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SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL PRESENTS THE DYNAMIC DUO OF BRETT MITCHELL & TIMOTHY JONES

ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR BRETT MITCHELL:

Brett Mitchell was born and raised in Seattle. He lived in Snohomish County just north of the city, then attended Western Washington University. Brett began his music career on the piano as a small child and it is still his primary instrument. He then picked up the saxophone in 4th grade and loved that as well. He started conducting and composing when he was a student at Lynnwood High School in the mid 1990s, conducting his first performance in October 1995 at age 16. He holds masters and doctoral degrees in conducting from the University of Texas at Austin and composition from Western Washington University, which selected him as its Young Alumnus of the Year in 2014. He also studied with Leonard Slatkin at the National Conducting Institute and was selected by Kurt Masur as a recipient of the inaugural American Friends of the Mendelssohn Foundation Scholarship in 2008. Mr. Mitchell was also one of five recipients of the League of American Orchestras' American Conducting Fellowship from 2007 to 2010.

In addition to his work with professional orchestras, Mr. Mitchell is also well known for his affinity for working with and mentoring young musicians aspiring to be professional orchestral players. His tenure as Music Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra from 2013 to 2017 was highly praised and included a four-city tour of China, marking the orchestra's second international tour and its first to Asia. Mr. Mitchell is regularly invited to work with the talented young musicians at this country's high-level training programs, such as the Cleveland Institute of Music, the National Repertory Orchestra, Texas Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, and Interlochen Center for the Arts. He has also served on the faculties of the schools of music at Northern Illinois University, the University of Houston, and the University of Denver.

Maestro Mitchell now resides in Denver with his wife and new baby and is very much looking forward to bringing his family to Oregon and being an integral part of Sunriver Music Festival. Learn more at brettmitchellconductor.com.

ABOUT BASS-BARITONE TIMOTHY JONES:

The Shreveport, Louisiana born bass-baritone Timothy Jones says he hails from humble beginnings and owes his career and love of music to his parents, many teachers, and his aunt. His aunt was a very special woman who came to live with his family while she went to nursing school. While living there, she read to Timothy as well as his brothers. She knew it was important to learn to read and with this important knowledge and given the fact Timothy was proficient in reading by the age of 4, he was enrolled in a fantastic preschool that exposed him to extremely valuable aspects of life. This included a Coca Cola plant to meet the CEO as well as line workers, cemeteries to learn about life and death, and of course, symphonies, operas, and ballet. This is where it all started, creating the foundation for his life and spurring the passion for his career.

Jones (to friends, he's known as simply "Jones") obtained his Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Centenary College of Louisiana and his masters and doctoral degrees in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan. Timothy Jones has a reputation as an exciting presence on operatic and concert stages throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. His eagerly anticipated performances combine intelligent musicianship, commanding vocal technique and an unique ability to connect with audiences. An enthusiastic champion of new and contemporary music, he has commissioned and premiered numerous compositions. For the last 20 years, he's served as Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Houston-Moore School of Music, and previously as Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

MAESTRO MITCHELL AND SOLOIST JONES, TOGETHER:

Brett Mitchell met Timothy Jones 20 years ago, working together at the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. They performed a few pieces there together during that first summer (the world premiere of *A Lyric's Tale* by Maurice Wright and *Eight Songs for a Mad King* by Peter Maxwell Davies) and ever since have continued to work together symbiotically on stage and in life as close friends. They have similar work ethics and passion for what they do.

Brett states, "Making music is such an intense process that musicians often become instant friends when working together. That said, when the music-making is over, those friendships often fade. But once in a great while, you meet and make music with a kindred spirit who becomes a deeply important part of your life, and that's who Jones is to me. We've been making music and sharing laughter together now for 20 years, and I'm thrilled that our audiences in Sunriver and Bend will get to experience his exquisite artistry this summer!"

We, as the audiences in Sunriver and Bend, are now blessed to experience these kindred spirits working together to create magic this August at multiple Sunriver Music Festival concerts. The Summer Festival runs August 10-21; Timothy Jones, bass-baritone is featured in Classical Concert IV on August 21 and in the Pops Concert on August 12 and even as the delightful narrator in Prokofiev's beloved *Peter and the Wolf* at August 17th's Discover the Symphony Concert. Full schedule and details at sunrivermusic.org.

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AUGUST CONCERT SERIES IN BEND & SUNRIVER:

Classical Concert I – August 10, 2022 – Caldera High School in Bend, 7:30 p.m.

Maestro Mitchell's tenure opens with a celebratory concert featuring many of our fine orchestra musicians and Beethoven's monumental masterpiece, the "Eroica" Symphony.

Pops Concert – August 12, 2022 - Caldera High School, 7:30 p.m.

The first half celebrates big anniversaries in the world of music for the silver screen. The second half features all that jazz. Come for your favorite film scores and dynamic live arrangements of Gershwin, Joplin, Ellington standards, and more! Featuring Timothy Jones, bass-baritone

Classical Concert II – August 15, 2022 – Sunriver Resort Great Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Dmytro Choni, Ukrainian pianist and a brand new medalist of the Cliburn International Piano Competition, joins the Festival Orchestra in a stunningly beautiful piano-centric evening.

Solo Piano Concert – August 16, 2022 – Sunriver Resort Great Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The historical Great Hall set the scene for a groundbreaking solo performance from Ukrainian Dmytro Choni,

one of the best young pianists in the world.

Discover the Symphony Concert - August 17, 2022 - Sunriver Resort Great Hall, 7:30 p.m.

This entertaining concert presents orchestral music in a fun and informal setting. Bring the whole family and enjoy a one-hour concert in the beautiful Great Hall with virtuosic young soloists and the full orchestra. Free for kids 18 and under, fun for all ages. Come early for the Instrument Petting Zoo!

Classical Concert III – August 18, 2022 – Sunriver Resort Great Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring William Hagen, violin. The riveting 28-year-old American violinist, already a seasoned international performer hailed as a “brilliant virtuoso...a standout”, joins the Festival Orchestra for Brahms’ iconic Violin Concerto.

Classical Concert IV - August 21, 2022 - Caldera High School, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Timothy Jones, bass-baritone, an enthusiastic champion of contemporary works and composers. Equally at home on the opera and concert stage as he is in the more intimate settings of chamber music and solo recital, Jones performs with the Festival Orchestra in a closing concert of Shakespearean grandeur.