

ONSTAGE



*The Woodlands
Symphony Orchestra*

DEAD SYMPHONY

The Music of Grateful Dead

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026



WELCOME!

Good evening and welcome to The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion!

We're delighted to have you with us for another exciting evening in our 2026 Performing Arts Season. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, donors and community partners, every performance in this series is offered free of charge, helping make the arts accessible to audiences of all ages throughout our community.

Tonight, the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra presents Dead Symphony: The Music of Grateful Dead and More, led by Darryl Bayer and Lee Johnson. Experience the improvisational spirit of jam band music reimaged through the power and texture of a full symphony orchestra.

The season continues with our annual Hocus Pocus Pops celebration on October 23, followed by our first-ever Pavilion Palooza on November 7 and 8. This year's World Tour themed festival will bring families together for hands-on activities, live music, creative experiences and fun for all ages. We'll close out the year with Holly Jolly Jingle on December 4, bringing holiday favorites and festive fun to The Pavilion stage.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning as a longtime guest, thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us. We hope you'll continue to join us as we celebrate another season of incredible performances and community experiences together.

Enjoy the show!



Jeff Young
President & CEO



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Cynthia Woods Mitchell
(1922-2009)

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★ DEAD ★ SYMPHONY

DARRYL BAYER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
LEE JOHNSON, GUEST CONDUCTOR

TUSK

Composed by Lindsey Buckingham
Arranged by Jason Seber

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

Composed by Darby Slick
Arranged by Dick Tunney

PURPLE HAZE

Composed by Jimi Hendrix
Arranged by Daryl McKenzie

DREAM ON

Composed by Steven Tyler
Arranged by Jennifer Lindberg

KASHMIR

Composed by John Bonham,
Jimmy Page, R. A. Plant
Arranged by Kevin Riley

LOVE, REIGN O'ER ME

Composed by Peter Townsend
Arranged by Brad Ritchie

CARRY ON WAYWARD SON

Composed by Kerry Livgren
Arranged by David Itkin

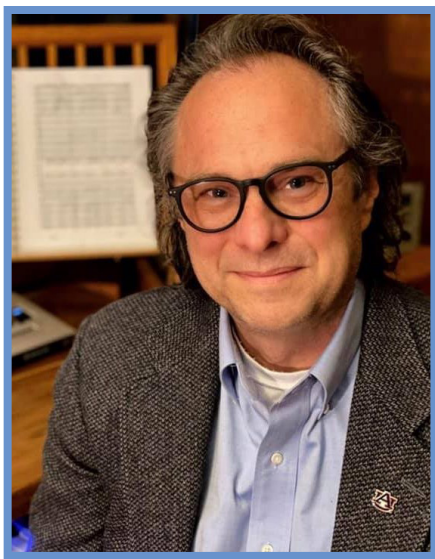
LAYLA

Composed by Jim Gordon, Eric Clapton
Arranged by Jennifer Lindberg

DEAD SYMPHONY NO. 6 **COMPOSED AND CONDUCTED BY LEE JOHNSON**

IF I HAD THE WORLD TO GIVE
OVERTURE - ST. STEPHEN
HERE COMES THE SUNSHINE
MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON
BLUES FOR ALLAH
SUGAR MAGNOLIA
TO LAY ME DOWN
BIRD SONG
CHINA DOLL
DEAD SYMPHONY FINALE

Meet the CONDUCTOR



Lee Johnson, Conductor

Lee Johnson is a composer, conductor, producer, and educator who is actively pursuing new ways of creating and presenting symphonic, cross-over, hybrid, and virtual music.

Lee Johnson has conducted and recorded his music with the London Symphony Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, the London Session Orchestra, the Center for Contemporary Music Moscow, and with numerous session orchestras and session musicians.

Johnson's symphonic compositions have been performed by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Film Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Centre

for Contemporary Music Moscow, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Kings Bishop Virtuosi, the California Symphony Orchestra, the LSO New Music Ensemble, the Vega String Quartet, the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, the Alton Symphony Orchestra, the University City Symphony Orchestra, the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, as well as ensembles from Auburn University, the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, the University of West Florida, Minnesota State University, Saint Xavier University and many others.

Lee has released albums and symphonic film DVD's with Warner Bros., CCn'C Records, Intersound International, Platinum Records, Deutsche Austrophon, Pamplin Music, Compendia Music, Tikal Records, OMI Records, and Jammates Records. Special selections of Johnson's music have also been released on Deutsche Grammophone, Universal Classics, and the Decca Records labels.

Lee Johnson's Dead Symphony no. 6 peaked at #20 and spent 3 week's on Billboard's Top Classical Albums Charts, his work on This Christmas charted at #25 on Billboard's Best New Age Albums, and Simplicity vol. 4 was part of the award winning Gold Record series from Pamplin Music.

Johnson's compositions, as well as his symphonic films, have been broadcast internationally. His critically acclaimed Dead Symphony no. 6, based on the music of the Grateful Dead, has received dozens of feature magazine and newspaper stories as well as feature broadcasts on Sirius/XM, WNYC of New York, NPR's Weekend Edition with Scott Simon, Georgia Public Broadcasting, Minnesota Public Radio, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

His symphonic films, Sandfloor Cathedral and Every Matter Under Heaven have been broadcast on Direct TV's Hope Channel as well as broadcasts on Bayrischer Rundfunk Alpha, and Polish Public Television. Johnson's comic chamber opera, Wordsmith was premiered in New York and has received two national tours with the Goliard Ensemble as well as broadcasts on public radio.

Professor Lee Johnson is the director of Composition and Technology at Auburn University. To find out more about Lee Johnson visit his website: <https://www.leejohnsonmusic.com>

Meet the MUSICIANS

The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra

Darryl Bayer | Artistic Director
Lee Johnson | Conductor

First Violin

Alisa Pederson
Richard Baum
Brittany Baston
Jose Garza
Danielle Darrigo
Aimee Peterson
Hetti Prior
Desiree Overree

Second Violin

Heather Leal
Darbi Green
Greg Park
Julia Aldrich
Elaine Thung
Maia Brown
Megan Watson
Misty Elfer

Viola

Jared Miller
Herbert Anzora
Chris Ponce
Terry Satitpunsaycha
Victoria Morehouse

Cello

Clarence Frank
MacKenzie Henry
Andrea Morrow
Terri Boutte
Robert Zuniga

Bass

Mike Fleming
Alex Collins
Luis Baston

Piccolo

Aaron Reines

Flute

Susan Daniell
Megan Pressley
Sara Chung Ryherd

Oboe

Stephanie Payne
Makayla Lawrence

Clarinet

Michael Woods
Aaron Martinez
Savannah Ramirez
Craig Daniell

Bassoon

Alex Easley
Jonathan Rollfing
Alex Kappes

Horn

Stephen Wadenpfuhl
Angel Morales
Mackenzie Cook
Nathan Reeves

Trumpet

Darryl Bayer
Chris Williams
Jennifer Kirk
Rob Thomson

Trombone

Michael Warny
Ramsey Hampton

Bass Trombone

Jason Harvey

Tuba

William Hammer

Percussion

Adrian Munoz
Jack McQueen
Sarah Tatar
Zach Kirk
Martha Vidal

Keyboard

Matthew Everett

Electric Bass

Alex Collins

Electric Guitar

Jon Yerby

Drums

Adrian Munoz





2026–27 WOODLANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SEASON 13: "EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED"

The WSO opened its 13th Concert Season on July 15, 2026, with *GAME ON* at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. This immersive program invited the audience to sing along to stadium rock favorites and music from well-known television sports themes.

Tonight, on September 29, Season 13 continues with music from Woodstock 1969 and a tribute to the Grateful Dead, featuring the Southwest U.S. premiere of *Dead Symphony* with its composer and conductor. Enjoy this program as the WSO captures peace, love, and harmony with their curated music selections from this generation.

On December 20, the Woodlands Symphony's beloved holiday concert, *Singing and Swinging with the Symphony*, returns with a new twist: young guest artists will be chosen from a pool of Pavilion scholarship winners to Sing with the Symphony. Scan the QR code for unexpectedly low-ticket prices.

Beginning in January 2027, generous grants from The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion will send the Woodlands Symphony Brass and Jazz Project to schools in Conroe ISD and New Caney ISD with educational programs for students in grades K–12. Darryl Bayer teaches the science of instruments and how they produce sound. WSO brass sections explore the connections between sports and music through a live "Music Olympics" featuring countries and cultures from around the world. A six-piece ensemble of WSO musicians with expertise in jazz education and performance present concerts honoring the great American artists who shaped our country's own musical tradition: Jazz!

The Woodlands Symphony season concludes on May 22, 2027, with *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Have you heard of P. D. Q. Bach? If not, then just imagine jugglers, poets, magicians, and comedians combining their talents with classical music. Subscribe to the WSO newsletter at www.woodlandssymphony.org for updates on the Season 13 and more on the grand finale of "Expect the Unexpected."

Established in 2013, The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra (WSO) brings together professional musicians, amateur enthusiasts, and rising young talent from The Woodlands. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Darryl Bayer, WSO celebrates community musicians, nurtures the next generation of artists and creates "outside the box" concerts that are both entertaining and educational. WSO relies on the generosity of donors and sponsors to make its performances possible. To learn more, make a tax-deductible donation, or view upcoming events, visit www.woodlandssymphony.org and follow the orchestra on Facebook. The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra is recognized 501(c)(3) organization.



The Pavilion PARTNERS

The Pavilion Partners, the official volunteer organization of The Pavilion, are a vibrant reflection of the arts and culture being presented at The Pavilion. Serving as ambassadors to the public, Partners offers opportunities for those who share a love for the performing arts to give back, support The Pavilion and network with others who have similar interests - all while receiving some fun perks, of course.

Partners is an integral part of making The Pavilion's arts programs happen. Partners are a critical component of making the annual Children's Festival happen as they provide much needed support throughout all portions of the event. Additionally, volunteers serve in a variety of key roles during the venue's education programs, community outreach opportunities and Live Nation events.

From escorting students to their seats at field trips to working the information booth at contemporary concerts, there are plenty of opportunities to be a part of the arts!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
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| Gordon Carruth | Deborah Kline | Mike Stacy |
| Kelsey & Cody Casey | Lisa Koetting | Craig Stevens |
| Jim Cash | Karen & Jim Kokines | Deborah Stofcheck |
| Joanne Cherry | Mary Lael Kucera | Kay Sugarbaker |
| Mike Clifton | Bill Kuhn | Jill & Jeff Swift |
| Shelley Cook | Karen & Gary Lach | Stephanie & Mark Teed |
| Candis Cooper | Laura Landsbaum | Doug Thompson |
| Chris & Tim Covington | Debbie & Mike Lasher | Julie Thompson |
| Gaye Craig | Heidi Lawler | Tom Tomasovic |
| Kelly Crist | Michelle Leary | Kim & Jim Tibbs |
| June Cullum & Bill Paulson | Karen & Jim Listak | Joyce Totino |
| Kate & Charlie de Kanter | Craig Lively | Lynda Troutman |
| Natalie Delamore | Landen Lopez | Nori-Lynn & Robert Truscott |
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The Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank the following contributors for their financial support of our 2026 Performing Arts Season, Fine Arts Scholarships and Educational Outreach Programs as of printing deadline.



The
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THE WOODLANDS
TOWNSHIP
The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion acknowledges the financial support of The Woodlands Township that is generated by the Event Admissions Tax for its performing arts and educational programs.

\$100,000+

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SAVE THE DATES FOR:



PAVILION PALOOZA

WORLD TOUR

NOVEMBER
7+8, 2026

SAT 10AM-5PM
SUN 12PM-5PM

PRESENTED BY:


Texas Children's





COLLECT THEM ALL!
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT PAVILION PALOOZA!

Upcoming EVENTS

Show times and dates subject to change.
For more information call 281.363.3300
or visit www.woodlandscenter.org.

*FREE EVENT with
FREE SEATING



OCTOBER

Thursday, October 1

Mumford & Sons with Marcus King Band

Friday, October 2

Boyz n the City: Rythm Review 2026

Saturday, October 3

Eagle Fest Featuring ZZ Top with Cheap Trick

Sunday, October 4

TLC & Salt-N-Pepa with En Vogue

Thursday, October 8

Brad Paisley with Jake Worthington

Friday, October 9

Haley Williams with Magdalena Bay & Rico Nasty

Saturday, October 10

Breaking Benjamin with Kami Kehoe, Starset and Chevelle

Thursday, October 15

Bryson Tiller with Majid Jordan, Ty Dolla \$ign and Austin Millz

Friday, October 16

beabadoobee with Wisp

Saturday, October 17

Staind with Seether, Hoobastank and Hinder

Friday, October 23

Houston Symphony: Hocus Pocus Pops*

Saturday, October 24

Majic Under the Stars featuring Babbyface

Sunday, October 25

Three Days Grace with I Prevail and the Funeral Portrait

Saturday, October 31

MercyMe with Jeremy Camp, Tim Timmons and Sam Wesley

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 7

Pavilion Palooza: World Tour

Sunday, November 8

Pavilion Palooza: World Tour

Friday, November 13

Treaty Oak Revival with 49 Winchester, Gannon Fremin & CCREV

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3

Holly Jolly Jingle featuring CISD Student Musicians*
Sponsored by KPMG

Stage LIGHTERS

THE CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION

ARTS DONOR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Stage Lighters is an exclusive arts donor membership that provides access to the best of what The Pavilion's arts programs have to offer, while also helping make the arts accessible to all.

In appreciation of an annual gift, Stage Lighters will receive special benefits that enhance the arts experience including reserved seating, access to the Woodforest Bank Club and reserved Gold Lot parking during arts events, special invitations to member-exclusive arts events throughout the season, Pavilion swag and more.

BENEFITS BY GIFT LEVEL	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
Premier seating in designated Stage Lighters member section	1 Seat	2 Seats	4 Seats	8 Seats	10 Seats
Access to Woodforest Bank Club with dinner included at each Arts show (when available)					
Member recognition in digital art show programs and CenterStage newsletter					
Stage Lighters member e-newsletter					
Exclusive Stage Lighters vinyl sticker					
Reserved Gold Lot parking for each Arts show					
Invitation to Behind-the-Curtain Discussion Series before select Arts shows					
Commemorative Pavilion t-shirt					
Invitation to member-exclusive Arts events (CEO Talk, Wine Walk, Meet & Greets and More)					
15% discount at The Pavilion's online store					
Special Arts pre-show video recognition					
Early ticket access to Live Nation concerts (Max 2 tickets per concert)					
2 Woodforest Bank Club + 1 Gold Lot parking for 1 Live Nation concert (must be used in conjunction with Live Nation concert tickets)					

*Benefits expire December 31, 2026. Availability of some benefits subject to scheduling.

CLICK TO BECOME A STAGE LIGHTER TODAY!