



**PROKOFIEV**  
Symphony No. 5

**THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA**  
**FRANZ WELSER-MÖST**

# PROKOFIEV

## Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, Opus 100

Composed 1944

Written during the final months of World War II, Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 was described by the composer as "a symphony of the greatness of the human spirit, a song of praise of free and happy mankind." While these words must be taken with a grain of salt — more likely to have been generated by an apparatchik than Prokofiev himself — melody, rhythmic invention, and unfettered delight abound within this beloved work.

The 1945 premiere, a runaway success, marked the highpoint of Prokofiev's career in the Soviet Union. "Yet, there is a subtext," says Cleveland Orchestra Music Director Franz Welser-Möst, who conducts the symphony on this recording and reminds us of Prokofiev's ongoing struggle to produce lasting music

that also satisfied the government sensors.

A purely symphonic work, its stately opening movement leads to the spiky rhythms and startling harmonics of the satiric second. The

lyrical Adagio, filled with introspection and reflection, segues into an optimistic finale tinged with a hint of uncertainty, questioning any foregone conclusion of a happy ending. ■



Photo Roger Mastroianni

## SYMPHONY NO. 5 AT A GLANCE

### World Premiere

January 13, 1945, in Moscow with the composer conducting the USSR State Symphony Orchestra

### Cleveland Orchestra Premiere

January 23, 1947, led by George Szell

### Orchestration

2 flutes, 2 oboes, English horn, E-flat clarinet, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, triangle, snare drum, woodblock, bass drum, cymbals, tambourine, tam-tam, harp, piano, and strings

Recorded live in Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 14 and 17, 2021



Prokofiev, circa 1918

**Sergei Sergeyeovich Prokofiev**

born April 23, 1891  
Sontsivka, Ukraine

died March 5, 1953  
Moscow



Prokofiev with fellow composers  
Dmitri Shostakovich and Aram  
Khachaturian, 1946

**THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA**  
*conducted by* **FRANZ WELSER-MÖST**

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV**

**Symphony No. 5** in B-flat major, Opus 100

Track 1 – I. Andante..... 13:29  
Track 2 – II. Allegro marcato..... 8:31  
Track 3 – III. Adagio..... 11:56  
Track 4 – IV. Allegro giocoso..... 8:54

*Recorded on October 14 and 17, 2021, in  
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Concert Hall  
at Severance Music Center.*

Recorded at 24bit 96kHz PCM  
Stereo and Dolby Atmos mixes available

# About the Orchestra

Now in its second century, The Cleveland Orchestra, under the leadership of music director Franz Welser-Möst since 2002, is one of the most sought-after performing ensembles in the world. Year after year, the ensemble exemplifies extraordinary artistic excellence, creative programming, and community engagement. *The New York Times* has called Cleveland “the best in America” for its virtuosity, elegance of sound, variety of color, and chamber-like musical cohesion.

Founded by Adella Prentiss Hughes, the Orchestra performed its inaugural concert in December 1918. By the middle of the century, decades of growth and sustained support had turned it into one of the most admired globally.

The past decade has seen an increasing number of young people attending concerts, bringing fresh attention to The Cleveland Orchestra’s legendary sound and committed programming. More recently, the Orchestra launched several bold digital projects, including the

streaming broadcast series *In Focus*, the podcast *On a Personal Note*, and its own recording label, a new chapter in the Orchestra’s long and distinguished recording and broadcast history. Together, they have captured the Orchestra’s unique artistry and the musical achievements of the Welser-Möst and Cleveland Orchestra partnership.

The 2022/23 season marks Franz Welser-Möst’s 21st year as music

director, a period in which The Cleveland Orchestra earned unprecedented acclaim around the world, including a series of residencies at the Musikverein in Vienna, the first of its kind by an American orchestra, and a number of acclaimed opera presentations.

Since 1918, seven music directors — Nikolai Sokoloff, Artur Rodziński, Erich Leinsdorf, George Szell, Lorin Maazel, Christoph von Dohnányi, and

Franz Welser-Möst — have guided and shaped the ensemble’s growth and sound. Through concerts at home and on tour, broadcasts, and a catalog of acclaimed recordings, The Cleveland Orchestra is heard today by a growing group of fans around the world.

For more information, please visit [clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com). ■



# The Cleveland Orchestra

## Franz Welser-Möst MUSIC DIRECTOR

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*Blossom-Lee Chair*

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ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER

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### E-FLAT CLARINET

#### Daniel McKelway

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### BASS CLARINET

#### Amy Zoloto

*Myrna and James Spira Chair*

### BASSOONS

#### John Clouser\*

*Louise Harkness Ingalls Chair*

#### Gareth Thomas

#### Barrick Stees<sup>2</sup>

*Sandra L. Haslinger Chair*

#### Jonathan Sherwin

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#### Jonathan Sherwin

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#### Michael Mayhew<sup>5</sup>

*Knight Foundation Chair*

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#### Michael Miller

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#### Yasuhito Sugiyama\*

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*Mary E. and F. Joseph Callahan Chair*

*Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Smucker Chair*

*Rudolf Serkin Chair*

\* Principal

§ Associate Principal

1 First Assistant Principal

2 Assistant Principal

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#### Christoph von Dohnányi

MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE

#### Daniel Reith

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR  
*Sidney and Doris Dworkin Chair*

#### Lisa Wong

DIRECTOR OF CHORUSES  
*Frances P. and Chester C. Bolton Chair*

Listing as of January 2023

This roster lists the full-time members of The Cleveland Orchestra.

# Franz Welser-Möst

Franz Welser-Möst is among today's most distinguished conductors. The 2022/23 season marks his 21st year as music director of The Cleveland Orchestra. With the future of their acclaimed partnership extended to 2027, he will be the longest-serving musical leader in the ensemble's history. *The New York Times* has declared Cleveland under Welser-Möst's direction to be "America's most brilliant orchestra," praising its virtuosity, elegance of sound, variety of color, and chamber-like musical cohesion.

With Mr. Welser-Möst, The Cleveland Orchestra has been praised for its inventive programming, ongoing support of new music, and innovative work in presenting operas. To date, the Orchestra and Mr. Welser-Möst have been showcased around the world in 20 international tours together. In 2020, the ensemble launched its own recording label and new streaming broadcast platform to share its artistry globally.

In addition to his commitment to Cleveland, Mr. Welser-Möst enjoys a particularly close and productive relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic as a guest conductor. He has

been invited to conduct its celebrated New Year's Concert three times, and regularly leads the orchestra at home in Vienna, as well as on tours.

Mr. Welser-Möst is also a regular guest at the Salzburg Festival where he has led a series of acclaimed opera productions, including *Rusalka*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Fidelio*, *Die Liebe der Danae*, Aribert Reimann's opera *Lear*, and Richard Strauss's *Salome*. In 2020, he conducted Strauss's *Elektra* on the 100th anniversary of its premiere. He has since returned to Salzburg to conduct additional performances of *Elektra* in 2021 and Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico* in 2022.

In 2019, Mr. Welser-Möst was awarded the Gold Medal in the Arts by the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts. Other honors include The Cleveland Orchestra's Distinguished Service Award, two Cleveland Arts Prize citations, the Vienna Philharmonic's "Ring of Honor," recognition from the Western Law Center for Disability Rights, honorary membership in the Vienna Singverein, appointment as an Academician of the European Academy of Yuste, and the Kilenyi Medal from the Bruckner Society of America. ■



Franz Welser-Möst conducts The Cleveland Orchestra performing Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 at Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center.

Photo: Roger Mastroianni

# Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center

Home of The Cleveland Orchestra



Photo Roger Mastroianni

Hailed among the world's most beautiful concert halls when it opened as Severance Hall in 1931, Severance Music Center has served as home to The Cleveland Orchestra for over 90 years. Its famed acoustics have helped shape the Orchestra's renowned sound and refined performance style. The building was named to honor John Long Severance (president of the Orchestra's board of trustees, 1921–1936) and his wife, Elisabeth, who donated most of the money for its construction.

Designed by Cleveland's Walker & Weeks, the building's elegant Georgian exterior was constructed to harmonize with the classical architecture of the surrounding University Circle neighborhood. The interior of the building reflects a combination of design styles, including Art Deco, Egyptian Revival, Classicism, and Modernism.

An extensive renovation and expansion of the facility was completed in January 2000, including

careful enhancements to the clarity and warmth of the 2,000-seat concert hall's acclaimed acoustics, a project designed by David M. Schwartz Architects and Jaffe Holden Scarbrough Acoustics.

More recently, the main performance space has been augmented with a state-of-the-art robotic video camera system to capture and create a new generation of streaming programming. In 2021, the concert space was named in recognition of a generous grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, whose gift is funding the video equipment outfitting along with other initiatives to further The Cleveland Orchestra's ongoing success and to expand its reach for audiences around the world in the 21st century. ■

# Acknowledgements

## THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

Franz Welser-Möst  
*Music Director*

André Gremillet  
*President & CEO*

Richard K. Smucker  
*Board Chair*

## AUDIO PRODUCTION

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Gintas Norvila  
*Recording, Editing, and Mixing Engineer*  
Jennifer Nulsen  
*Stereo Mastering Engineer*  
Alan JS Han  
*Immersive Mixing Engineer*

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