

## RAVINIA FESTIVAL AND WFMT CLASSICAL RADIO EXTEND BROADCAST SERIES WITH BRAND-NEW CONCERTS

Eight-concert series kicks off on January 21 with concert performances ranging from solos and duos to small ensembles, including Elgin Symphony Orchestra and Highland Park Strings members

Series to air on WFMT, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), and the WFMT app Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

**HIGHLAND PARK, IL** — Ravinia Festival today announced the extension of its “New from the Ravinia Festival” concert broadcasts with **WFMT classical radio**. From January 21 to March 11, the series will bring fans new concert recordings from the festival every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. CST on 98.7 WFMT and streaming on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) and the WFMT app.

“We are thrilled to be working with our WFMT friends once again to bring music from Ravinia to listeners at home,” said Ravinia President and CEO **Jeff Haydon**. “In addition, we are grateful to dedicate these broadcasts in memory of Stephen Smoot, a longtime Ravinia staff member and collaborator with WFMT who recently passed unexpectedly.”

The series is composed of eight 45-minute concerts recorded in Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall and is dedicated to **Stephen Smoot**, the festival’s longtime Artistic Producer who coordinated the broadcasts of many Ravinia concerts on WFMT before his passing late last year. Pianist **Claire Huangci** is featured when the series kicks off January 21, performing Beethoven’s “Pastoral” Symphony in a transcription by Liszt, as well as Bach, Chopin, and Brahms works. The **Cavani String Quartet** will follow on January 28 with Charles Washington’s *Midnight Child* and Eric Gould’s *He Speaks in Shadows (In Memory of John Coltrane)*, plus Beethoven’s last quartet.

Beethoven highlights continue on February 4 with cellist **Oliver Herbert** and pianist **Xiaohui Yang** playing the composer’s first and last cello sonatas, and on March 4 **Daniela Liebman** headlines with his penultimate piano sonata in addition to Chopin’s Fourth Ballade and the final collection of piano pieces by Brahms. On February 11, pianist **Dominic Cheli** will perform Carl Vine’s Sonata No. 1 and Schulhoff’s Suite No. 3 for the Left Hand, his own arrangement of Beethoven’s song *An die Hoffnung*, and works by H. Leslie Adams, Clara Schumann, and Couperin.

Violinist **Andrew Sords** pairs up with pianist **Daniel Overly** for a February 18 broadcast featuring Franck’s Violin Sonata and Bloch’s *Baal Shem* suite, as well as Brahms’s *Sonata Satz* and Kreisler’s take on a dance from Falla’s *La vida breve*. Capping the month, soprano **Nicole Heaston** will be joined by members of the **Elgin Symphony Orchestra** for Jessie Montgomery’s *I Want to Go Home* and songs by Liszt, Schubert, Purcell, and Handel on the February 25 broadcast. Violinist **Maya Anjali Buchanan** will close the series on March 11 with the **Highland Park Strings**, playing “Winter” from *The Four Seasons* in both Vivaldi’s original guise and Piazzolla’s Argentine tango twist; the ensemble will also perform Mozart’s K. 136 Divertimento and Elgar’s Serenade for Strings.

“WFMT is thrilled to bring back ‘New from the Ravinia Festival,’ ” said **George Preston**, General Manager of WFMT. “We had such a positive response last year and are certain this outstanding lineup of artists will present incredible music to our audience.”

### ABOUT WFMT

WFMT is one of the world's most respected classical music radio stations, available on-air at 98.7 WFMT, online at [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), and on the WFMT app. WFMT showcases superlative programs, concerts, and live events—from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Ravinia Festival, and many more. WFMT is also a leading producer and syndicator of a diverse selection of outstanding musical series, including *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, the Beethoven Network, and the Jazz Network. Connect with WFMT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## **ABOUT RAVINIA**

Ravinia, located just north of Chicago, is North America's oldest and most diverse music festival, presenting over 140 different events every summer, including the annual residency of the nation's finest orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. As a nonprofit organization, Ravinia provides arts programs for over 85,000 people in communities within Cook and Lake Counties through its Reach Teach Play educations programs. The Ravinia Steans Music Institute is a summer conservatory that awards 60–70 fully paid fellowships each year to the most talented young professional musicians from around the world to work with an esteemed faculty and the headliners who frequent the festival. For information, visit [Ravinia.org](http://Ravinia.org).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

WFMT Schedule: [wfmt.com/schedule/](http://wfmt.com/schedule/)

Ravinia welcomes all festival fans to follow, connect, and interact online with @RaviniaFestival on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), as well as its blog, [backstage.ravinia.org](http://backstage.ravinia.org).

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