

TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Steven Reineke, Principal Pops Conductor

The Billy Joel Songbook

Steven Reineke, conductor
Tony DeSare, vocalist & piano
Dylan Shamat, bass
Michael Klopp, drums

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Program to be announced from the stage



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Tony DeSare performs with Steven Reineke and the TSO as part of *Frank & Ella* on April 18, 2023.

Program 1

Wednesday,
October 8, 2025
2:00pm

Wednesday,
October 8, 2025
7:30pm

Thursday,
October 9, 2025
7:30pm

*The October 9 performance
is generously supported
by the Estate of Margaret
Welker.*



Steven Reineke, conductor

Steven Reineke made his TSO début in March 1997, and has been Principal Pops Conductor since October 2012.

Steven Reineke is one of North America's leading conductors of popular music and is in his second decade as Music Director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. He is the Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Principal Pops Conductor of the Houston Symphony and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Reineke is a frequent guest conductor and can be seen on the podium with the Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

On stage, Reineke creates and collaborates with a range of leading artists in hip-hop, R&B, Broadway, television, and rock including Killer Mike, Maxwell, Common, Kendrick Lamar, Nas, Ne-Yo, Barry Manilow, Cynthia Erivo, Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Sutton Foster, Amos Lee, Dispatch, Jason Mraz, and Ben Folds, amongst others.

As the creator of hundreds of orchestral arrangements, Reineke has seen his work performed worldwide, and it can be heard on numerous Cincinnati Pops Orchestra recordings. His wind ensemble compositions are published by the C. L. Barnhouse Company and performed by concert bands perennially.



Tony DeSare, vocalist & piano

Tony DeSare made his TSO début in October 2015.

Tony DeSare performs with infectious joy, wry playfulness, and robust musicality. Named "Rising Star Male Vocalist" in *DownBeat* magazine, he has lived up to this distinction by winning critical and popular acclaim for his concert performances throughout North America and abroad. From jazz clubs to Carnegie Hall to Las Vegas, and headlining major symphony orchestras, DeSare has brought his fresh take on old-school class around the globe. DeSare has four top-ten *Billboard* jazz albums under his belt and has been featured on CBS's

The Early Show, NPR, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and *The Today Show*, and his music has been posted by social media celebrity juggernaut George Takei. DeSare has also collaborated with YouTube supergroup Postmodern Jukebox. He has been a featured guest artist with over 100 orchestras including The Cleveland Orchestra, New York Pops, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Chicago Symphony.

Also an accomplished and award-winning composer, DeSare won first place in the USA Songwriting Competition and has written the theme song for the motion picture *My Date with Drew*, composed music for several broadcast commercials, and scored five films. His sound is romantic, swinging, and sensual, but what sets DeSare apart is his ability to write original material that sounds fresh and contemporary yet pays homage to the Great American Songbook.

DeSare has a strong presence on social media and continues to release his "song diaries"—recordings from his home studio that started in 2020 and now number in the hundreds. He has numerous recordings available on all platforms and playlists. Tony DeSare is a Yamaha Artist.