



The  
Coastal  
**Symphony**  
of Georgia

**2025-2026 SEASON**

**MICHELLE MERRILL**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

# THE COASTAL SYMPHONY OF GEORGIA

## ENTERTAINS, EDUCATES, AND EXCITES

*Four Annual Classical Concerts* performed by our orchestra of professional musicians offer a mix of traditional, contemporary, and current music at Brunswick High School and Wesley Church at Frederica. In May 2026, we will move to the new Center for the Arts on the College of Coastal Georgia Campus.

Our *SoundBites* series invites music lovers to enjoy a variety of lively music outside the concert hall in more intimate, sometimes funky settings around town.

*Musical Mentors*, our in-school program, sends professional musicians into area schools offering young people up front and personal hands-on sessions with the pros.

*Salons* treat guests to performances by orchestra ensembles in lovely private homes and conversation with the musicians during a reception.

### **OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN CLASSICAL SYMPHONIC MUSIC TO THE GOLDEN ISLES COMMUNITY.**

We offer beloved music of the Old Masters, little known works from famous composers, and new pieces from current composers.

Our Music Director and Conductor, Michelle Merrill, says “an orchestra is a living art form which can take us from familiar places to places we have never been before.”



# WELCOME TO OUR OPENING NIGHT 2025-2026

Monday, October 6, 2025 \* Brunswick High School Auditorium \* 7:30 p.m.

## EXPRESSIONS



Coleridge-Taylor

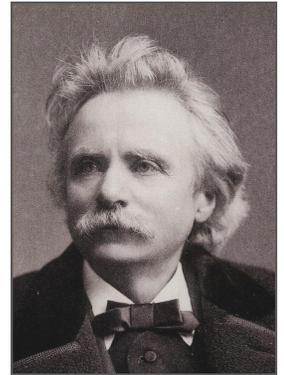
Opening Night brings us lyrical music expressing emotion in imaginative and descriptive ways. *Ballade* has been called a clever young man's piece, a wild orchestra ride brimming with invention and energy. 19<sup>th</sup> Century English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, known in his time as "The Black Mahler," offers soulful melodies, dramatic story telling, and lots of energy.

Edvard Grieg's *Lyric Suite* is rooted in the national folk tradition of Norway and is noted for a refined lyrical sense, music that catches your ear in a unique way that might be called singable. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Norwegian composer identifies himself with the poet's imagery expressing its musical equivalent in his songs. In the Suite, his spirited rhythms offer musical poems of a Shepherd Boy, a Norwegian March, a Notturmo (dreamy nighttime reflection,) and a March of the Trolls.

19<sup>th</sup> Century English composer Sir Edward William Elgar's *Enigma Variations* closes the performance. It is a musical sketch of individuals which he said expresses his friends pictured within, and "commenced in a spirit of humor continued in deep seriousness." Each variation of a main theme represents a friend or family member from his life. It is like trying to solve a puzzle - what is the enigma?



Elgar



Grieg

**COLERIDGE-TAYLOR** *Ballade*

**GRIEG** *Lyric Suite*

**ELGAR** *Enigma Variations*

# SECOND CONCERT OF THE SEASON

Monday, November 10, 2025 \* Brunswick High School Auditorium \* 7:30 p.m.

## HEAVENLY JOY



Mahler

The Fall Concert presents Gustav Mahler in a lighter style. Although one hour in length, it is the shortest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century German composer's works.

While the symphony gives hints of the brooding nature and vastness of those to come, this delightful work offers youthful music. Invoking Mozart, it is playful, vigorous, and dance like, and ends with a charming song – a peasant child's view of heaven popularly called "The Heavenly Life."

Music Director, Michelle Merrill will give us an explanation of the work with the musicians demonstrating some of its melodies and more interesting aspects. The orchestra will then perform the entire symphony with a guest artist singing the child's song.

Listen for horns, trumpets, winds, strings, and lots of percussion and timpani as the composer makes full use of his smaller orchestra's energy and sound.

**MAHLER** *Symphony No. 4 in G Major*

# THIRD CONCERT OF THE SEASON

Monday, January 26, 2026

\* Wesley Church at Frederica

\* 7:30 p.m.

## SEASONS



Aurica Duca

The Winter Concert takes us through the seasons of a year and of one woman's life. Full of familiar melodies, Antonio Vivaldi's incomparable *Four Seasons* gives musical expression to the four seasons of the year: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Italian composer presents a revolution in musical conception with musical use of flowing creeks, singing birds, storms, drunken dancers, hunting parties and warm winter fires. Listen for the shepherd's barking dog in the Viola section.

The four seasons are revealed in four concertos performed by CSG Concertmaster and Violinist, Aurica Duca. Aurica performs solo engagements internationally, and is a member of the esteemed Lawson Ensemble recognized for its level of excellence and commitment. Her ability to engage with the audience is enchanting.

The seasons of 19<sup>th</sup> Century French composer Louise Farrenc's life represent one woman's journey for recognition in a male-dominated world of Western concert music. She contributed three remarkable symphonies to the canon of French instrumental music, was admired by Schuman and Berlioz, and made her mark in the center of Parisian musical life as teacher, composer, scholar. However, following her death, Farrenc's music fell out of favor probably because of her gender and no opera in her repertoire. Lucky for us, her symphonies are being rediscovered giving us intricate and enjoyable music in this posthumous season of her life.



Farrenc

**VIVALDI *Four Seasons* Soloist: Aurica Duca, CSG Concertmaster**

**FARRENC Symphony No. 3**

# SEASON CONCERT FINALE

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 \* The Center for the Arts, College of Coastal Georgia Campus \* 7:30 p.m.

## BEGINNINGS

Our Season Finale will take place as part of the exciting and glamorous **Grand Opening of the Center for the Arts** on the **College of Coastal Georgia campus**. We expect this to be the beginning of many CSG performances at the Center, and we are honored to be the first musical organization to play in its concert hall.



Ray Ushikubo

The concert will begin with a newly commissioned *Fanfare* composed by our own Piotr Szewczyk, CSG Principal Second Violin. Some of the most beloved music in the classical repertoire will follow. With George Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue* as its centerpiece, the concert will also feature Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier Suite* and lively excerpts from George Bizet's *Carmen*. Japanese-American pianist and rising star, Ray Ushikubo will play the *Rhapsody*.

We are honored to be part of this exciting evening. The Center will be a transformative asset for our community, enhancing economic growth, intellectual enrichment, and cultural vibrancy for years to come.



Piotr Szewczyk

**SZEWCZYK** *Fanfare*

**GERSHWIN** *Rhapsody in Blue* with Pianist: Ray Ushikubo

**STRAUSS**

**BIZET**



## **CSG TO PERFORM AT GRAND OPENING of the CENTER FOR THE ARTS**



**As a 2025-26 Season subscriber, you will be guaranteed a seat in this *sure to be sold-out* 4<sup>th</sup> Concert on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - the first orchestral performance in the state-of-the-art Center.**

### **★ SPECIAL OFFER FOR CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE MEMBERS ★**

**WALK THE RED CARPET:** Make the Grand Opening even more memorable by purchasing a **Special** Conductor's Circle season subscription. You'll become eligible to ALSO enjoy these extra benefits:

- Maestro Level: \$1,000 + \$150 = \$1,150; Includes private tour prior to the Center opening night; First choice – VIP Seating – 4 seats for all four concerts
- Concertmaster Level: \$650 + \$100 = \$750; includes Premier Seating – 2 seats, all concerts
- Soloist Level: \$349 + \$75 = \$424; Preferred Seating - 1 seat, all concerts

# The 2025-2026 Concert Season Memberships and Benefits

## Conductor's Circle

As a member of the Conductor's Circle, you are demonstrating your commitment to a bright future for the Coastal Symphony as a vital part of our community. We thank you!

### Conductor's Circle benefits include:

Personal selection of available Premier Reserved Seats for concerts 1-3 and added option of special seating at Center for the Arts Opening Night for Concert 4 if reserved by July 15, 2025; Plus Program recognition, Invitations to special Symphony events and Newsletter subscription.



<b>Maestro</b>	Four Reserved Season Tickets - 4 Concerts	\$1,000
<b>Maestro Special</b>	Maestro benefits plus 4 VIP Seats at Center Opening and Private Center Tour	\$1,150
<b>Concertmaster</b>	Two Reserved Season Tickets - 4 Concerts	\$ 650
<b>Concertmaster Special</b>	Concertmaster benefits plus 2 Premier Seats at Center Opening	\$ 750
<b>Soloist</b>	One Reserved Season Ticket - 4 Concerts	\$ 349
<b>Soloist Special</b>	Soloist Benefits plus 1 Preferred Seat at Center Opening	\$ 424

## Season Subscriber

Our Season Subscribers are the heart of our Symphony family. Thank you!

### Season Subscribers' benefits include:

Season Tickets with Assigned Seating, Program recognition at Principal level, Newsletter subscription



<b>Principal</b>	Two Season Tickets Program Recognition	\$350
<b>Adult</b>	One Season Ticket	\$160
<b>Student/Child</b>	One Season Ticket	\$ 45



# The 2025-2026 Concert Season Tickets and Support

## Provide Additional Financial Support to the CSG

Ticket sales cover less than 25% of the operating funds needed by The Coastal Symphony of Georgia. Your additional support and generosity are essential. All gifts are tax deductible.



**I wish to make an additional financial contribution**

Gifts of \$300 and above will be recognized in the Concert Programs. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Select your payment method

**Enclosed is my check**, payable to The Coastal Symphony of Georgia in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:**  American Express  Discover  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  MasterCard  Visa  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Personal Information (Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

★ **Note: Tickets will be mailed in August 2025. Please supply summer mailing address if different from above.**

Summer Address for ticket mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this order form and return with payment to:  
The Coastal Symphony of Georgia, P.O. Box 21733, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

You may also purchase tickets online at:  
[www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org](http://www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org)



## Make this Year's Performance Personal: Dedicate Music

There is no more memorable way to honor a loved one or friend, commemorate a special occasion or offer a memorial than to dedicate a musical selection from this Season's Concert Series. The musical arrangements below may be selected for dedication. Please include your choices on the Concert Order Form in this brochure.

### \$150

<i>Enigma Variations</i>	Sir Edward William Elgar	October
Symphony No. 4 in G Major	Gustav Mahler	November
<i>Four Seasons</i>	Antonio Vivaldi	January
<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>	George Gershwin	May

### \$100

<i>Lyric Suite</i>	Edvard Grieg	October
Symphony No. 3	Louise Farrenc	January
<i>Des Rosenkavalier Suite</i>	Richard Strauss	May

### \$75

<i>Ballade</i>	Samuel Coleridge-Taylor	October
Excerpts from <i>Carmen</i>	George Bizet	May

### \$50

<i>Fanfare</i>	Piotr Szewczyk	May
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***Your dedication will be noted in the concert program in which the music selection is presented. Please note that a single arrangement can have multiple dedications.***

# COME JOIN US!

CSG is a non-profit community-based enterprise managed by volunteer board and committee members and a small staff. Professional musicians from Jacksonville, FL, Atlanta and Savannah, GA and other cities perform the concerts, along with nationally and internationally recognized guest artists. These exceptional musicians bring “big city” talent to audiences in the Golden Isles.

We can offer these vibrant performances due to the support of our patrons, philanthropic partners, corporate sponsors, and dedicated friends.

**SUBSCRIPTION TICKET HOLDERS** *are the heartbeat of our symphony organization.*

**NAMED CHAIRS** *provide critically important funds for our musical efforts now and in the future.*

**THE CRESCENDO CIRCLE** *is a group of friends who ensure our ability to keep the music playing.*

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS** *provide our fiscal foundation through corporate support.*

**VOLUNTEERS** *greet guests at our concerts and events and provide a helping hand when needed.*



Visit our website at [www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org](http://www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org) or call (912) 634-2006 to learn more about upcoming concerts, events and how to get involved.