

European Tour Send-Off Concert



FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

**MATTHIAS PINTSCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR
AND CONDUCTOR
BLAKE POULIOT, VIOLIN**

Helzberg Hall,
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



**KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY**



European Tour 2026 Schedule



Thursday, August 27
Concertgebouw, Amsterdam



Saturday, August 29
Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg



Sunday, August 30
Berlin Philharmonie

European Tour Send-Off Concert

Friday, August 21, 2026 at 7 p.m.

MATTHIAS PINTSCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR
BLAKE POULIOT, VIOLIN

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

OLGA NEUWIRTH	<i>Tombeau I</i>
OLGA NEUWIRTH	<i>Dreydl</i>
AARON COPLAND	Suite from <i>Appalachian Spring</i> (1945 orchestration)

Intermission

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY	Concerto in D Major for Violin and Orchestra, op. 35 I. Allegro moderato II. Canzonetta: Andante III. Finale: Allegro vivacissimo Blake Pouliot, violin
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THANK YOU

The 2026/27 season is generously sponsored by
Shirley and Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.

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Michael† and Susan Newburger
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Matthias Pintscher

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Matthias Pintscher is the music director of the Kansas City Symphony and has recently been extended through the 2033/34 season. He launched his tenure with a highly successful tour with the orchestra to Europe just before opening the 2024/25 season in Kansas City, with concerts at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Berlin Philharmonie and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie.



Pintscher was formerly the music director of Ensemble Intercontemporain for a decade. He is currently in his seventh season as artistic partner of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and has held several titled positions, including nine seasons as BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's artist-in-association, principal conductor of the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra, music director for the 2020 Ojai Festival and season creative chair with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich.

Pintscher's compositions are championed by some of today's finest performing artists, orchestras and conductors, and have been performed by the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Orchestre de Paris, among many others.

Pintscher is published by Boosey & Hawkes and Bärenreiter. Recordings of his works can be found on Kairos, EMI, Teldec, Wergo, Winter & Winter and Alpha Classics.

Blake Pouliot

VIOLIN

Described as “immaculate, at once refined and impassioned” (ArtsAtlanta), violinist Blake Pouliot (pool-YACHT) has anchored himself among the ranks of classical phenoms.

A tenacious young artist with a passion that enraptures his audience in every performance, Pouliot has established himself as “one of those special talents that comes along once in a lifetime” (Toronto Star).



Pouliot released his debut album on Analekta Records in 2019 to critical acclaim, including a five-star rating from BBC Music Magazine as well as a 2019 Juno Award nomination for Best Classical Album. He has been featured twice on Rob Kapilow’s “What Makes It Great?” series and was NPR’s Performance Today Artist-in-Residence for the 2017/18 season in Minnesota, the 2018/19 season in Hawaii and the 2021/22 season across Europe. In 2016, he was awarded the grand prize at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Manulife Competition and was named first laureate of both the 2018 and 2015 Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

Since his orchestral debut at age 11, Pouliot has performed with the orchestras of Aspen, Atlanta, Detroit, Dallas, Madison, Montreal, Toronto, San Francisco and Seattle, among many others. Internationally, he has performed as soloist with the Sofia Philharmonic in Bulgaria and Orchestra of the Americas on its South American tour, as well as being the featured soloist for the first-ever joint tour of the European Union Youth Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Canada. He has collaborated with many musical luminaries including conductors Sir Neville Marriner, David Afkham, Pablo Heras-Casado, David Danzmayr, JoAnn Falletta, Marcelo Lehninger, Nicholas McGegan, Alexander Prior, Vasily Petrenko and Thomas Søndergård.

Pouliot studied violin in Canada with Marie Bérard and Erika Raum, and he completed his training as an associate of The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He graduated from the Colburn School Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Robert Lipsett, the Jascha Heifetz Distinguished Violin Chair.

Pouliot performs on a 1729 Guarneri del Gesù on generous loan from an anonymous donor.

Kansas City Symphony Orchestra Roster

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2026/27

Season

It's going to be epic.



The Rite of Spring

AUGUSTIN HADELICH PLAYS MENDELSSOHN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4



The Planets

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11



Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25



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