

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



GET TO KNOW YOUR FESTIVAL **INTRODUCING MAESTRO BRETT MITCHELL**

SUNRIVER, ORE – (This is one of a series of previews of the upcoming 44th Season of the Sunriver Music Festival).

Communications, collaboration, and making sure a festival reflects the community are the priorities that Brett Mitchell, a finalist for Sunriver Music Festival’s Artistic Director, will bring to Central Oregon when he conducts summer concerts in 2021.

Mitchell, the current Music Director of the Colorado Symphony, has been hailed for presenting engaging, in-depth explorations of a variety of classical programs. His distinguished career also includes serving on the conducting staff of the Cleveland Orchestra and Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony. Mitchell is one of two finalists who will be conducting the 44th season. The other finalist, Kelly Kuo, will be profiled in the next “Get to Know Your Festival” story.

“We don’t name orchestras after conductors. We name them after communities,” explains Maestro Mitchell. “That’s because festivals need to reflect their communities. It is about a dialogue with the community.”

That is one reason Mitchell is excited about coming to Sunriver to get a feel for the community and what they are seeking. “Yes, I have my priorities that will be reflected in the programing, but my goal is collaboration with the community and the audience.”



Communication is also a critical part of Mitchell’s approach to conducting. “Music is about communications, the whole purpose is to create a musical intimacy, so you must have a relationship with the musicians and with the audience,” adds Mitchell.

Mitchell is quick to point out that he has had a very different musical journey to conducting. Growing up in Seattle in the 80s he listened to the emerging world of grunge rock, not classical. In middle

school he fell in love with jazz. It wasn't until high school that he started to appreciate classical.

"Because of my diverse musical tastes, I don't necessarily place classical music on a pedestal, and this allows me to bring a unique kind of open-mindedness to the way I program concerts."

Mitchell's arrival next August is the culmination of a year-long Maestro search by the Festival Board and search committee. "Next summer our members and community receive the unique opportunity to see two outstanding professionals in action as they lead our talented Festival Orchestra," states Executive Director Meagan Iverson.

The Festival's current Music Director, George Hanson, ended his 10-year tenure with the Festival earlier in 2020 after accepting a position in Washington D.C.

Visit sunrivermusic.org for a sneak peek of the complete Summer Festival schedule.

###