

Tips for the best experience in West Michigan Symphony's Virtual Concert Hall

Find a quiet space – Just like the Frauenthal, the viewer will benefit from a quiet and comfortable space for viewing. This can be a fun experiment. Ever dream of watching a concert in your backyard oasis, in bed, or at the beach? With a smart device or laptop within wireless range it's possible! Just make sure the neighbors aren't planning on mowing their lawn!

Arrive early – Like a concert at the Frauenthal, plan on arriving early to take your seat. This allows you last minute trouble shooting if necessary.

Use headphones – If you are viewing on your own on a smart device, computer or laptop, consider using a nice pair of headphones. Even a small pair of ear buds provides better quality sound than most smart devices or laptops.

If watching with an acquaintance, consider purchasing a low-cost headphones splitter from a local store with an electronics section. This will allow two (or more) people to connect headphones to one headphone jack on a smart device or computer/laptop.

Reset your wireless router and/or modem – Our digital devices need rest just like us... but only for a few seconds. To give your wireless router and/or modem a fresh start before our broadcast, power down the device for thirty seconds to one minute and then restore power.

Restart your computer or other device – Just like your wireless router or modem, a computer or smart device can start to "lose it's edge" after remaining on for long periods of days. Give them a break by restarting prior to enjoying our broadcast.


Close other programs – When viewing on a smart device or computer, close other programs so your machine can dedicate all resources to streaming the concert.


Watch on a large screen – If you have a smart television or consider yourself even moderately television savvy, you can watch our online content on a television. See our tech tips for exploring various methods of watching out online content.


Host a watch party – If you have the capability of viewing the performance on a television, consider inviting some friends to watch together. See our tech tips for exploring various methods of watching our online content.

Arrived late or need to pause? – Fear not! You can join late or pause the video! When the video is first premiered you can watch it in real time or scroll back to any previous point in the broadcast. The performance will also be available for seven days following the initial broadcast.

Tech tips for the beginner to the guru

Beginners – It’s easy! On your home computer or laptop, simply click the link provided to you in email from the West Michigan Symphony. Enter the password when prompted to get into the exclusive webpage and then click on the picture that has the concert date and concert name. Be sure your computer or laptop volume is turned up by clicking on the small speaker icon in the lower right corner of your screen. 

You can expand the picture to full screen by clicking this button in the lower right corner of the YouTube player 


Intermediate – Want to watch the performance on a large screen? Connect your laptop to a TV! You must have an HDMI output on your laptop and an HDMI input on your TV. 

Virtually all TVs purchased in the last decade have this port. Most laptops purchased in the last six to seven years have this port as well.

Connect the TV and laptop using an HDMI cable. Commute to the input selection menu on your TV and select the input you just connected to. Your laptop screen should now be mirrored on your TV.

If your home TV is connected to a home theater or stereo system, you have the ultimate listening experience available. Every system is different so we can’t provide specific instructions on this. You know who you are though!

Guru – Think you’re a guru? Try connecting your laptop or smart device via a Firestick, Chromecast, smart TV or other streaming entertainment device. If you have a YouTube account and have it linked to a google or amazon account you might be in luck.

On any device, click this icon  near the bottom right corner of the YouTube video to select options for “play on TV.” This allows you to control the video player via your smart device or computer/laptop but view wirelessly on your TV. Once clicked, a menu will show you if you have any connectable streaming devices in range. Tutorials for connecting streaming device like Amazon Firestick, Chromecast etc. are available online. You’re a guru... get to it!

We recommend test driving this method well in advance with any YouTube video.