



MASTERPIECE CONCERT SHOW NOTES: "TO THE SEA"

The Cape Symphony Orchestra presents "[To The Sea](#)" Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM at the [Barnstable Performing Arts Center](#).

This season's Masterpiece Series concerts are a vital component of [the search for Cape Symphony's next Music Director](#). Each will be conducted by a candidate for the position. Ticketholders will have the opportunity to share their thoughts in a survey to be emailed the week after the performance. We hope you'll weigh in!

Cape Symphony

[James Blachly](#), Guest Conductor
[Cape Symphony Orchestra Musicians](#)

Guest Artists

[Sonja Tengblad](#), Soprano
[Bradford Gleim](#), Baritone

CAPE SYMPHONY

[The Metropolitan Chorale](#), Lisa Graham, Director

SOPRANO

Alexandra Aird
Laura Althoff
Franziska Blome
Sophie Carpenter*
Michel   Crowder
Ines Cuero
Kim Davie
Michelle Doyle
Amanda Duggan
Sara Landis Grinspoon
Susan Howard
Bethany Klem
Olga Kurland
Tiffany Lin
Mary McDermott
Carolyn McQuillan
Kristen McIntire
Megan Miller
Aim  e Reveno
Elise Simons
Allie Sturgis
Rachel Veto
Elizabeth Wharff
Evelyn Yamauchi

ALTO

Laura Ahn
Lisa Barone*
Alyssa Berkson
Johanna Biviano
Margaret Braccio
Axie Breen
Mary Brody
Naomi Cohen
Melissa Croteau
Lisa Ferrante-Walsh
Leora Fishman
Emma Flores
Madeline Garner
Rachel Gibian
Julie Hamilton Grant
Jessica Hoyt
Maeve Hulsman-Wells
Julie Johnson
Jen Lyon-Mackie
Madison Morrell
Allison O'Connell
Kelsey O'Hare
Sarah Paez
Genevieve Pluhowski
Kate Raisz
Katie Stenhouse
Catherine Wu
Kiara Zani

TENOR

Damien Croteau-Chonka
Nima Badizadegan
Benjamin Doyle
Jessie Feng
Andrew Haber
Terry Hayes
Dafna Ingerman
Mohiuddin Khan
Mariflor Salas

BASS

Nigel Dalziel
Harper Dangler
Eric Fellingner
Kaz Filus
Bennett Garner
David Golan
John Griffin
Michael Hussey
Jetson Leder-Luis
Steve McCormack
Michael Nathanson
Cornelius Pieper
David Pogue
Andrew Richlin
Mitchell Rosenberg
Ethan Turner
Ed Wertheim
Ron Williams

**Artist in Residence*

Program

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

Une barque sur l'océan

TORU TAKEMITSU (1930-1996)

Toward The Sea II

- I. The Night
- II. Moby-Dick
- III. Cape Cod

Intermission (20 minutes)

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

Symphony No. 1, A Sea Symphony

- I. A Song for All Seas, All Ships
- II. On the Beach at Night Alone
- III. The Waves
- IV. The Explorers

About Today's Program

Our concert opens with **Une barque sur l'océan** (A Boat on the Ocean), by **Maurice Ravel**.

Ravel was a French composer, pianist, and conductor, renowned for exquisite craftsmanship, masterful orchestration, and virtuosic, intricate style. *Une barque sur l'océan* is the third and longest movement of *Miroirs*, a five-movement suite for piano composed in 1904-1905 and orchestrated by Ravel afterward. Each movement is dedicated to a member of Les Apaches ("hooligans"), a diverse group of musicians, writers, and artists which formed in Paris in 1903, meeting on Saturdays to discuss art, play music, argue about issues of the day, and generally collaborate and carouse (neighbors complained about the noise). *Une barque sur l'océan* is dedicated to French painter Paul Sordes.

The piece "reveals profound mysteries in its subtle shifts in orchestration," says James Blachly. "It's almost like looking down in a pool of glistening, shifting water with powerful waves emerging—and it allows us to explore the orchestral textures that only Ravel can create." The music conjures the rise and fall of ocean swells, and the shimmering play of light on the water's surface. Sit back and float along!

CAPE SYMPHONY

Tōru Takemitsu was one of Japan's most celebrated and influential composers, known for blending Western techniques with traditional Japanese aesthetics. His music often reflects a reverence for nature, with a gentle, flowing style emphasizing atmosphere over traditional melody or form and creating timeless soundscapes.

Toward the Sea was commissioned by Greenpeace as part of the Save the Whales campaign. There are three versions of the piece. ***Toward the Sea II***, composed in 1981 for alto flute, harp, and string orchestra, is a serene, meditative work inspired by the spiritual themes of Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. Its three sections – The Night, Moby-Dick, and Cape Cod – reference the novel, and unfold like waves and drifting currents.

Intermission (20 minutes)

Your Cape Symphony Orchestra will now perform Ralph Vaughan Williams's **A Sea Symphony** with the Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline and soloists Sonja Tengblad, soprano and Bradford Gleim, baritone. "Sea Symphony is a true love letter to the sea and to all who share that love," says James Blachly. "While it is expansive and exultant, it is also a memorial for lives lost, with the journey across the ocean a powerful metaphor for life."

A Sea Symphony is considered one of the most ambitious and distinctive first symphonies in the orchestral repertoire. Composed by Vaughan Williams between 1903 and 1909 (during which time he was briefly a student of Ravel's), it was a bold entry into the symphonic tradition: It is one of the first symphonies to use a chorus throughout. The text comes from American poet Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Whitman's transcendental and expansive verse about the sea, humanity, and the cosmos deeply resonated with Vaughan Williams's own artistic vision.

The work's four movements trace both a literal and metaphorical journey. The opening movement, "A Song for All Seas, All Ships," bursts forth with grandeur, as choir and orchestra celebrate the vastness of the ocean and the spirit of adventure. The gentle second movement, "On the Beach at Night Alone," offers introspection and mysticism, while the scherzo-like third, "The Waves," vividly depicts the rhythmic motion of the sea. The final movement, "The Explorers," extends the metaphor of sea travel into the spiritual realm, embracing Whitman's vision of humanity's eternal quest into the unknown.

"Williams's music is close to my heart, and I began reading Walt Whitman in college," reflects James Blachly, "so to be reveling in his texts now, all these years later, in Williams's extraordinary, exultant setting of the poetry, is a real joy."

We hope you, too, feel the joy of this performance.



Tickets for “To The Sea”

“[To The Sea](#)” will be performed at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center, 744 West Main Street, Hyannis, Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit capesymphony.org, call the Box Office at 508.362.1111, email tickets@capesymphony.org, or visit 2235 Lyannough Road in West Barnstable, MA. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. During concert weekend, box office operations move to the Barnstable Performing Arts Center where we can be reached only by email.

Only tickets purchased on Cape Symphony’s secure website or through the Cape Symphony Box Office are legitimate and guaranteed, and eligible for exchanges or credits in accordance with our [ticket policies](#).