

June 2026

Hello!

It's that time of year, time to be out and about, time to enjoy the weather and live music! Not only that, it's also an extra special year: America's 250th! The Reading Pops Orchestra is proud to be part of the celebrations!

Once again events are scheduled for the summer that will fulfill the Reading Pops Orchestra mission to promote the musical arts in Reading and Berks County through the preservation of a professional orchestra for the performance of public concerts and to provide a variety of historical and educational presentations of the classic pops repertoire, exposing the greater community to different musical art forms.

The Annual Side by Side educational event, where Berks student musicians are invited to join the Pops in preparing and performing a concert, will be at Exeter High School. The Annual Father's Day Concert at Green Valley Chateau Tent will feature Dave Kline on a musical journey through time. Don't miss a Pops special appearance during the Wyomissing 250th celebrations with music and fireworks! Rounding out the season will be a concert in August sponsored by the Wyomissing Recreation Board at the high school. All these events are FREE!

Yes, free concerts for you to attend, but we are a professional orchestra with financial obligations. Your generous donation to The Gift of Music is your chance to be a proud sponsor of the RPO with your valued tax-deductible contribution. It's through the commitment of those who support the arts, enhancing the rich culture of our communities, that makes Berks County special.

The Reading Pops Orchestra is an affiliate of the Reading Musical Foundation, is supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, receives sponsorships from the Music Performance Trust Fund of the American Federation of Musicians, and has been awarded a grant from the Arthur Judson Foundation, all evidence of value the RPO is to our place called home.

Share your Gift of Music today and help spread the love.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your time and generosity. I look forward to greeting you at the next concert. We also would love to hear your thoughts about the Reading Pops Orchestra and how it has impacted you and your family!

Musically yours,

Julie Beth Drey
Managing Director

EVENTS 2026

Saturday, June 6, Exeter High School, Side by Side Concert 7 pm

We are happy to announce the opening concert for the summer season will feature student musicians from Berks and beyond who will gain valuable experience performing with professional musicians, rehearsing and presenting a concert all in one day! This is music for everyone. The program will be led by Tyler Readinger, a native of Reading, an Exeter grad! Tyler has quickly gained traction as a dynamic young conductor through his spirited artistry, all-embracing versatility, and collaboratively welcoming approach to music. Recently appointed as assistant Conductor for Allentown Symphony Orchestra, he also has served as Cover Conductor for the New York Philharmonic, Assistant Conductor of the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra, and guest conductor for Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic, and Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in addition to the Reading Pops Orchestra. A graduate of Kutztown University (BS in Music Education), Indiana University (MM in Orchestral Conducting), Tyler is currently a doctoral candidate at the Jacobs School of Music (IU). See more of Tyler's impressive resume on our website www.readingpops.com

FREE

Sponsored in part by the Reading Musical Foundation, the Music Performance Trust Fund as administered through American Federation of Musicians, Local 135-211, and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Sunday, June 21, Annual Father's Day Concert, Green Valley Chateau Tent, 3 pm

The Reading Pops Orchestra Celebrates America's 250th

The RPO has collaborated with guest artist Dave Kline, singer/guitarist, to present a concert of "Epic Tales in American Music." New orchestral arrangements highlighting music through the eras will be featured, such as *Roll on Columbia, Roll On*, created to attract a labor force and sway public opinion regarding the desirability and noble cause of creating a dam; or historic telling, as in *Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, or *The Fields of Athenry* about the exploitation of Irish families in working the coal mines in Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe). *The Weight*, written by Robbie Robertson for his band, "The Band," is a classic example of how composers from Beethoven to Robertson reflected on everyday happenings and experiences, plus more! Join us for a rollicking afternoon under the direction of Dr. Will Rapp.

FREE

Sponsored in part by the Reading Musical Foundation, The Gertrude Sternberg Fund of the RMF, The Music Performance Trust Fund as administered through American Federation of Musicians, Local 135-211, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Friday, July 3rd, Wyomissing Pool, 9 pm

Pops, Patriotism, and Fireworks will bring an unforgettable soundtrack to Wyomissing's Independence Day Celebration as part of Wyomissing Celebrates America's 250th. On Friday, July 3rd, the Reading Pops Orchestra will perform live in front of the Wyomissing Pool, in the drop-off area, leading the community into the 10:00 PM fireworks show with a special concert celebrating "Epic Tales in American Music" and featuring guest artist Dave Kline. The evening will highlight songs and stories woven into America's musical landscape, including selections inspired by folk, rock, country, pop, and patriotic favorites. From *The City of New Orleans* and *Cats in the Cradle to Puff the Magic Dragon*, *The Weight*, *Space Oddity*, and a high-energy rock-a-billy medley honoring the sounds of the 1950s, the concert will celebrate the artists, eras, and songs that helped shape the American experience. As the music builds toward the fireworks, the Reading Pops Orchestra will close the night with rousing patriotic selections, creating a powerful community moment under the summer sky. Please keep in mind, the Wyomissing Police Department will have several surrounding streets closed as part of the evening's safety protocols, so plan ahead and arrive early. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, find your spot, and enjoy a wonderful evening of live music under the fireworks.

One Nation. One Night. One Sound.

...join us as Wyomissing celebrates America's 250th.

FREE

Sponsored in part by the Music Performance Trust Fund as administered through the American Federation of Musicians, Local 135-211, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Saturday, August 1, Wyomissing High School, 7 pm

The Wyomissing Recreation Board sponsors the Pops in a more than 25-year tradition of concerts, moving indoors so no need to worry about the weather! The Pops again invites conductor Tyler Readinger, an avid conductor of film

music, to lead everyone on a journey through the magic of the movies and beyond. As is the tradition of the RPO, we will feature arrangements by local composers, contemporary composers, and the well-known soundtrack composers in this wonderful style of the pops repertoire.

FREE

Sponsored in part by the Wyomissing Recreation Board, Redner's Markets, RMF, MPTF, and PCA.

Saturday, September 5, Green Valley Chateau Tent, 7 pm

The Reading Pops Big Band will present a swinging evening of music from the height of the big band era, featuring such notable composers as Benny Goodman, Jerry Gray, Johnny Warrington, Artie Shaw, and Duke Ellington. Put on your dancing shoes (or just your toe tapping shoes) and join us celebrating the end of summer.

FREE

Sponsored in part by RMF, MPTF, PAC.

Much appreciation goes to the Reading Musical Foundation (RMF), of which the RPO is an affiliate, for all their support through grants and guidance. Many thanks to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), also operating under the banner of Pennsylvania Creative Industries, a state agency dedicated to strengthening the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of communities. It provides funding, resources, and career pathways for artists and creative organizations across all 67 counties. Additionally, we thank the Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) through the American Federation of Musicians, which sponsors concerts that are FREE and open to the public, enriching lives through music. The RPO is recognized by the American Federation of Musicians, Local 135-211. And most of all, to you, our loyal fans for supporting live music! We couldn't do it without YOU!

Looking ahead

Annual Vesper Service with St. Daniel's Lutheran Church of Robesonia

Watch for details on this tradition dating to the early 2000's which draws large audiences celebrating the holiday season in the western Berks community, held at the Conrad Weiser High School.

The Nutcracker with Berks Ballet Theatre, another treat for the holidays will also be in December. In this delightful collaboration of the BBT and the RPO, the imaginative Christmas Eve story comes to life with the wonderful music of Tchaikovsky, performed by a live orchestra.

Visit us on Facebook at The Reading Pops Orchestra for updates on all our performances.