PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Announces Major 2026 European Tour of 13 Concerts

August 26 – September 10 | 13 Concerts, 6 Countries, 9 Cities

PITTSBURGH – From August 26 to September 10, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) led by Music Director Manfred Honeck will embark on its three-week 2026 European Tour, performing 13 concerts across 6 countries and 9 cities, including two performances at the Lucerne Festival, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Chopin and His Europe Festival in Warsaw, and as the only American orchestra at the prestigious Salzburg Festival. In its 45th international tour, the PSO continues a long, acclaimed tradition of international touring, serving as a proud cultural ambassador for Pittsburgh while appearing on Europe's prominent stages.

Joined for much of the tour by pianist Alexandre Kantorow and violinist Augustin Hadelich, the PSO will perform Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "New World," and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5, for which the orchestra won two 2018 Grammy awards, as well as works by John Adams, Carlos Simon, Schulhoff, Barber, Penderecki and Szymanowski.

The orchestra is also joined by Anne-Sophie Mutter for two concerts celebrating her 50th anniversary of performing, beginning with her debut at Lucerne in 1976 at the age of 13. In Warsaw, Bruce Liu joins the orchestra for a performance at the Chopin and His Europe Festival as former winner of the prestigious Chopin Competition.

The PSO will open the season for several notable European venues: Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, Cologne's Philharmonie, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Essen's Philharmonie,

and the Vienna Konzerthaus. The season opener in Amsterdam begins with Carlos Simon's Four Black American Dances, representing the Concertgebouw's new Composer in Residence.

In early July, the orchestra will release an album featuring two works included on the tour, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 and Carlos Simon's *Four Black American Dances* on the Reference Recordings label.

"When we tour, we carry the unique sound and spirit of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra onto the world stage," said **Music Director Manfred Honeck**. "What I value most is the opportunity to present the orchestra's artistry, precision, and expressive depth at Europe's most inspiring venues. This upcoming tour promises to be among our finest on the continent, and we look forward to reconnecting with audiences and sharing performances that are as powerful as they are deeply personal."

Beginning in 1947 with concerts in Mexico under Fritz Reiner, the PSO has a rich history of international touring and ambassadorship. In 1964, the orchestra was chosen by the Department of State to represent the nation on an 80-day tour through 14 countries in Europe and the Middle East to engage artists in cultural diplomacy. In 2004, the PSO was the first American orchestra to perform for Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. The 2026 European Tour is Manfred Honeck's 14th international tour as Music Director, and the orchestra's 45th in its history.

"International touring is one of the most powerful ways we share the essence of Pittsburgh with the world," said **Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO**. "The PSO is consistently invited to the most prestigious venues and festivals as a testament to our enduring legacy and continuing excellence. We are proud to serve as Pittsburgh's cultural ambassador and to bring our city's creativity and passion to European audiences."

"The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, together with two of the portrait artists of our season, Alexandre Kantorow and Augustin Hadelich, under the direction of Manfred Honeck, will create the festive opening of the 114th season at the Wiener Konzerthaus," said **Matthias Naske, CEO & Artistic Director of Wiener Konzerthaus**. "The unique musicianship of the members of this orchestra ensures that this evening is a special moment in the concert life of Vienna. After a brilliant concert, all visitors of this event are invited to stay and experience chamber music with various members of the PSO in the historic rooms of the Konzerthaus."

A limited Patron Tour experience will be offered in conjunction with the 2026 European Tour. Patrons can contact the Development department at pso_development@pittsburghsymphony.org for more information. The PSO's international touring is made possible, in part, by the Hillman Endowment for International Performances.

2026 European Festivals Tour Itinerary

Kurhaus Meran, Merano (Italy)

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Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Schulhoff (arr. Honeck/Ille): *Five Pieces*
Rachmaninoff: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

Grosses Festspielhaus, Salzburg (Austria)
Thursday, August 27, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Schulhoff (arr. Honeck/Ille): *Five Pieces*
Rachmaninoff: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

National Philharmonic, Warsaw (Poland)
Saturday, August 29, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Bruce Liu, piano

Szymanowski: Concert Overture
Rachmaninoff: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

National Philharmonic, Warsaw (Poland)
Sunday, August 30, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg (Germany)
Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

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Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg (Germany)
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Augustin Hadelich, violin

Carlos Simon: *Four Black American Dances*
Barber: Violin Concerto
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Kultur & Kongresszentrum, Lucerne (Switzerland)
Thursday, September 3, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

Kultur & Kongresszentrum, Lucerne (Switzerland)
Friday, September 4, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin

John Adams: *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*
Penderecki: *Metamorphosen*, Violin Concerto No. 2
Dvořák: Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Cologne Philharmonie, Cologne (Germany)
Sunday, September 6, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin

John Adams: *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*
Penderecki: *Metamorphosen*, Violin Concerto No. 2
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Monday, September 7, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Augustin Hadelich, violin

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Carlos Simon: *Four Black American Dances*
Barber: Violin Concerto
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Philharmonie, Essen (Germany)
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

John Adams: *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*
Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Vienna Konzerthaus, Vienna (Austria)
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Augustin Hadelich, violin

John Adams: *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*
Barber: Violin Concerto
Dvořák, Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Vienna Konzerthaus, Vienna (Austria)
Thursday, September 10, 2026
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alexandre Kantorow, piano

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

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