



Call for Artists: Maryland Symphony Orchestra 2026/2027 Season Artwork

The Maryland Symphony Orchestra invites local and regional artists to submit original artwork for consideration as cover art for *Bravo: The official Magazine* of the MSO for our 2026–2027 season. This initiative reflects our continued commitment to celebrating the creativity of our community and supporting local artists.

Bravo serves as both the concert program and seasonal magazine for the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. A new edition is created for each performance weekend and shared with audience members, donors, and community partners. In addition to program notes and artist information, the publication highlights the stories, people, and artistic collaborations that shape each concert experience. Selected artwork will appear on the cover and may also be featured in related marketing and promotional materials.

We are seeking artwork that responds to the themes, mood, or repertoire of each concert while allowing for the artist's individual interpretation and voice.

2026–2027 Concert Artwork Opportunities & Themes

Submissions are currently open for all concerts listed below. Artists may submit work for one or multiple concerts (up to two pieces per concert). Deadlines are structured in two phases based on performance dates.

Phase 1 Deadline — August 14, 2026

- **American Icons:** The American spirit, wide landscapes, optimism, strength, cultural identity, and the emergence of a distinctly American artistic voice.
- **Shakespeare in Symphony:** Drama, romance, fantasy, theatrical storytelling, literary imagery, emotion, and the contrast between light and darkness found in Shakespeare's works.
- **Home for the Holidays:** Seasonal favorites and traditional holiday music (program to include festive orchestral works and sing-along selections).

Phase 2 Deadline — November 13, 2026

- **Timeless Strings:** Elegance, flowing movement, harmony, intimacy, connection, lyricism, and the expressive beauty of string instruments.
- **Beethoven: Mastery in Motion:** Power, innovation, motion, creative force, independence, drama, and the bold energy of artistic transformation.
- **The Art of Sound:** Color, imagination, gallery imagery, visual storytelling, transformation, atmosphere, and the intersection of visual and musical art.

For more information about each concert, including repertoire, please visit marylandsymphony.org.

Artistic Interpretation

Artists are encouraged to interpret each concert theme in their own unique way. Submissions do **not** need to include literal depictions of musical instruments, musicians, or performances. We welcome a wide range of creative responses, including abstract, symbolic, conceptual, or representational work that reflects the mood, emotion, story, or energy of the music.

Our goal is to celebrate artistic voice and perspective while creating meaningful connections between visual art and the concert experience.

Submission Guidelines

- Artists may submit **up to two pieces per concert** for consideration.
- Artwork must relate thematically to the concert program.
- Any form of **original two-dimensional artwork** will be considered, including but not limited to:
 - Painting
 - Drawing
 - Printmaking
 - Mixed media
 - Collage
 - Photography
 - Digital illustration

Artwork should be suitable for reproduction in print and digital formats. The Maryland Symphony Orchestra reserves the right to crop or use portions of selected artwork as needed for design and promotional purposes. Vertical orientation is preferred; however, horizontal pieces will remain eligible for consideration.

Artist Compensation & Recognition

- **\$500 honorarium**
- **Two complimentary tickets** to the performance in which their artwork is featured
- **Recognition in Bravo**, the official magazine of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, including a feature highlighting the artist and their work
- **Social media recognition**, including a post featuring the artwork and tagging the artist's professional account (when provided)

- **Lobby display of the artwork** during the performance weekend
- The opportunity to display **pre-approved promotional materials** alongside the artwork (such as business cards or postcards)

This initiative is designed not only to enhance the visual identity of our concerts, but also to create meaningful visibility and connection for artists within our community.

Artwork Ownership & Usage

The Maryland Symphony Orchestra will retain:

- Ownership of the original artwork **or** a high-quality artist print of the original (to be determined in coordination with the artist), and
- The right to reproduce and use the artwork image for marketing, promotional, and fundraising purposes related to the organization.

Artists retain authorship credit at all times.

Submission Requirements

Please send your submissions via email to Chelsie Davis, Director of Marketing, at cdavis@marylandsymphony.org. Selections will be made via committee.

Please include:

- Artist name and contact information
- Title of concert for which you are submitting
- Up to two artwork images per concert (JPEG or PNG, high resolution)
- Medium, dimensions, and year created
- Artist Statement (optional)

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By submitting, artists confirm that the work is original to them, was not created using artificial intelligence or AI-generated imagery, and does not infringe on the copyright, trademark, or intellectual property rights of another person or entity.

Our Commitment to Local Artists

The Maryland Symphony Orchestra believes that the arts thrive when creative disciplines support one another. By partnering with visual artists in our region, we hope to build meaningful connections across artistic communities and provide new opportunities for visibility and collaboration.