL COMMUNITY CONCERTS:

Picnic at the Pops! Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown

September 7, 2024

E. & J. Gallo Winery Grounds

Grounds open at 5:00 pm

Concert starts at 7:30 pm

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

Chester Gregory, *guest vocalist*
Shayna Steele, *guest vocalist*
Terron Brooks, *guest vocalist*

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 17, 2024 at 8:00 pm

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *conductor*

MSO Chorus, Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

Opus Handbell Ensemble, Richard Colla, *Opus Handbell Ensemble director*

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*The Modesto Symphony Orchestra is a Resident Company of The Gallo Center for the Arts
The DoubleTree Hotel is the official hotel of the MSO*