



## **The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus to Perform “Rhapsody in Red, White, & Blue” as Part of National Initiative**

**July 1, 2026, Santa Fe, NM**– The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus announced today that they will be New Mexico's representative organization in the National Rhapsody Initiative, as a part of their 2027-2028 Season. As part of their participation, the Symphony will perform “Rhapsody in Red, White, & Blue” by Peter Boyer and will feature pianist Jeffrey Biegel. The piece will be performed along with Gershwin's classic work “Rhapsody in Blue.”

On The Santa Fe Symphony inclusion, Biegel said, "The Santa Fe Symphony is one of our country's finest orchestras and I am both honored and delighted to welcome the orchestra to the Rhapsody National Initiative. This also marks my Santa Fe Symphony debut! The "Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue" by Peter Boyer started as a tribute to Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' and has evolved into the largest consortium of orchestras in history for a new work. Welcome, Santa Fe Symphony!"

Since its first performance in June 2023 with the Utah Symphony, the Rhapsody National Initiative has become the largest consortium of orchestras ever assembled in all 50 United States with 69 member orchestras. The Initiative is the first 50 state project without buy-ins required from orchestras, and the first 50 state project for a new work featuring a soloist with orchestra.

When another orchestra pulled out of the Initiative in Spring 2026, New Mexico was left as the only state without a representative. The Santa Fe Symphony leaders were quick to step in to support this collaboration. Symphony Music Director Guillermo Figueroa said, "I'm delighted to be able to collaborate with my friend Jeffrey Biegel on the Rhapsody in Red White & Blue nationwide commissioning project. The Santa Fe Symphony has a long history of presenting contemporary classical alongside beloved masterworks, and I believe the audience will love this piece as a companion to Gershwin's iconic Rhapsody in Blue."

“We are honored to represent our State and our beautiful City on the national stage,” said Symphony Executive Director, Emma Scherer. “The Santa Fe Symphony has a long history of collaborative projects and is the perfect fit for a nationwide project such as this. The Rhapsody Initiative is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the tremendous talent of the professional musicians of New Mexico.”

The Symphony's 2027-2028 Season will be the first with Figueroa as Music Director Laureate as the organization begins its two season search for a new Music Director. During the 2026-2027 Season, The Symphony will host a series of events honoring Figueroa's legacy.

Subscriptions to the 2026-2027 Season are on sale now and single tickets will go on sale in late July. For more information, go to [santafesymphony.org](http://santafesymphony.org) or call 505.983.1414.

### **About The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus**

The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus is dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community. Founded in 1984, The Symphony is one of the oldest collaboratively-operated orchestras in the United States. A group of dedicated musicians and music-lovers, led by Founder Greg Heltman, made the bold decision to establish a professional symphony orchestra in Santa Fe, founded with a model of cooperative governance. To this day, the musicians make up 25% of their Board, sit on committees, occupy staff roles, and maintain responsibility for the artistic vision and leadership of the organization. From thrilling classics to spirited pops presentations, The Symphony produces a wide array of concerts that excite and engage audiences of all ages. The SFS performs a regular subscription series at the 800-seat Lensic Performing Arts Center and free choral-orchestral concerts at the Cathedral Basilica and across the region. The Symphony is recognized as a vital, community-focused musical organization. The SFS is the only fully professional, full-sized symphony in Santa Fe, and employs over a hundred New Mexican orchestral and choral musicians each season. Santa Fe attracts thousands of arts and culture tourists each year – patrons who are interested in the arts, humanities, and history of Santa Fe. The Symphony is a crown jewel of New Mexico's performing arts landscape. In 2024, SFS merged with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association (SFYSA), offering high-quality music education for 300+ children in Northern New Mexico. Together, SFS has flourished, growing education offerings for people of all ages and integrating the services and mission of The Symphony more fully with our community. This was not the first merger in its history. In 1986, The Symphony merged with the Chorus of Santa Fe, bringing together two esteemed organizations to even more opportunities for great music in our community. The Symphony's reach includes Santa Fe, Northern New Mexico, and beyond. It offers orchestral and choral concerts of the highest professional quality as well as comprehensive education programs for children and families. It believes a city's symphony should be a vital community resource and connect musicians, audiences, students, and families with each other. For more information, [santafesymphony.org](http://santafesymphony.org).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT\*

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