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BRETT MITCHELL
Artistic Director & Conductor

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TICKETS FOR SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL'S 2024 SUMMER SEASON GO ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC JUNE 1

*The Festival's 47th Season, entitled "Classical Elements," will be held August 10-23
in Bend and Sunriver*

Artistic Director & Conductor Brett Mitchell's contract has been extended to 2028

*Festival features four classical concerts, a pops concert, "Discover the Symphony"
designed for families, and a solo violin concert*

Distinguished Soloists: Pianists Joyce Yang & Orion Weiss; Violinist Tessa Lark



SUNRIVER, OREGON, MAY 30, 2024 – From **August 10-23, 2024**, Sunriver Music Festival will fill Central Oregon with world-class music. **Artistic Director & Conductor Brett Mitchell** leads professional orchestra musicians and acclaimed soloists in a remarkable 47th season held in two venues, the iconic **Tower Theatre in downtown Bend** and **Sunriver Resort's historic Great Hall**.

Tickets for all events go on sale **Saturday, June 1**, and can be purchased online at sunrivermusic.org or by phone at 541.593.9310.

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Brett Mitchell's Contract Extension

The Sunriver Music Festival Board of Trustees has announced that **Artistic Director & Conductor Brett Mitchell's** contract has been extended four years to 2028. The maestro's four-year extension will encompass the Festival's monumental 50th season. In March 2024, Mitchell was named Music Director of the Pasadena Symphony, beginning an initial five-year term with the 2024-25 season. He will work concurrently with the Pasadena Symphony and the Sunriver Music Festival, along with his many prestigious guest conducting roles.

"Maestro Mitchell is an esteemed conductor with a dedication to artistic excellence, creative concert curation, and inspired community engagement, and we are thrilled that his role with the Festival will continue," said Festival Board President Dr. Ronald Carver.

Raise the Baton: The Elements of Music Fundraising Party

Raise the Baton (formerly Festival Faire) is the Festival's premier fundraising event of the year, and it will be held on Sunday, July 14, at 5 p.m. at Bend's Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon. This event raises vital funds for the Young Artists Scholarships and Sunriver Music Festival's world-class concerts.

Hosted by **Maestro Brett Mitchell**, the event features performances by Central Oregon's finest young student musicians. The Raise the Baton silent auction will include the season's original framed art by Robert Allan Hooper (entitled "Twilight Glow"), plus sponsorship opportunities for "the elements of music": guest artists, orchestra musicians, individual concerts and musical works, solo parts, travel costs, and more.

The auction and sponsorship opportunities will be hosted by local personalities **Dr. Stephen Marshall and Brett Bizik**. The cost to attend is \$100 per person, and includes hearty hors d'oeuvres and complimentary wine and soft drinks. Register at sunrivermusic.org or by calling 541.593.9310.

New Engagement Program: Living Program Notes

Sunriver Music Festival has introduced a new engagement program—**Living Program Notes: Conversations Exploring the Music of the Festival**. Hosted by program annotator **Mark J. Knippel**, these events are an opportunity for music lovers to discover music from the inside and expand their listening experience.

Living Program Notes

Bend Wine Bar at the Box Factory, 550 SW Industrial Way, Suite 194 in the alley.
Free and open to the public. Wine & light appetizers available for purchase.

Session 1: Wednesday, June 19 at 6 p.m.

Exploring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony

Session 2: Sunday, June 30 at 3 p.m.

Exploring de Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* and Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony

Upcoming Festival Events

Summer Festival programs include four classical concerts, a pops concert, a solo violin performance and the family-friendly "Discover the Symphony" concert. The Summer Festival concert series opens August 11 at the Tower Theatre in Bend and closes August 23 at Sunriver Resort's Great Hall.

Other events prior to the July 14 **Raise the Baton** fundraising party and the August 11-23 concert series include **PLAY ON! Pickleball Tournament** on May 31-June 1, **Swings fore Strings Golf Tournament** on June 2, and the **Young Artists Scholarship Recital** on June 7. More information can be found at sunrivermusic.org.

Sunriver Music Festival also presents **free music education events, masterclasses and spontaneous chamber music concerts**. Most **orchestra rehearsals** are free and open to the public. More details to be announced.

A new offering this summer is patrons who buy one full-price ticket can get a **free ticket for a guest who is age 17 and under**. A limited number of free tickets are available. Call 541.593.9310 to order.

2024 SUMMER FESTIVAL CONCERT SCHEDULE

Orchestra concerts conducted by Maestro Brett Mitchell

Opening Night Classical Concert: EARTH **Sunday, August 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Tower Theatre, Bend

Tickets start at \$45; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

IVES (arr. Schuman) Variations on "America"

GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*

with Orion Weiss, piano

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"

The Festival season opener celebrates two landmark anniversaries: Charles Ives' 150th birthday and his brilliant Variations on "America," plus the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's immortal *Rhapsody in Blue* with pianist Orion Weiss. After intermission, Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony" is a musical depiction of five scenes in nature.

One of the most sought-after soloists of his generation, **Orion Weiss** is widely regarded as a "brilliant pianist" (*The New York Times*) with "powerful technique and exceptional insight" (*The Washington Post*). With a warmth to his playing that outwardly reflects his engaging personality, he has dazzled audiences with his passionate, lush sound and has performed with dozens of orchestras across North America.

Pops Concert: A Tribute to Broadway & Film Music

Tuesday, August 13, 7:30 p.m.

Tower Theatre, Bend

Tickets start at \$53; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

Enjoy the Festival Orchestra in a lively tribute celebrating musical anniversaries from Broadway (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Spamalot*, *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and Leonard Bernstein's *Fancy Free*) and Film (*The Lion King*, *Forrest Gump*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *My Fair Lady* and Henry Mancini's *Pink Panther*).

Discover the Symphony Concert

Thursday, August 15, 3 p.m.

Tower Theatre, Bend

General admission tickets are \$15; tickets free for age 17 & under

This entertaining matinee presents orchestral music in a fun and informal setting. Bring the whole family and enjoy a one-hour concert with virtuosic recipients of the Young Artists Scholarship with the full Festival Orchestra. An instrument petting zoo is presented prior to the concert.

Classical Concert II: WATER

Sunday, August 18, 3 p.m.

Tower Theatre, Bend

Tickets start at \$45; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

J. STRAUSS II *The Blue Danube*
DEBUSSY (orch. Büsser) *The Sunken Cathedral*
HANDEL (arr. Harty) *Water Music Suite*
SCHUMANN Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

This concert opens with the most famous waltz of all time—*The Blue Danube* by Strauss. After intermission, Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony is a musical depiction of the Schumanns' travels along the Rhine.

Classical Concert III: FIRE

Wednesday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.

Sunriver Resort Great Hall

Tickets start at \$45; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

BEETHOVEN Overture from *The Creatures of Prometheus*
HAYDN Symphony No. 59, "Fire"
FALLA *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* (1926 version)
with Joyce Yang, piano
FALLA *Ritual Fire Dance* from *El amor brujo* (*Love, the Sorcerer*)

This concert opens with Beethoven's depiction of the God of Fire via his Overture from *The Creatures of Prometheus* before hearing Haydn's "Fire" Symphony. The second half includes Manuel de Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*—a set of three nocturnes featuring pianist **Joyce Yang**—and closes with the *Ritual Fire Dance* from *El amor brujo*.

Blessed with "poetic and sensitive pianism" (*The Washington Post*) and a "wondrous sense of color" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), GRAMMY®-nominated pianist Joyce Yang captivates audiences with her virtuosity, lyricism, and interpretive sensitivity. She first came to international attention in 2005 when she won the silver medal at the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Yang was a guest artist at the Sunriver Music Festival directly following her 2005 Cliburn win.

Solo Violin Concert with Tessa Lark

Thursday, August 22, 7:30 p.m.

Sunriver Resort Great Hall

Tickets start at \$36; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

The picturesque Great Hall sets the scene for an eclectic solo performance from violinist **Tessa Lark**, who is praised for her astounding range of sounds, technical agility and musical elegance. In 2020 she was nominated for a GRAMMY® in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category. She is also a highly acclaimed fiddler in the tradition of her native Kentucky, delighting audiences with Appalachian and bluegrass music.

Season Finale Classical Concert: AIR

Friday, August 23, 7:30 p.m.

Sunriver Resort Great Hall

Tickets start at \$45; tickets for age 25 & under \$25

AARON JAY KERNIS *Musica Celestis*

MICHAEL TORKE *Sky*

with Tessa Lark, violin

MOZART Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"

The Festival season finale features *Musica Celestis*, a beautiful, meditative work by Aaron Jay Kernis, and Michael Torke's *Sky*, a bluegrass-inspired concerto written for and premiered by **Tessa Lark**. The season closes with Mozart's brilliant and ever-popular "Jupiter" Symphony.

Patrons who purchase a full **six-concert series** receive a 10% discount. **Details and tickets are available at sunrivermusic.org or by calling 541.593.9310.**

Sunriver Music Festival is a year-round nonprofit presenting world-class orchestral performances and supporting music education throughout Central Oregon. Through a commitment to excellence, collaboration and innovation, the Festival seeks to foster a lifelong love of classical music in its many diverse forms. Visit sunrivermusic.org for more information.

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