

# OPENING NIGHT

## Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2021-2022 Concert Season

Monday, September 20, 2021

Wesley United Methodist Church, St. Simons Island

8:00 p.m.

### *Melody, Harmony and Grace*

#### Program

Gioachino Rossini	<i>Barber of Seville Overture</i>
Reynaldo Hahn	<i>Concerto Provençal</i>
Jennifer Higdon	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
Josef Suk	<i>Serenade for Strings, Op. 6</i>

The merry overture to the Barber of Seville provides the perfect opening for our concert season. This early 19<sup>th</sup> Century piece has endured as a popular favorite with its fast-moving strings, intriguing winds, and changing tempos.

Four wind soloists will shine with *Concerto Provençal* from Venezuelan-born French composer, Reynaldo Hahn. Written in 1945 near the end of his career the music is sunny, optimistic, and distinguished by the melodious flow and Romantic flair for which Hahn is known.

A soothing string arrangement of *Amazing Grace* written in Jennifer Higdon's own unique voice follows. Higdon is considered one of our most influential living American composers. The lush, classically tonal theme of the old hymn moves through variations and different tempi without pause.

Joseph Suk's melodic and harmonically rich Serenade for Strings brings us a series of interchanging moods for our final selection. Suk was just 18 years of age when he wrote the piece. His tutor, Antonin Dvorak, had seen a melancholy strain to Suk's music and encouraged him to write something more light and cheerful. The serenade accomplishes that but not without shadows of his melancholia seeping up through the extended songlike melodies.

*Opening Night will charm and enchant us!*