

OPENING NIGHT

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2021-2022 Concert Season

Monday, November 22, 2021

Wesley United Methodist Church, St. Simons Island

8:00 p.m.

Inspiration

Program

Piotr Szewczyk	<i>Journey Within</i>
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Violin Concerto No. 2
Felix Mendelssohn	Symphony No. 1 in C minor

Our fall concert showcases two of our highly gifted and well-respected musicians: Aurica Duca, concertmaster and Piotr Szewczyk, principal second violin.

Piotr's original composition, *Journey Within*, opens the evening with music that creates both a sense of urgency and resolution as the strings tap into the many facets of their instruments. Piotr plays an active part in the creative environment of our time.

Aurica follows with a solo performance of Mozart's second violin concerto which was written in 1775 when he was concertmaster of the court orchestra. It is a charming concerto allowing the soloist to embellish motifs and figures proclaimed by the orchestra in the intricate first movement, then lead the way with a poignant melody in the second, and a lively theme in the third which is repeated by the orchestra in a closing rondo of great texture.

Mendelssohn's youthful first symphony was written in 1824 at age 15, showing great command and assurance for one so young. It includes a fiery opening movement with daring dissonance, a slower andante with flowing counterpoint from the violins to a main melody in the winds, an unusually brusque energy belying the courtly menuetto title, and a finale with lusty trumpeting and drumming.

Opening Night will inspire us!

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2021-2022 Concert Season

Monday, January 24, 2022

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 19th 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.

This concert will charm and enchant us!

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2021-2022 Concert Season

Monday, February 14, 2022

Brunswick High School

8:00 p.m.

Love and Loss

Program

Alma Deutscher

George Gershwin/Robert Russell Bennett

Sergei Prokofiev

Siren Sounds Waltz

Symphonic Picture: *Porgy and Bess*

Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

The opening strains of this concert might be startling, but you will soon be swept up into the full, lush passages of a lovely waltz. *Siren Sounds Waltz* is the clever work of a brilliant young English composer who was told that in order to be relevant, she must write music that reflects the ugliness of the modern world. Instead, 15-year-old Alma Deutscher decided to take the ugly sounds of the world and turn them into something more beautiful through music.

After our waltz, we head to Catfish Row and many of the best-known songs from Gershwin's beloved opera, *Porgy and Bess*. Bennett's arrangement does not adhere to the chronology of the opera, but the actual orchestration in most passages is very closely based on Gershwin's original scoring. The result is a deeply moving work including romance, loss, struggle, and fun.

Selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* continue our love theme. Prokofiev invokes in sound every circumstance, character, and mood of the story in a sort of musical pictorialism. The orchestra recreates that story for us through prominent musical episodes, varied in tone and invention, from beginning to tragic end.

This concert will fill us with music of beauty, romance, and tragic loss.

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2021-2022 Concert Season

Monday, April 11, 2022

Brunswick High School

8:00 p.m.

Light and Dark

Program

Lili Boulanger	<i>D'un matin de printemps</i> (Of a Spring Morning)
Pēteris Vasks	Cello Concerto No. 1
Johannes Brahms	Symphony No. 4

Our final season concert of creative, compelling music begins with *D'un matin de printemps*, an evocative 20th century piece written with a fresh, joyful character. Unlike many of Lili Boulanger's other works, there is a certain frivolity to this music; but there is also a slightly darker middle section. The constant time and mood changes will keep us engaged.

An extremely quiet, ethereal note opens Peteris Vasks' concerto, drawing us into his deeply spiritual music. Dynamic young cellist and artist of color, Christine Lamprea whose performances have received accolades, will perform as solo cellist. Vasks grew up in Latvia, a country torn by violence and cruelty under Joseph Stalin. His exhilarating score gives rise to a sense of freedom and subtle protest. Vasks' music gives voice to the Latvian people, and he is considered one of the most famous composers from the Baltic states.

The powerful Brahms Symphony No. 4 closes out our 39th Season with its complex mix of musical interrelations. Each melody evolves seamlessly from a hauntingly beautiful theme that weaves its way through fanfares, horn calls, searching melodies in the strings, and thundering timpani. Some critics believe it to be Brahms' greatest masterpiece.

The Season Finale will leave us wanting more!