

Gustavo Conducts Beethoven 5

Concert Fact Sheet

A message from the conductor

It has been a great honour for me to lead the TSO in this, the 100th year of the Orchestra. Being in the midst of such a milestone, I find myself in self-reflection, thinking of the millions of people who must have experienced the power of the Orchestra over the last century.

And yet, despite 100 years of music-making, I am also aware that not everyone has been able to access this experience.

Today, for the first time in the history of the TSO, we are performing a Relaxed Performance of a Masterworks program. I have no doubt that some of you may be here for the first time, and I want to personally welcome you. Thank you for letting us share this art form that has given us so much meaning in our lives.

In a Relaxed Performance, you are welcome to come in and out of the hall as many times as you wish. If you need to vocalize or walk around, please do. If the sound of the Orchestra feels too loud, feel free to get up and move to the back rows where it is quieter, or even go to the lobby or ask an usher to take you to the Quiet Room.

In essence, we want you to relax and enjoy the music. It is our hope that today's performance will transport you to a place of joy and inspiration. Thank you for joining us on this special occasion.

Gustavo Gimeno
Music Director

Concert facts

When You Visit

Entering Roy Thomson Hall:

- All patrons will enter through the Simcoe Street doors.
- The lobby opens 60 minutes before the concert begins.
- For more detailed information and to help prepare for your visit, please see our venue guide.

Concessions & Coat Check:

- There are concessions in the lobby—you can buy snacks and drinks there.
- Roy Thomson Hall is now a cash-free venue that only accepts debit and credit cards, including major contactless and mobile payment methods, for a safe and speedy check out.
- If you have a reusable water bottle, you can fill it on-site in the lobby at one of the water fountains.
- There is a coat check at the hall. It opens when the lobby opens. It costs \$2 per item to use the coat check. You should bring a debit or credit card if you plan to use the coat check.

Washrooms:

- The washrooms are located toward the front of the building and are behind the large mirrored wall where you first entered. There are family and accessible washrooms on the Main Floor beside the elevator.
- An usher can direct you if you need assistance finding the washrooms.

Resource Tables:

- The musicians are playing live and acoustic (not amplified); however, an orchestra can be loud. We will have a limited supply of sound-dampening earmuffs on-site to lend to you for free, but we recommend you bring your own if you have a pair at home.

Entering the Auditorium:

- The auditorium will open 60 minutes before the concert begins, at the same time that the lobby opens. This will give you plenty of time to find your seat.
- The ushers will help you to find your seat.
- The Main Floor of the auditorium will be open for this concert.

During the Concert:

- Lights over the audience will remain at approximately 50% brightness during the performance.
- The conductor will speak to the audience during the program.
- The concert begins at 11:00am and will be approximately one hour in length.
- You will be able to move around the auditorium and lobby during the concert.
- If you like, you can move to the back three rows of the Main Floor to get a different view, or for the sounds to be a little softer. If you need it to be even quieter, you can enjoy the concert from the lobby or from the tunnels—there is a screen in each tunnel where you can view the concert.
- If you need to use the Quiet Room, please ask an usher to show you how to get there.

Concert facts

Things You Will Need to Pay for:

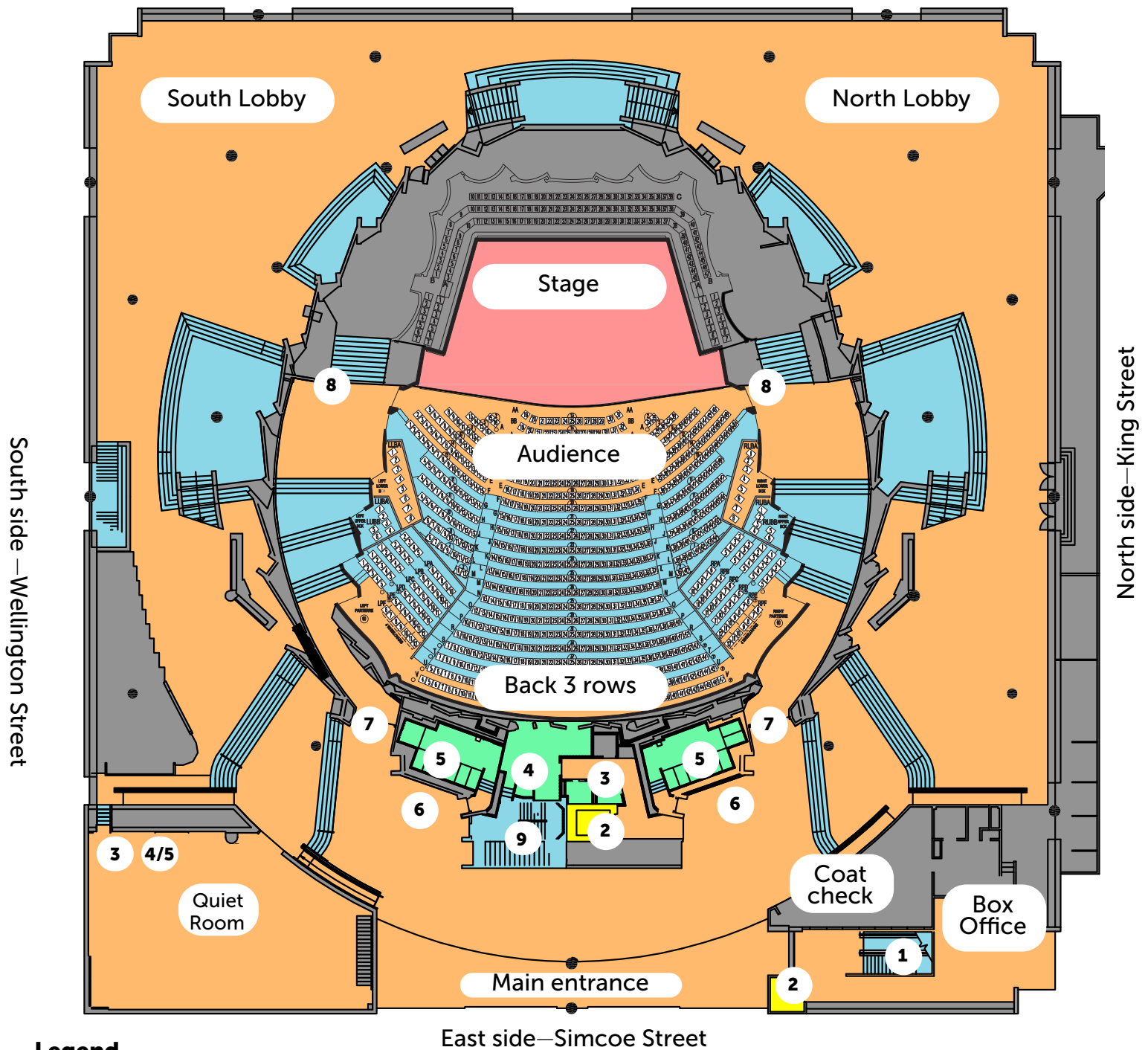
- Parking underneath Roy Thomson Hall, coat check, and concession snacks or drinks. If you do not need these services, you are not required to pay. Parking underneath Roy Thomson Hall costs \$8 per hour, or any part thereof, or \$15 for the day (weekend daily flat rate).

Fun Facts

Did you know:

- The Toronto Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1922. The first concert performed by the Orchestra was in April 1923 at Massey Hall. Today's concert is at Roy Thomson Hall.
- Roy Thomson Hall was designed by architect Arthur Erickson and opened in 1982.
- The hall is mostly concrete, steel, and glass. If you look up, you will see that the ceiling and some of the walls are glass. The glass pieces in the ceiling and roof are all different sizes.

Main Floor Map



Legend

1. Subway PATH
2. Elevators
3. Accessible washrooms
4. Men's washrooms
5. Women's washrooms
6. Sensory stations
7. Doors to the hall
8. TV screens
9. Stairs to access washrooms in between floors

The Quiet Room will be located in the Maestro's Club Lounge, near the main entrance.



Repertoire Notes



R. Schumann:
Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
[26 minutes]

I. Allegro non troppo

- The piece begins with three chords played by the woodwinds, setting the tone of the piece as a dreamy, entrancing work.
- The cello solo is filled with long, flowing melodies that demonstrate the virtuosity of the performer.
- Like some of Schumann's other works, there is no break between the movements. The first movement flows seamlessly into the second movement.

II. Adagio

- The second movement begins with a duet between the solo cello and a single cello from the orchestra. Occasionally, chords from the woodwinds interject, calling back to the opening chords of the first movement.

Repertoire notes

- The solo cello then uses double stops, a technique where the soloist plays on two strings at once.
- The movement ends with a dramatic melody played over tremolo strings. Like before, the transition between the second and third movements is seamless.

III. Vivace

- The third movement is lively and forceful, but also features long and lyrical phrases from the solo cello.
- Near the end of the movement, the cello plays a cadenza - a passage in improvisatory style.
- The final phrase of the piece ends with a callback to the first three chords of the concerto as the orchestra supports the solo cello's fast and lively finale!



2. Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 [36 minutes]

I. Allegro con brio

- The first movement starts with the iconic four-note opening motif. A common myth states that this motif represents Fate knocking at the door; in fact, this was never Beethoven's interpretation! The idea comes from Beethoven's secretary, Anton Schindler, who suggested this long after the composer died.
- The motif reappears throughout the movement, moving through the orchestra seamlessly as the powerful melody flows.
- This movement also features a brief solo for the first oboe, which plays completely alone in a quasi-improvisatory style before the orchestra returns with the four-note motif.

II. Andante con moto

- The second movement opens with the theme, played by the violas and cellos.
- A second theme is played by the clarinets, bassoons, and violins.
- Variations on the themes can be heard throughout the movement.

Repertoire notes

III. Scherzo: Allegro

- The third movement is conducted in one.
- The famous motif from the third movement makes a powerful return, played by the horns.
- Unlike the previous two movements, the third movement transitions directly into the fourth movement after a long crescendo.

IV. Allegro

- Grandiose and triumphant, the fourth movement is written in C major - an unusual choice, as the first movement was written in C minor!
- This movement features the first time that piccolos and trombones played together in a symphony in musical history!

A photograph of a male conductor in a black tuxedo, holding a baton and looking down at the orchestra. The background is dark and out of focus, showing the silhouettes of audience members.

Have a Question?

Call: 416.598.3375
(Mon–Fri, 9:30am–5:00pm)

Email: contactus@TSO.CA

For more information:
[TSO.CA/Relaxed](https://www.tso.ca/Relaxed)