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BRETT MITCHELL  
Artistic Director & Conductor

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**SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
49<sup>th</sup> SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: AUGUST 10-20, 2026  
IN BEND & SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON**

**Highlights Include:**

*A celebration of American orchestral music as part of the nationwide commemoration of the country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Four Classical Concerts with the Festival Orchestra conducted by Brett Mitchell*

*Distinguished Guests: pianist Michelle Cann, violinists William Hagen and Tessa Lark, bass-baritone Timothy Jones, and the Central Oregon Mastersingers*

*Pops Concert: John Williams & the American Journey*

*Family Concert with an Instrument Petting Zoo at Sunriver SHARC's Benham Hall*



**CENTRAL OREGON, FEBRUARY 17, 2026** – From **August 10-20, 2026**, Sunriver Music Festival presents its 49<sup>th</sup> season in two spectacular, historic Central Oregon venues—the **Sunriver Resort Great Hall** and the **Tower Theatre** in downtown Bend. Performances feature world-class orchestra musicians and renowned soloists, led by Artistic Director & Conductor **Brett Mitchell**. This summer's concert series includes a celebration of American orchestral music as part of the nationwide commemoration of the country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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Events include four classical concerts, a pops concert and a family concert. The Summer Concert Series opens August 10 at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall and closes August 20 at the Tower Theatre.

“This summer, America celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence, and we're so pleased to mark the occasion with at least one work by an American composer on every program this season,” said Maestro Mitchell. “We'll feature American classics like Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto, plus we'll introduce new favorites by Pulitzer Prize winner Kevin Puts and GRAMMY® winners Edgar Meyer and Joan Tower. We'll also bring to life so many of the great European classics we all know and love, including works by Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Bach, Mozart and Schumann.”

Ticket sales for Friends of the Festival members begin as early as **April 1**; tickets are available to the public on **June 1**. Members have first choice of the best seats, plus receive ticket discounts, gifts, invites to exclusive events and potential tax benefits.

Other Festival events prior to the Summer Concert Series include **The Maestro at the Piano**, a solo piano recital by Brett Mitchell on April 11 at Sunriver Christian Fellowship; **Young Artists Scholarship Recital** on June 5; the **Raise the Baton Fundraising Party** on July 18; and **PLAY ON! Pickleball Bash** in June. More information on these year-round events and more can be found at [sunrivermusic.org](http://sunrivermusic.org).

Sunriver Music Festival also presents **free music education events and masterclasses** during these two weeks in August. Many **orchestra rehearsals** are free and open to the public. More details to be announced.

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## 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL CONCERT SCHEDULE

**Opening Classical Concert: Beethoven, Haydn & *Made in America***  
**Monday, August 10, 7:30 p.m.** | Sunriver Resort Great Hall

**Festival Orchestra**  
**Brett Mitchell, conductor**  
**Michelle Cann, piano**

JOAN TOWER *Made in America*  
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major  
HAYDN Symphony No. 101 in D Major, “Clock”

The Festival season opens with variations on *America the Beautiful* by one of today's foremost composers, Joan Tower, in her GRAMMY-winning work, *Made in America*. Tower says that Beethoven is one of her biggest compositional influences, so his exquisite Piano Concerto No. 4 will be performed by GRAMMY-winner Michelle Cann. The evening closes with Haydn's masterful 101<sup>st</sup> Symphony, also known as the “Clock.”

## **Classical Concert II: America Meets Scotland**

**Wednesday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.** | Sunriver Resort Great Hall

### **Festival Orchestra**

**Brett Mitchell, conductor**

**William Hagen, violin**

STILL *Darker America*

BARBER Violin Concerto

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 3 in A minor, "Scottish"

This program celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Grant Still's jazzy tone poem, *Darker America*, premiered in 1926. Barber's Violin Concerto follows with William Hagen joining the Festival Orchestra for the third time, after his performances of the Brahms Concerto in 2022 and the Bruch Concerto in 2023. The concert culminates with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, "Scottish," inspired by his grand tour of Europe.

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## **Family Concert: Harry Potter & the Instruments of the Orchestra**

**Friday, August 14** | Sunriver SHARC's Benham Hall

### **Festival Orchestra**

**Brett Mitchell, conductor**

**Young Artists Scholarship recipient, TBA**

This matinee explores the instruments of the orchestra through magnificent music by John Williams, featuring *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. In a fun, informal setting, learn more about the strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, harp and the magical celesta — all accompanied by Harry, Hedwig & friends! Bring the family and enjoy a one-hour concert featuring a virtuosic Young Artists Scholarship recipient with the Festival Orchestra. An instrument petting zoo is held before the concert.

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## **Pops Concert: John Williams & the American Journey**

**Saturday, August 15, 7:30 p.m.** | Tower Theatre, Bend

### **Festival Orchestra**

**Brett Mitchell, conductor**

**Central Oregon Mastersingers**

Enjoy the Festival Orchestra in a lively program featuring various works by American legend John Williams paired with other masterpieces to explore America's journey from the Revolutionary War to today. Highlights include music from *Saving Private Ryan*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *The Cowboys*, patriotic favorites and Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

### **Classical Concert III: The Genius of Music**

**Tuesday, August 18, 7:30 p.m.** | Tower Theatre, Bend

#### **Festival Orchestra**

**Brett Mitchell, conductor**

**Timothy Jones, bass-baritone**

KEVIN PUTS *Einstein on Mercer Street*

J.S. BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major

MOZART Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major

The third Classical Concert opens with a deeply moving, multimedia work about Einstein's inner world and relationships, written by Kevin Puts and featuring the return of bass-baritone Timothy Jones. Einstein was a string player himself, so we're thrilled to present Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 with nine soloists from the Festival Orchestra. Einstein had no greater admiration or love for an artist than he did for Mozart, so the program closes with Mozart's Symphony No. 39, one of the final three symphonies he ever composed.

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### **Season Finale Classical Concert: Appalachia & Spring**

**Thursday, August 20, 7:30 p.m.** | Tower Theatre, Bend

#### **Festival Orchestra**

**Brett Mitchell, conductor**

**Tessa Lark, violin**

COPLAND Suite from *Appalachian Spring*

EDGAR MEYER Violin Concerto

R. SCHUMANN Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, "Spring"

The season finale includes the most iconic American orchestral work of all time, *Appalachian Spring*, by the Dean of American Music, Aaron Copland. Violinist Tessa Lark wowed Sunriver audiences in 2024 with her performance of Michael Torke's *Sky*, and she'll do the same this year with the bluegrass-inflected Violin Concerto by Edgar Meyer. The season closes with one of the greatest Romantic symphonies ever composed: Schumann's Symphony No. 1, "Spring."

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Patrons who purchase a full **five-concert series** of classical and pops concerts receive a 10% discount. Other flexible package options are available. Festival Orchestra single tickets start at \$45; tickets for age 25 & under are \$25. **Details and tickets are available at [sunrivermusic.org](http://sunrivermusic.org) or by calling 541-593-9310.**

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*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](http://sunrivermusic.org) for more information.*