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Artistic Director & Conductor

## **SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023 ARTWORK SELECTED**

Sunriver, Oregon – Maria Leistad’s “Sunriver’s Trumpeter” has been selected as Sunriver Music Festival’s poster artwork for 2023. Each year, the Festival features an artist local to Central Oregon for the season’s poster. Artists were invited to submit their artwork for consideration and a jury of professional artists from the Artist's Gallery Sunriver makes the selection.

Leistad’s original artwork is 18x24” acrylic on canvas, custom framed by Eastlake Framing, and will be a featured auction item at 2023’s annual fundraiser, Festival Faire, on July 16 at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall. Fine art quality reproductions of this work will grace the cover of all materials for the 46<sup>th</sup> season of the classical music Summer Festival occurring August 4-17 in Bend and Sunriver. Concert details and tickets are available at [sunrivermusic.org](http://sunrivermusic.org)

### ***In the artist’s words:***

“As a child, I remember our family hikes through the gray-green, shrub steppe near the Glass Buttes east of Bend. Best after a rainstorm, when the scent of sage and rabbitbrush filled the air. My hands sticky with resin while searching the junipers for their jade-blue berries. I liked to fill my pockets with them. Let them sift through my fingers like sand. I scanned the ground for shiny, black obsidian shards, and maybe even an arrowhead. My siblings and I searched for caches of creamy-white limestone, its chalky texture perfect for tracing treasure maps on stone. And when you squinted your eyes against a sudden warm wind, gritty with Central Oregon dust, you might catch glimpses of the fluorescent yellow lichen that grew on the gnarled branches and volcanic rock, dotting the landscape.

It is *this* memory, in this place that has always been my home, that makes my hands itch to make art.

I grew up in a family of artists and makers. Grandparents who crafted with wood. One of my grandmothers, a gifted wildlife artist. My parents instilled in me the value of hard work and ingenuity. There wasn’t a solution to a problem that my dad couldn’t and still can’t fix or make with his hands. My mom is a talented seamstress, jeweler, and seer of just the right color. I credit wonderful teachers throughout my Bend-La Pine education for nurturing my creativity and imagination: Marcy Monte, Catherine Cummings, Sally Winter, Christie McCormick and so many others.

While I knew from a young age that I wanted to be an artist, my path has meandered, greatly influencing how I see and appreciate the world. I have two Masters in Education and a smattering of post-baccalaureate classes in drawing, painting and ceramics. My days are divided between endeavors that give me opportunities to incorporate my artistic interests. My husband Jason and I are co-owners of Village Bike & Ski in Sunriver. I am also a second-grade teacher at Three Rivers School.

And so, I make the most of and cherish those few hours each week when I do get to pick up a paintbrush. As an artist, my style continues to evolve. My preferred mediums are pen and ink, watercolor and acrylic. I tend towards realistic depictions of wildlife; my landscapes are more impressionistic in style. I am awed by the beauty and interconnectedness of the natural world. A walk or run through the woods never fails to evoke an urgency to capture on canvas that which I saw along the river, on the horizon, in the branches of a tree.

It is an honor to have my art showcased by Sunriver Music Festival for this 46<sup>th</sup> season. The natural music of this landscape that many of us call home is the perfect backdrop for the Festival's immensely talented musicians. I hope that "Sunriver's Trumpeter" conveys the same feelings of tranquility, magnificence and possibility that Sunriver Music Festival has come to represent for so many of us."

*--Maria Leistad, artist*

Sunriver Music Festival posters are available for \$25 (\$30 shipped). Framed posters are \$85. Notecards with Festival art throughout the years are \$25 for a pack of ten. All merchandise available at the Sunriver Music Festival office in the Village at Sunriver and art through the years can be viewed at [sunrivermusic.org](http://sunrivermusic.org).

Sunriver Music Festival is committed to expanding the audience for classical music by nurturing the next generation of artistic talent and by presenting a world-class musical experience for Central Oregon residents and visitors.

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