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CONTACT: Meagan Iverson
541-593-1084
meagan@sunrivermusic.org



SUNRIVER CHRISTMAS CONCERT IS ON AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

SUNRIVER, ORE – It's a lively time for the Sunriver Music Festival. First, live music returns to Sunriver on Saturday, December 5th with the annual Traditions Christmas Concert.



There will be two LIVE concerts, 4:00 and 7:00 pm, at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall featuring headliner Aaron Meyer, concert rock violinist with his fantastic pianist Jean-Pierre Garau. Violinist John Fawcett opens the concerts. A very limited amount of tickets are available for these special, socially-distanced, LIVE concerts featuring renowned musicians. Ticket prices range from \$20-\$65 and are also available for a livestream experience. Visit the Festival's website (www.sunrivermusic.org) for more details and to purchase tickets.

"We've designed these concerts following all public health considerations for COVID to ensure your safety and enjoyment," explains Executive Director Meagan Iverson. "Therefore, since tickets will be quite limited, we encourage you to reserve now or sign up for the livestream!"

Presented in partnership with Sunriver Resort, these concerts are part of the Resort's Winter Traditions celebration offering an abundance of family-friendly events. Find out more about Traditions and the Resort's lodging packages at www.sunriver-resort.com.

Iverson also shares the long-awaited announcement of the two finalists for Sunriver Music Festival's new Artistic Director: Maestros Kelly Kuo and Brett Mitchell.

(Maestro George Hanson successfully ended his 10 year tenure with the Festival earlier this year after accepting a position in Washington D.C.)

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“For the last 12 months, the Board and search committee have been reviewing candidates and we are excited to have two dynamic finalists who will both perform and lead the Festival Orchestra this coming summer (August 2021),” adds Iverson. Full finalists’ bios are available on the Festival’s website.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FINALISTS

- KELLY KUO, currently Artistic Director of the Oregon Mozart Players, is an Oregon native praised by the Cincinnati Enquirer as “a leader of exceptional musical gifts, who has a clear technique on the podium and an impressive rapport with audiences,” Maestro Kelly Kuo brings a dynamic versatility and nuance to a diverse repertoire, which includes over 90 operas and an expansive symphonic repertoire as well. Recent engagements have included productions with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Indianapolis Opera, and the Janiec Opera Company of the Brevard Music Center and concerts with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic, and Ballet Fantastique.

In 2008, Maestro Kuo became the first conductor of Asian descent to lead a performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, making his company debut with Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*. Kuo continues to concertize as the only pianist to have studied with two pupils of Russian virtuoso Vladimir Horowitz.

- BRETT MITCHELL, currently Music Director of the Colorado Symphony since 2017, has been hailed for presenting engaging, in-depth explorations of a variety of classical programs. Throughout his Colorado tenure, he has led the orchestra in the majority of its classical performances, as well as a wide variety of special programs featuring such guest artists as Renée Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma, and Itzhak Perlman.

From 2013 to 2017, Maestro Mitchell served on the conducting staff of the Cleveland Orchestra. From 2007 to 2011, Mitchell led over a hundred performances as Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony.

Mr. Mitchell is also in demand as a guest conductor. His 2020-21 season features return engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and Houston Symphony, as well as debuts with the North Carolina, Fort Worth, and Pasadena symphonies. Other recent guest engagements include the Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Oregon, San Antonio, San Francisco, and Vancouver symphonies, and a two-week tour with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Both conductors will present programs during the Festival’s 44th season (2021). “This way, our members and community receive the unique opportunity to see these two outstanding professionals in action as they lead our talented Festival Orchestra,” shares Iverson.

Keep your eyes on sunrivermusic.org for additional details or email the Festival at information@sunrivermusic.org if you have specific questions.

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