

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BPO presents multimedia concert experiences this month**

**April concerts feature thrilling visual elements, from NASA footage  
and a 'Cirque' production to 'Star Wars' live in concert**



**Beyond The Planets, April 5 & 6**

JoAnn Falletta, conductor; Marina Piccinini, flute  
Women's Choir of Buffalo

**Cirque de la Symphonie, April 12 & 13**

Ron Spigelman, conductor

**BPO Kids Sing!, April 14**

Fernanda Lastra, conductor; Alex McArthur, vocalist  
Josephine Sturmer, BPO Kids Sing Competition Winner  
Amherst Central High School Concert Chorale; City Honors School Choir

**Beethoven's Emperor, April 20 & 21**

Rune Bergmann, conductor; Stewart Goodyear, piano

**Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac, April 26**

Bradley Thachuk, conductor; Walter Ino, lead guitar & vocals  
Ali Handal, guitar & vocals; Jennifer Jo Oberle, vocals; Ben White, bass  
Jimmy Keegan, drums; Sven Martin, keyboard

**Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert, April 27**

Ron Spigelman, conductor

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra presents an exciting variety of multimedia concerts in April, complementing their numerous performances with stunning visuals of NASA footage in the spirit of the eclipse, the showmanship of aerialists and acrobats, and the cinematic grandeur of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*. While the BPO concert season continues until early June, this month's events mark the conclusion of the 2023-24 Rock Series, Kids Series, and the multi-season long performance of the original *Star Wars* trilogy live in concert.

This Friday and Saturday, JoAnn Falletta and the orchestra share an eclipse-inspired program of ***The Planets*** by Gustav Holst, synced to video from **NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center**, and two contemporary pieces: *Lumina* by Nina Shekhar, and *The Universe in Ecstatic Motion* by Christopher Theofanidis, featuring renowned flutist **Marina Piccinini**. Saturday evening's performance includes a pre-concert discussion at 6:30pm with Falletta and **NASA scientist David Cheney**.

A week later, the BPO welcomes the aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, and jugglers of **Cirque de la Symphonie** for thrilling feats both on and above the Kleinhans stage, choreographed to fan-favorite classical works. Then, on Sunday, April 14, **BPO Kids Sing!** completes the 2023-24 Kids Series, led by Assistant Conductor Fernanda Lastra and featuring the voices of the **Amherst Central High School Concert Chorale**, **City Honors School Choir**, local singer **Alex McArthur**, and 15-year-old Josephine Sturmer of Kenmore West High School, this year's **Kids Sing Competition winner**.

On April 20-21, virtuoso pianist **Stewart Goodyear** returns to perform **Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto**, following his acclaimed recording of Adolphus Hailstork's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the BPO, released last year on the Naxos label. Calgary Philharmonic Music Director **Rune Bergmann** will lead the concerts, also including Sibelius' second symphony and a 2020 work by Vivian Fung, titled *Prayer*.

The 2023-24 Rock Series closes with **Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac** on April 26, featuring hits from the iconic band's vast discography and solo careers. A night later, the orchestra performs the epic finale to the original *Star Wars* trilogy – **Star Wars: Return of the Jedi** – live in concert with the film projected above the musicians.

Events that are free and open to the public this month include: a **Flute Festival** on April 6 and 7 in collaboration with the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, featuring recitals and masterclasses from flutists Marina Piccinini, Anthony Trionfo, and BPO players Christine Davis and Natalie Scanio; the **Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra's annual Side by Side** concert with the BPO on April 10; and a piano **masterclass with Stewart Goodyear** on April 18, providing invaluable instruction to local piano students.

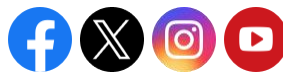
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For a complete list of concerts and details, visit [bpo.org/events](https://bpo.org/events). Ticket prices for select concerts start at \$20 and can be purchased online at [bpo.org/tickets](https://bpo.org/tickets), in-person at the Box Office in Kleinhans Music Hall, or by calling (716) 885-5000.

Find images [here](#). For additional information, interviews, photos, or video, contact Simone Viola at [sviola@bpo.org](mailto:sviola@bpo.org) or (716) 242-7814.

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