

LESSON PLAN MATERIALS ON WHAT TO EXPECT AT PALM BEACH SYMPHONY'S ORIGINAL PRODUCTION OF *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA*:

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR WHAT THEY WILL EXPERIENCE:

The students will be audience members for a live and engaging performance by Palm Beach Symphony conducted by Music Director Gerard Schwarz that is an original, newly crafted production especially developed for youth called *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*. Most of the musical selections in this production were written by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) during the Romantic period, and much of his output includes his ever-famous ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty*.

STORYLINE SYNOPSIS OF *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA*:

Step into a magical musical fairytale with the Palm Beach Symphony, conducted by Music Director Gerard Schwarz, narrated by Jody Schwarz, and brought to life through enchanting illustrations by Michelle Sherman. This children's concert follows Princess Beauty Hamilton, a young girl whose deep love for music leads her to a royal orchestra audition and into a dramatic curse cast by a jealous rival. As the tale unfolds, the orchestra brings her journey to life through enchanting excerpts from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's most beloved works, from the sparkling "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" to the thrilling "Russian Dance," the lyrical Violin Concerto, and the sweeping drama of *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Blending storytelling, live orchestral performance, and vivid visuals, the concert invites children into a world where music becomes magic, courage triumphs over fear, and a single beautiful waltz has the power to break even the darkest spells, awakening a sleeping princess and restoring harmony to the kingdom.

After reading this synopsis:

- Ask the students what instrument they think Princess Beauty plays.
- Ask the students what event turned Princess Beauty into Sleeping Beauty in the original story versus ours.

Now have your students compare our new production of "Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra" to the tradition story they know and love.

- Ask the students what role Princess Beauty plays in our production of "Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra." Answer: she is a musician in our production.
- Without knowing the full story of our production of "Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra", ask the students to predict how they think Princess Beauty ends up "Sleeping" and what makes her awaken from her sleep.
- Ask students to predict the ending to the story, in addition to Princess Beauty awakening from her sleep.

After your students attend the performance, discuss the story of our new production of "Sleeping and the Orchestra" with the traditional story.

- Ask the students how the ending of our story differs from the traditional story.
- Ask the students about the predictions they made before attending the show. Were their predictions correct or different?
- Ask the students what universal themes were evident in both stories.
- Ask the students to compare and contrast how the author of our story adapted or made changes to the original story.

WHAT IS A COMPOSER?

A composer is the person that writes the music that musicians perform. In the instance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, one of his special areas of concentration was as a ballet composer, which is a musician who creates original scores specifically designed to accompany dancers, collaborating closely with choreographers to support dramatic narrative, tempo, and emotional tone. See Tchaikovsky's biography below.

Portrait of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky:



WHAT IS A CONDUCTOR?

Gerard Schwarz is the conductor of Palm Beach Symphony. He is also the Music Director, and this means that he selects the music our orchestra will play. A conductor is a person that stands in the front and center of an ensemble and leads the musicians so that they are playing the music together. They make silent gestures that tell musicians the tempo, what beat they are on in each measure (for example, beat 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), what meter the music is in, when their entrances are so that they know when to begin playing their part, what dynamic to play at such as soft or loud, direction on phrasing and shaping musical lines, and shows the musicians how to play with a uniform sound of interpretation of the music. Conductors use a baton to conduct with that is held in their right hand. Another name for a conductor is maestro. Maestro Schwarz is friendly and loves to conduct Palm Beach Symphony in our children's concerts.

Photo of Palm Beach Symphony's Music Director and Conductor for *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*.



To view his biography, please visit:

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/about/music-director>

WHAT IS AN AUTHOR?

An author creates a literary work. Jody Schwarz is the author of this original story of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, which incorporates excerpts from some of Tchaikovsky's most famous and beloved works and combines them with a fresh take on the classical story of Sleeping Beauty and its iterations. This author will also serve as the Narrator in our production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, bringing her unique story to life through her own voice. Jody is married to Music Director Gerard Schwarz, who are both pictured together here.



WHAT IS AN ILLUSTRATOR?

An illustrator is an artist who specializes in enhancing other forms of art by providing visual representation that corresponds to the content of the associated text, music, dance, and other art forms and ideas. Visual artist and illustrator Michelle Sherman (pictured below), a Dreyfoos alumna, is our featured artist in *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, in which her phenomenal watercolor illustrations will help us bring to the life the captivating elements of this original children's concert.



Go here for Michelle Sherman's bio: https://palmbeachsymphony-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/bseliger_palmbeachsymphony_org/IQBOZ6SASD1QQZdN8LceUeDnAZBjbvz6wJBEJa0IMKOG-DQ?e=aMPIA9

LESSON PLAN MATERIALS ON THE COMPOSER AND THE MUSIC YOU WILL HEAR IN PALM BEACH SYMPHONY'S ORIGINAL PRODUCTION OF *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA*:

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON COMPOSER PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893):

Pyotr (or Peter, as we say in English) Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, a town in Russia's Ural Mountains, in 1840. When he was 8 years old, his family moved to the capital city of St. Petersburg. Even though Tchaikovsky was a good musician as a child, that wasn't considered an acceptable profession, so his parents made him study law. But even in law school, Tchaikovsky continued to study music. Eventually, he gave up his legal job and went to the St. Petersburg Conservatory. After he graduated, he moved to Moscow to teach at the new conservatory there that is now named after him.

Tchaikovsky lived during the Romantic period in classical music that occurred roughly from the early 1800's to the early 1900's. He is the most popular and beloved Russian composer of all time! His music has great appeal for people across the globe. His melodies are gorgeous, tuneful, and open-hearted, and his harmonies are impressive. His music is colorful with picturesque orchestration, all of which evoke a profound emotional response.

His prized compositions include:

- 7 symphonies (6 numbered symphonies plus *Manfred*)
- 3 ballets
- 11 operas
- 5 suites
- 3 piano concertos
- 1 violin concerto
- 11 overtures (strictly speaking, 3 overtures and 8 single movement programmatic orchestral works)
- 4 cantatas
- 20 choral works
- 3 string quartets
- 1 string sextet
- And more than 100 songs and piano pieces.

In connection to our production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, Tchaikovsky's ballets include *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*, and you will hear selections from these ballets when you see our live performance. Ballet is a theatrical performance that tells a story using music, costumes, sets, and dance. Fun fact: Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* is the most performed ballet across the entire world, especially during the Christmas season.

For many years, Tchaikovsky had a patroness named Nadezhda von Meck, a wealthy widow who was a big fan of Tchaikovsky's music. She regularly sent him money so that he could concentrate on composing without having to worry about finances. But Nadezhda von Meck didn't want to meet Tchaikovsky. For 14 years, they only communicated by writing letters to each other. Tchaikovsky dedicated his Fourth Symphony to her.

Tchaikovsky traveled all over Europe to for performances of his music. In 1891, he even came to America for the opening of Carnegie Hall in New York City, where he was invited to conduct his music. He passed away in 1893 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

TCHAIKOVSKY'S COMPOSITIONAL STYLE:

Tchaikovsky tells stories through music using lush melodies, emotional intensity, and dramatic orchestration that acts as a sonic narrative, transforming ballet from simple accompaniment into a storytelling tool. He employed leitmotifs (recurring themes), vivid instrumentation to represent characters, and structured emotional journeys from tender love to intense tragedy to convey narratives. His work is often considered the peak of Romanticism, prioritizing emotional truth and storytelling over strict formal structure.

Tchaikovsky's Key Storytelling Techniques:

- **Elevated Emotional Narrative:** Tchaikovsky used intense emotional arcs rather than abstract beauty in his music, particularly in ballets like *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*.
- **Leitmotifs and Theme Development** (see below for more detail): He used recurring themes to represent characters or concepts.
- **Orchestration as Characterization:** Tchaikovsky used specific instruments to evoke emotion. For example, he employed the newly invented celesta to create a magical, ethereal atmosphere for the "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" in *The Nutcracker*.

- Ballet as Emotional Drama: Before Tchaikovsky, ballet music was often secondary, but he utilized waltzes, pantomime, and dramatic symphonic structures to tell stories of good versus evil and passionate romance, such as in *The Sleeping Beauty*.
- Musical Imagery in Program Music (see below for more detail): In works like *The Tempest* or *Romeo and Juliet*, he used orchestral coloring to depict action, such as crashing waves or energetic sword duels.

What is a Waltz and Why is this Important?

A waltz is a ballroom dance and musical form in 3/4 time that originated in Austria in the late 18th century, characterized by a strong accent on the first beat and a smoother motion on beats 2 and 3. This is meaningful because the triumphant melody and main theme in our production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra* is a waltz (also known as valse).

What is Program Music?

Program music, also known as programmatic music, is instrumental music that tells a story, depicts a scene, or evokes an idea or mood. Program music often uses titles, program notes, or other cues to guide the listener's imagination and understanding of the narrative. In the instance of our Palm Beach Symphony production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, our author of this new story arc will serve as our narrator. This narration combined with the music of Tchaikovsky among others will bring our production to elevated heights of powerful storytelling. In this instance, the pinnacle of this story will brilliantly come to life with Tchaikovsky's "Waltz" (also known as "Garland's Waltz" or "Valse des fleurs") from his ballet score *The Sleeping Beauty*.

What is a Leitmotif?

A **leitmotif** is a recurring musical theme associated with a specific character, object, or idea, which helps to deepen the emotional impact and narrative coherence of a performance. Leitmotifs are a technique popularized by the Romantic composers Hector Berlioz who first named it an *idée fixe* (1803-1869) and Richard Wagner (1813-1883) who called it a leitmotif.

To provide a readily apparent example of a leitmotif, living composer and conductor John Williams (born in 1932) is a master of composing program music, especially in his compositions for films, television shows, the Olympics, and theme songs to all sorts of things.

Here are two examples of John Williams' famous leitmotifs:

- "Hedwig's Theme" from the Harry Potter series is a leitmotif. It is a musical phrase that is used repeatedly throughout the Harry Potter film series to represent the wizarding world, Harry Potter's connection to it, and the magical elements of the story, serving as a musical key that signals the presence of magic or the wizarding world. The theme is not just a simple musical phrase; it's a symbol of the entire magical universe in the Harry Potter story.

Video of John Williams conducting his own composition of "Hedwig's Theme" that is heard in the Harry Potter series with the Berlin Philharmonic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3UGOu-tqII>

- Video of John Williams conducting his own composition of "Darth Vader's Theme" also known as "The Imperial March" from the Star Wars odyssey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFJv6iowcXA>

CHIEF MOVEMENT OF MUSIC AND LEITMOTIF IN PALM BEACH SYMPHONY'S *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA*

In this instance of Palm Beach Symphony's production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, there is a leitmotif associated with a character in Tchaikovsky's "Waltz" (also known as "Garland's Waltz") from his ballet score *The Sleeping Beauty*. At the end of our production, the leitmotif and most important melody of all is what awakens our Sleeping Beauty called Princess Beauty Hamilton! Recalling an excerpt from our storyline synopsis, "...a single beautiful waltz has the power to break even the darkest spells, awakening a sleeping princess and restoring harmony to the kingdom."

Here are video link options to the music with its opening melody serving as Princess Beauty Hamilton's leitmotif in *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*.

This is a video clip of only the leitmotif itself from the “Waltz” performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra with the sheet music of the melody alone:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/rgkysVxNqYg>

These video clips are the complete “Waltz” movement offered in a variety of options:

Mariinsky Theatre with conductor Valery Gergiev and the video view is of ballet dancers (best recording option of these) – the main theme and leitmotif begins at 0:37:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBEqg2HO-yI>

Video view is of the full score – beginning at 19:16 – with Philharmonia Cassovia conducted by Andrew Morgrelia (Valse means Waltz): – the main theme and leitmotif begins at 19:51:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRQyVDSbkeA&t=1156s>

Danish National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Patrick Ringborg, and the video view is of a full symphony orchestra:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIT3H3lybbU&list=RDfIT3H3lybbU&start_radio=1

THE MUSICAL FORM OF TCHAIKOVSKY’S “WALTZ” FROM *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY* **THAT IS THE PRIMARY ELEMENT OF OUR PRODUCTION:**

Tchaikovsky’s “Waltz” in *The Sleeping Beauty* is a famous, high-energy, and lyrical movement. It follows a traditional ternary form (A–B–A) beginning with an introduction that is triumphant and a grand, then moves into a sweeping well-known melody, choreographed for the corps de ballet (the ensemble or “body” of a ballet company) as a celebratory dance. Waltzes from the Romantic era characteristically are in ternary form.

In teaching ternary form, explain the above information. Then play this video below for them and ask them to raise their hands each time they hear a new section occur and a previously stated leitmotif (melody) repeat again, which would be the repeat of theme A at 2:39. After they hear this movement the whole way through the first time, then play it for them again and repeat having them raise their hands at each new section. Through exposure to the music, they will then associate the different element of this waltz’s form and become acquainted with the most important leitmotif of our concert. You may also consider having them sway along to the waltz meter, moving side to side on the downbeats, to emulate the organic dance feel of a waltz.

Audio/Visual Aid to Understanding and Hearing Ternary Form in this “Waltz” by Tchaikovsky:

Here the ternary form is now outlined in this specific video clip of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Patrick Ringborg that shows a full symphony orchestra performing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIT3H3lybbU&list=RDfIT3H3lybbU&start_radio=1.

This is how to follow the ternary form in this recording:

Ternary Form (Theme A – Theme B – Theme A) that first starts out with a powerful introduction:

0:00 -0:30 – Introduction

0:31 -1:05 – Theme A (this is the primary leitmotif theme that awakens our main character Princess Beauty Hamilton)

1:06 -2:38 – Theme B

2:39 -end – Theme A (a return the primary leitmotif)

LESSON PLAN MATERIALS ON THE INSTRUMENTS YOU WILL SEE AND HEAR IN OUR PRODUCTION OF *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA* AND AN OVERVIEW OF INSTRUMENTS TRADITIONALLY PLAYED IN A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THE FAMILIES THEY BELONG TO:

INSTRUMENTS YOU WILL SEE AND HEAR IN OUR PRODUCTION OF *SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE ORCHESTRA*:

Strings:

Violin (divided into sections of 1st and 2nd violins)

Viola

Cello

Double Bass
Harp

Woodwinds:

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
Clarinet
Bassoon

Brass:

French horn
Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba

Percussion:

Timpani
Triangle
Snare drum
Cymbals
Bass drum
and more

INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

Begin a discussion about what the word "family" means. Take all answers from students. Help lead the discussion towards the four families of musical instruments. In this case, "family" means a group of instruments that have similarities to each other. The students will discover what those similarities are by looking and listening.

Display "The Instruments in a Symphony Orchestra" graphics on a screen for your students to see or print it out to distribute to them. https://palmbeachsymphony-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/bseliger_palmbeachsymphony_org/IQBweRpOj70tOq5c6JMC5zJMAdO_QKjJRffGXOC5mQ58zQ?e=UVRxZU

THE INSTRUMENTS IN A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Strings



Percussion



Brass



Woodwinds



The Palm Beach Symphony

**PALM BEACH
SYMPHONY**
GERARD SCHWARZ MUSIC DIRECTOR

Next, post these Instrument Family graphics seen below on a screen for your students to see and/or give them this handout with all 4 families:

https://palmbeachsymphony-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/bseliger_palmbeachsymphony_org/IQBxD86AYsNnRL-17CfilAjeAcVGxb0VCYycWvduWmjf3qM?e=xLHt9y

Starting with the String family, ask students to look for ways in which the instruments look alike. Make four columns on a chart, so that you can write down their observations for each of the four families.

Discuss the types of instruments commonly found in an orchestra and then play the video links under each instrument family so that they can hear what each instrument sounds like both individually and then together. This information identifies the four main instrumental families in an orchestra, the individual instruments within them, and video links in which these instruments play separately and then together. After listening to the audio/video clips, ask the students which instrument(s) they like and why.

Strings – The string section is made up of instruments that are bowed or plucked, such as a violin, viola, cello or bass. Another string instrument is the harp. Guitar is a string instrument, though it is not often played in a symphony orchestra.



- For more detailed information visit <https://www.allnewton.org/string-family>
- This video has these instruments play separately and then together:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP2_6OLummA

Woodwinds – Woodwind instruments use air to create a sound. Some woodwind instruments such as a bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, and oboe use a reed and/or mouthpiece, and the flute has a lip plate resting on a headjoint. There are holes in the body of the instrument that the musician covers and uncovers to produce different pitches. Please note, the saxophone and recorder are not often found in a symphony orchestra.



- For more detailed information visit <https://www.allnewton.org/woodwind-family>
- This video has these instruments play separately and then together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEt1Mm8sSkA>

Brass – Instruments in the brass section produce sound when the musician pushes air through the mouthpiece while vibrating or “buzzing” their lips to produce the pitches. Trumpets, trombones, French horns, and tubas can be found in the brass section.



- For more detailed information visit <https://www.allnewton.org/brass-family>
- This video has these instruments play separately and then together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE0aSxziNdY&t=4s>

Percussion – Percussion instruments are shaken, rattled, blown into, or hit such as drums, cymbals, gongs, bells, and whistles. Pictured below are some primary percussion instruments played in an orchestra. There are countless other percussion instruments. These pictures reflect only a small fraction of percussion instruments. The piano is also a percussion instrument.



- For more detailed information visit <https://philharmonia.co.uk/resources/instruments/percussion/>
- This video has these instruments play separately and then together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGKpngeslSI>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY MATERIALS THAT ENHANCE AND REINFORCE ABOVE LESSONS PLANS

"INSIDE THE ORCHESTRA" ONLINE MUSICAL LESSONS AND GAME FOR GRADES K-12:

This website offers a plethora of highly educational lessons and games for grades K-12 in English, Spanish, and French. Play audio files and video clips of individual instruments or multiple families of instruments of your choosing, learn facts about the instruments, answer fun questions, play creative games, have students draw in coloring book pages of instruments while listening to playlists of what these same instruments sound like, compose your own music, and much more here: <https://insideorchestr.wpenginepowered.com/virtual-school-programs-hub/online-musical-games-language/>

Materials Needed for the Trip

What should students/teachers bring on the field trip/experience? Special clothing/footwear?

Guests do not need to bring anything or wear special clothing/footwear.

Lesson Activity

What will students be doing during the field trip/experience? Does this trip involve topics that involve

sensitive or mature content, water activities or water contact, contact with animals, hazardous activities, or any other important information? Indicate here if on-campus/virtual options are available.

The performance does not include sensitive or mature content, water, or water contact, contact with live or hazardous activities, or live animals. The students will be audience members for a live symphony orchestra show especially crafted for youth. There will be a live performance by the Palm Beach Symphony under the baton of Music Director Gerard Schwarz that is narrated by the show's author, Jody Schwarz. On-campus and virtual options are not available for these Children's Concerts. They are only available live and in-person.

How will the Learning Goal be assessed at the end of the field trip/experience?
Will there be a student product?

There will be a Teacher Survey and a Student Survey.

Provide follow-up resources here. (Websites, etc)

For more information on our production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, please visit
<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/Sleeping-beauty-and-the-orchestra>



FOR INQUIRIES RELATING TO ANY OF THESE RESOURCES NOTED BELOW, PLEASE CONTACT:

Bryce Seliger, DMA
Education & Programming Associate
Palm Beach Symphony
bseliger@palmbeachsymphony.org

PALM BEACH SYMPHONY (PBS) HOMEPAGE:

www.palmbeachsymphony.org

MUSIC EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY IMPACT VIDEOS:

- Education Video from 2025-26 Season (at the top of webpage) –
<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/education/education>
- Annual Gala Video from 2025-26 Season – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrOtuSwKA5k>

PBS EDUCATION PAGE:

Our PBS music education webpage that includes children's concerts we have provided for the past several years is
<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/education/education>

PBS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PAGE:

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/community-outreach>

FREE POSTER OF "INSTRUMENTS IN A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" THAT MAY BE PRINTED OUT OR PROJECTED (FIRST IMAGE SHOWN IN THIS LESSON PLAN):

https://palmbeachsymphony-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/bseliger_palmbeachsymphony_org/IQBxD86AYsNnRL-I7CfilAjeAcVGxb0VCYycWvduWmjf3qM?e=cl7Mip

MASTERWORKS CONCERT SERIES COMPLIMENTARY AND DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS:

We believe you need to see it to be it! Thanks to the generous support of sponsors and donors, we provide a limited number of free tickets to most of our Children's Concerts and all of our Masterworks Concerts to teachers, music students, school administrators, and their families. For complimentary tickets, please contact Bryce Seliger at bseliger@palmbeachsymphony.org. Beyond this, we offer \$10 tickets to students, educators, and their family members that can be purchased through our Box Office by contacting Sage Lehman, Patron Relations Concierge, at (561) 281-0415 – boxoffice@palmbeachsymphony.org.

TODD BARRON INSTRUMENT DONATION FUND AND PROGRAM:

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/education/instrument-donations>

Palm Beach Symphony happily donates brand-new and repaired instruments to deserving K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students, school music programs, and youth music programs in Southeast Florida. We accept donations of professional and amateur quality band and orchestral instruments and ensure the instruments meet performance standards before they are donated. The instruments come fully outfitted with appropriate accessories, such as bows, rosin, reeds, mouthpieces, and cases.

LISA BRUNA B-MAJOR AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO WIN BRAND-NEW PROFESSIONAL MODEL INSTRUMENTS:

Nominations for the 2026-27 season will open in August 2026

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/b-major>

THE PAUL & KAREN LEVY RESIDENCY PROGRAM & COACHING SESSIONS:

Palm Beach Symphony musicians are teaching artists that lead coaching sessions with students. **This year we held our coveted Paul & Karen Levy Residency Program at a record 9 Title I schools in elementary, middle, and high school music programs serving 12 band and string/orchestra programs.** Student musicians learn technique, tone, posture, proper instrument position, and much more in small group settings under the tutelage of our professional Palm Beach Symphony Artists-in-Residence. Depending on the needs of the students at the schools, the students come together in a large group at the end of the session to work on ensemble balance rehearsing alongside our PBS musicians. Schools with a Palm Beach Symphony Residency benefit from coaching sessions for specific instruments on a continuous basis throughout the school year. Through funding generously supported by donors, sponsors, and Palm Beach Symphony, we provide select Title I schools with a Residency Program each year that is free of charge to recipients. A school or foundation may also fund a Symphony Residency or individual coaching session if desired.

This recently enhanced, holistic Paul & Karen Levy Residency Program now includes the new element of **School Concert Side-by-Sides**, in which our Symphony Artists-in-Residence play alongside their students at their school concerts and preceding dress rehearsals for their friends, family, and school community. Additionally, partnering Residency Program schools receive In-School Concerts and instruments to further support their educational needs. **If an elementary, middle, or high school instrumental music teacher is interested in having their instrumental music program participate in our Paul & Karen Levy Residency Program, please contact Bryce Seliger by August 2026 at bseliger@palmbeachsymphony.org to be considered for the 2026-27 academic year.**

IN-SCHOOL CONCERTS & LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS:

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/lecture-demonstrations-and-in-school-concerts>

In-School Concerts are unique Lecture Demonstrations offering students an opportunity to hear and speak to a small group of professional musicians in a more personal and intimate setting. The purpose of this program is to provide mentorship, guidance, and inspiration not only to further students' musical interests and abilities, but to help develop and foster collaboration, communication, and creativity - leading them toward understanding their role in a culturally diverse global society. This highly sought after program is offered directly to school sites, or as a virtual option. Through generous grants and the support of sponsors and donors, In-School Concerts are offered free of charge to Title I schools. Limited funding available, so we encourage teachers to request this early in each new academic year. Others may hire us for a fee.

OPEN REHEARSALS & SPECIAL TOPIC SEMINARS:

We occasionally offer highly insightful opportunities for students to observe open rehearsals featuring world renowned soloists as they work with our Music Director Gerard Schwarz and the Palm Beach Symphony. It is extraordinarily educational for students to observe how musicians put the music together and how the conductor chooses to rehearse them to prepare for performances up close and in person. This offering is free of charge. Please contact us if you are interested in this opportunity.

We also occasionally offer special topic seminars open to the public that are free of charge. Moreover, we have a **Lunch & Learn Series** that accompanies each of our Masterworks Concerts for the season, and you may contact Sage Lehman, Patron Relations Concierge at slehman@palmbeachsymphony.org for more information.

MASTERCLASSES:

A masterclass is an individual coaching session by a master musician in front an audience, a class, or in public. Student musicians will perform a prepared piece for expert feedback on areas for improvement, including musical technique, style, interpretative qualities, presentation, and overall musicality. We provide masterclasses led by some of our world-renowned featured Masterworks Concert Series soloists as well as by our own Palm Beach Symphony musicians per the request of instrumental music teachers. Our masterclasses provided by our featured Masterworks soloists are free admission and open to the public. 2026-27 season masterclass dates/times/locations are to be determined. The featured guest soloists leading masterclasses in the 2026-27 will be world renowned superstar musicians, including pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Yefim Bronfman and violinists Augustin Hadelich and Pinchas Zukerman.

COMMUNITY SIDE-BY-SIDE:

We are pleased to offer another Community Side-by-Side opportunity in May 2027 (similar to our last one in May 2025), and this will be a part of Palm Beach Symphony's final Masterworks Concert of the season held at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. The concert will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2027, beginning at 3pm. This Community Side-by-Side is an epic opportunity for students, teachers, and community members of any age capable of meeting participation expectations to play alongside professional Palm Beach Symphony musicians. The repertoire is Richard Wagner's "Prelude" to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (subject to change). Participation requirements, application materials, sheet music, rehearsal dates/times/locations, and other details will be provided and announced soon.

STEAM AT THE COX SCIENCE CENTER & AQUARIUM:

In partnership with the Cox Science Center and Aquarium, we provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, and Mathematics) sessions throughout the academic year. Each 3-hour session is led by a Palm Beach Symphony musician who teaches about the intersection of music and a STEM topic. These fun, educational, and engaging sessions have themes, and children actively participate in the lesson and leave with a toy instrument that encapsulates what they learned. They even get the chance to play real instruments taught by our master musicians.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Nominations for the 2026-27 season will open in August 2026

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/instrumental-music-teacher-of-the-year>

Eligibility – Teacher nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Teach in a K-12 public, private, or charter school in Palm Beach County
- Have a minimum of three years of experience as a band or orchestra instructor
- Have an exemplary history of work as a music educator and leader
- Exhibit an active role in the community as a performing arts educator
- Demonstrate an ability to successfully transfer knowledge, passion, and love of music to students and to inspire them to build musical knowledge and experiences
- Meet standards of professional and ethical conduct and demonstrate respect and integrity in working with students, parents, and colleagues

Award Package:

- Official Instrumental Music Teacher of the Year plaque or trophy
- Coaching sessions and/or Masterclasses by Palm Beach Symphony musicians at winner's school during spring semester (\$2,000 value)
- Classroom visit and conducting coaching by Palm Beach Symphony Music Director Gerard Schwarz
- Invitation for a student music ensemble of the winning teacher's choice to perform at a Palm Beach Symphony event
- Complimentary tickets for winner and students to attend a Palm Beach Symphony Masterworks concert at the Kravis Center (date and time TBD)
- Basket of Indulgences: Enjoyable personal and pampering gift items as well as local gift certificates
- Official award presentation at a Palm Beach Symphony event

- Press Release announcement with photo in local media

THE RANDOLPH A. FRANK PRIZE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS:

Nominations for the 2026-27 season will open in Fall 2026

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/randolph-a-frank-prize-for-performing-arts>

The mission of the Randolph A. Frank Prize for the Performing Arts is to recognize and reward individual performing artists and dedicated educators in dance, drama, and music who enrich the quality of the performing arts in Palm Beach County, Florida. All established and emerging individuals who regularly perform or engage in performing arts education in Palm Beach County are eligible for consideration for the Frank Prize that is awarded annually. Prize categories include Performing Artist, Performing Arts Educator, and Emerging Artist. One to three winners are selected and awarded a total of \$10,000. For more information including eligibility criteria, visit the webpage noted above.

Scheduling Information

How should the teacher contact you to schedule a field trip/experience?

What days/times are available?

Note: School buses are available Monday - Friday. Students cannot depart earlier than 9:30 AM and must be back on campus by 1:00 PM.

Reference the [SDPBC Approved Calendar](#) for important dates.

SCHOOL SHOW FIELD TRIPS 1-3:

SCHOOL SHOW FIELD TRIP 1

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, from 10:30-11:30am

Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at Palm Beach State College

1977 SW College Drive, Belle Glade, FL 33430

FREE ADMISSION

To attend, please contact Mary-Margaret Dale at daledm@palmbeachstate.edu – (561) 993-1160 and Norma Castillo O'Hep as the contact ohpdejn@pbsc.edu – (561) 993-1036.

SCHOOL SHOW FIELD TRIP 2

Monday, October 26, 2026, from 10:30-11:30am

The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Dreyfoos Hall

701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

The *S*T*A*R Series* Teacher Ticket On Sale Day is Saturday, August 22 at 11 am. Tickets may be requested online by visiting <https://www.kravis.org/star-series-performances/>

Tickets are \$5 per person – Palm Beach County public school students eligible for the National School Lunch Program receive an Admission Waiver. If the performance is Sold Out, teachers may request to be waitlisted for the event. One chaperone is recommended for every 10 students and is admitted free. Tickets sold are general admission. There are no seat assignments.

SCHOOL SHOW FIELD TRIP 3

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from 10:30-11:30am

Duncan Theater at Palm Beach State College

4200 S Congress Ave, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33461

FREE ADMISSION

To attend, please contact Sage Lehman at (561)281-0145 or slehman@palmbeachsymphony.org

FAMILY SHOW:

To be announced.

For more information on our production of *Sleeping Beauty and the Orchestra*, please visit

<https://www.palmbeachsymphony.org/programs/Sleeping-beauty-and-the-orchestra>



Directions to the venue

(Google maps links are great!)

Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at Palm Beach State College

1977 SW College Drive, Belle Glade, FL 33430

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Dolly+Hand+Cultural+Arts+Center/@26.6759431,-80.6912045,17z/data=!3m2!4b!5s0x88d95a7786bf6d51:0xed41ff1c0df60bf1!4m6!3m5!1s0x88d95a779d23e2c1:0x4cb68ca08f62defd!8m2!3d26.6759383!4d-80.6886296!16s%2Fg%2F1tdyl_tw?authuser=0&entry=ttu

Duncan Theater at Palm Beach State College

4200 S Congress Ave, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33461

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Duncan+Theatre/@26.6118348,-80.089473,17z/data=!3m2!4b!5s0x88d8d86d3f6c78b9:0x56ffb12fc5916edc!4m6!3m5!1s0x88d8d872790d585b:0xfec795a19ae74dec!8m2!3d26.6118348!4d-80.0868981!16s%2Fg%2F1ff58pkh?entry=ttu&_ep=EgoyMDI1MDQyOC4wKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Raymond+F.+Kravis+Center+for+the+Performing+Arts/@26.7067816,-80.0605434,17z/data=!3m1!4b!4m6!3m5!1s0x88d8d66764a30ed3:0xffbba0c49ebb176a!8m2!3d26.7067816!4d-80.0605434!16zL20vMGdudDVr?authuser=0&entry=ttu>