



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 4, 2026

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary with Free Fourth of July Concert

PLYMOUTH, MA — The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra launches its 111th season with the annual **Esther and Alcide Ruffini Fourth of July Concert**, a free community celebration of Independence Day featuring patriotic favorites, audience traditions, and special musical tributes marking the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Music Director **Steven Karidoyanes** begins his 33rd season conducting *the Phil* by leading this festive program on Saturday, July 4, at 7:30 PM at historic DCR Pilgrim Memorial State Park on the Plymouth waterfront.

"This concert brings together everything that makes live music so powerful—community, celebration, history, and shared experiences," said Karidoyanes. "As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we have created a program that honors our past while celebrating the spirit and energy that continue to define America today."

A cherished tradition of the Plymouth Phil's Independence Day concerts, excerpts from the "Declaration of Independence" will be read by special guest narrator **Rob Hakala**, host of WATD's South Shore Morning News for more than 25 years, accompanied by a lush patriotic orchestral score.

The program also includes a moving musical salute to members of the United States Armed Forces, with music representing each branch of military service, including the newest branch, the U.S. Space

Force.

Audience favorite Tchaikovsky's dramatic "**1812 Overture**" returns, complete with the orchestra's signature digital cannons. The work was composed by Tchaikovsky while visiting his sister's estate in central Ukraine.

In recognition of America's Semiquincentennial, the concert will feature several special selections, including "**Fanfare 250**" by award-winning composer Noah D. Taylor, written to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army; a suite of music from Lin-Manuel Miranda's acclaimed musical "**Hamilton**"; and a new symphonic setting of the beloved hymn "**Amazing Grace**", arranged by Boston Pops composer and arranger Sean O'Loughlin.

Adding a playful musical twist to the evening, the orchestra performs excerpts from Handel's "**Music for the Royal Fireworks**", composed for the British monarchy, before musically depicting a British invasion of a different sort. *The Phil* presents "**Beatlemania: The Early Years**", a high-energy tribute featuring classics including "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "Can't Buy Me Love", and "A Hard Day's Night".

The concert takes place in the natural amphitheater setting of DCR Pilgrim Memorial State Park, across from Cole's Hill in downtown Plymouth, followed by fireworks starting around 9:15 PM. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The Esther and Alcide Ruffini Fourth of July Concert is made possible through the generosity of The Ruffini Charitable Trust, with additional support from The James Spooner Trust and the Town of Plymouth Promotions Fund.

About the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra is a premier non-profit cultural institution in Massachusetts.

Dedicated to artistic excellence and community enrichment, the orchestra offers world-class performances, innovative outreach programs, and strong community partnerships. Now launching its 111th season, *The Phil's* mission is to create music and educational experiences that engage people of

all ages and from all walks because we believe music inspires curiosity, enables connection, and provides joy.

For more information, visit plymouthphil.org or call 508-746-8008.

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The 111th Season of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra is supported in part by the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, which receives support from the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the Plymouth, Plympton, Carver, Kingston and Marshfield Cultural Councils. Additional funding is received by the Town of Plymouth Promotions Fund, See Plymouth and the Plymouth County Commissioners.

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