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BPO SUMMER SERIES BRINGS LIVE MUSIC TO NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS WESTERN NY

From the new AKG Great Lawn to Newstead's Bicentennial Celebration to the Johnnie B. Wiley Sports Pavilion, the orchestra travels to a variety of venues in July

This summer, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra shares the delights of music with communities throughout Western NY in a July brimming with concerts. The series, sponsored by West Herr, features ticketed and open to the public performances throughout Buffalo-Niagara.

The free parks and plaza concert lineup includes evening performances at **Academy Park** (Lewiston, July 1), **Veterans Park** (Newstead Bicentennial, July 5), **Bassett Park** (Williamsville, July 7), **Niawanda Park** (Tonawanda, July 9), **Bidwell Park** (July 11), **North Park Academy** (July 12), and a lunchtime concert at **M&T Plaza** (July 18). On July 16, frequent BPO guest conductor Bradley Thachuk takes the podium for a special free performance on the new **Buffalo AKG Great Lawn** featuring Buffalo native vocalist **Jay Dref**, marking the space's debut event. On July 21, JoAnn Falletta leads the orchestra, Buffalo music educator/vocalist Karen Saxon, and the Buffalo United Community Choir in a free **Concert for Unity** at the **Johnnie B. Wiley Sports Pavilion**. The concert, presented by Highmark, continues the BPO's commitment to provide music that uplifts, heals, and unifies the Western NY community.

The season's ticketed shows offer an exciting range of music and visuals. On July 2, the BPO returns to the **Ellicottville Summer Music Festival** at **Holiday Valley Resort** with **Jeans 'n Classics' Amazing '80s** show by the slopes (ellicottvilleny.com). After the Bisons game on July 3, Maestro Paul Ferington conducts the BPO's annual **Independence Eve Celebration** under the lights and fireworks at **Sahlen Field**, joined by the critically acclaimed U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors (milb.com/buffalo). Canada's iconic band, **The Strictly Hip**, joins the orchestra on July 15 for a night of hits from The Tragically Hip at **Buffalo's Outer Harbor** (buffalowaterfront.com). Closing out the series, Spanish theatrical group **La Fura dels Baus** presents their North American premiere of **Carmina Burana** at **Artpark** with the BPO and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, joining forces to deliver Carl Orff's famously dramatic score alongside striking imagery and special effects (artpark.net).

BPO's Fernanda Lastra to lead the series

BPO Conductor Diversity Fellow [Fernanda Lastra](#) will conduct many of this summer's performances. Lastra comments: "Summer concerts are very special at the BPO, giving us the opportunity to connect with old and new friends in a closer way, and we hope this year's will create wonderful memories for audiences to treasure forever. We have a great summer program planned, featuring a broad selection of music that I'm sure you will love — wonderful classics like Dvořák's New World Symphony, patriotic music, and film music such as Disney's *Frozen*, *Star Wars*, and more! We will also feature four talented young artists from our WNY communities. I hope you can join us, and can't wait to meet you all!"

For a complete listing of the 2023 summer concert series, visit bpo.org/summer. For additional information, interviews with Fernanda Lastra or other BPO members, photos, or video, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org or (716) 242-7814.

About Us: To learn more about our storied history, [distinguished conductors and world-class musicians](#), and commitment to [IDEA](#), visit the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#).



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