

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony No. 4

**THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA**

FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

TCHAIKOVSKY

TCHAIKOVSKY

SYMPHONY NO. 4

Composed 1877-88

“There is not a note in this symphony which I did not feel deeply, and which did not serve as an echo of sincere impulses within my soul,” wrote Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky of his Fourth Symphony, which he would call his “best symphonic work ever.” The genesis of the work arises from two meaningful events in 1877. The first is the start of his relationship with the benefactor Nadezhda von Meck. The second is the composer’s hasty and ill-fated marriage to his former pupil, Antonina Ivanovna Miliukova, and subsequent psychological crisis.

In the wake of these circumstances, Tchaikovsky threw himself into finishing the symphony in late 1877 into early 1878. He later revealed his inspiration to von Meck: “The introduction is the seed of the whole symphony, undoubtedly the main idea: This is fate: this is that

fateful force which prevents the impulse to happiness from attaining its goal, which jealously ensures that peace and happiness shall not be complete and unclouded, which hangs above the head like the sword of Damocles, unwaveringly, constantly poisoning the soul. It is an invincible force that can never be overcome — merely endured, hopelessly.” The second movement represents “a whole procession of memories,” and the

following Scherzo, plucked entirely by the strings in pizzicato, is filled with “whimsical arabesques, vague images.” The Finale, based on a Russian folksong, brushes off the previous sorrows and proclaims: “Rejoice in the rejoicing of others. To live is still possible.” ■

SYMPHONY NO. 4 AT A GLANCE

World Premiere

February 22, 1878, in Moscow

Cleveland Orchestra Premiere

November 23, 1921, led by Nikolai Sokoloff

Orchestration

2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion (bass drum, cymbals, triangle), and strings.



Photo: Roger Mastroianni

The Recording



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, March 1893

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

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Opus 36

Track 1 – I. Andante sostenuto — Moderato con anima.....	17:09
Track 2 – II. Andantino in modo di canzone	8:23
Track 3 – III. Scherzo: Pizzicato ostinato	5:55
Track 4 – IV. Finale: Allegro con fuoco	8:20

*Recorded live in Mandel Concert Hall
at Severance Music Center
in Cleveland, Ohio,
on September 30 and October 1, 2021*

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

Born
May 7, 1840, Votkinsk, Russia

Died
November 6, 1893, St. Petersburg, Russia

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 2023/24 season marks Franz Welser-Möst’s 22nd 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. ■



Photo Roger Mastroianni

The Cleveland Orchestra

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Franz Welser-Möst

Franz Welser-Möst is among today's most distinguished conductors. The 2023/24 season marks his 22nd 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

conducted 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 Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 at Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center.

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, 1921–36) 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

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Recording Producer

Gintas Norvila
*Recording, Editing, and Mixing
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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Christophe Abi-Nassif
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Kevin Whitman
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ART DIRECTION/DESIGN

Judy Barabas
Red Swing Creative

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Becky Lees
Head of LSO Live

David Millinger
Production and Projects Manager

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Marketing and Partnerships Manager

A TCO Media Production

TCO0009

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