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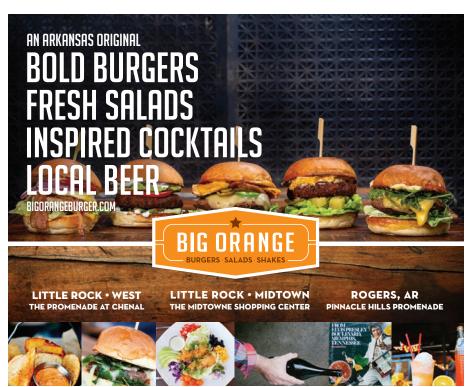


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Dear ASO supporters, music lovers, people who took piano when young and have always wished they still played, former high school band or ASYO members, and anyone who is out for a night of fun and relaxation,

I am so pleased to welcome you here today to hear your Arkansas Symphony Orchestra perform. This is an exciting season for ASO. I could spend this entire page talking about each of our goals for the year: looking for a new Music Director, growing our music education programs and amateur community orchestra, developing our organization's Diversity Equity and Inclusion statement, and last, but certainly not least, raising the \$2,100,000 needed to unlock the Windgate Foundation Challenge match so we can break ground on the new ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center for generations of Arkansans to use.

Rather than detail the steps we are taking to achieve those goals, I want to take this space to talk about what makes these goals important right now.

ASO aspires to make the world a better place through music. We want to serve more Arkansans, be more relevant to more people, and be an inclusive and welcoming organization. Our purpose is to make the world a better place through music, and we do this steeped in our values: connectivity, continual learning, artistry, courage and agility. Years ago, ASO leaders concluded that we could not achieve our aspirations and truly serve Arkansas in our current headquarters. We rent space in the Diocese home in the Heights that is over 100 years old. Arkansans ages 4-104 used this space until walking up the stairs became impossible. Students take lessons in the storage room and in offices. Our physical headquarters do not support our purpose, aspirations, and music making.

On the cover of the program book this year, you see a rendering of what the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center will look like. It will be located between Heifer International and the Clinton Presidential Library. ASO has an amazing opportunity to build a 20,000 square foot community music center for Arkansans ages 4 to 104 to make and enjoy music together. With this center, ASO will be more relevant to more people, be accessible to the students from the 33 communities across our state that participate in youth ensembles, have a Broadcast Studio to share concerts and music education programs throughout the state, and have more financial stability. We still have \$2.1 Million to raise to unlock the Windgate Foundation challenge grant and make the center a reality for our city and state. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help at this critical stage and/or sharing ideas for how to use the music center, please call or email me at CLittlejohn@ArkansasSymphony.org or 501-666-1761 x115.

Thank you for your participation. I hope you enjoy yourself and come back again and again.

Sincerely,

Christina Littlejohn, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

To All,

Welcome to the '22-'23 season! I want to thank you for being at our performance, whether this is the first time hearing your Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, or if you are a seasoned symphony concertgoer. Congratulations on getting out to hear this incredible musical organization perform.

Each concert this season will be a unique musical experience. With guest artists from Zuill Bailey to Heather Headley, we will show the true diversity and richness of the symphonic repertoire. We will partner with new friends and old to bring joy to you and your family and friends at Halloween and during the holiday season. We have never been more focused on making the ASO a welcoming and inclusive place to let the power of music lift your spirit. Be sure to check out all of our offerings on the Masterworks, Pops, River Rhapsodies series, and even free neighborhood concerts and other popup events. The artistry of this orchestra will shine at each concert, with relevant and exciting musical selections chosen in every style.

Meanwhile, the work of our top-flight music educators continues apace. The leadership of this organization have long hoped to find a physical space that could contain our wide breadth of education programs: three youth orchestras, an adult community orchestra, beginner group classes, hundreds of weekly private lessons, advanced masterclasses with guest artists, student recitals, recording projects, lectures, and more. We are thrilled to be on the cusp of beginning construction of the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center, which will house these activities in a modern, inspiring, safe, and inviting new facility. And as it always has been, cost is never a barrier for students to access these programs—through generous scholarship support made possible by patrons like you.

Thank you again for being part of our journey. I hope to see you many times this year!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Robson, Artistic director Arkansas symphony orchestra

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Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Stephen Mulligan, conductor Geneva Lewis, violin James Lee III, composer in residence

LEE III, James Beyond Sensorial Portals (2022) 8'
(b. 1975)

Commissioned by the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra,

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MENDELSSOHN, Felix

Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64

28'

- (1809-1847)
- I. Allegro molto appassionato
- II. Andante
- III. Allegretto ma non troppo Allegro molto vivace

Geneva Lewis, violin

INTERMISSION

LEE III, James Beyond Sensorial Portals (2022) 8'
(b. 1975)

SIBELIUS, Jean Symphony No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 82 32'
(1865-1957) I. Tempo molto moderato;

Allegro moderato – Presto
II. Andante mosso, quasi allegretto

III. Allegro molto; Misterioso

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Use of cameras and recording equipment is not permitted in the concert hall. The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.



Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

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GEOFFREY ROBSON, Artistic Director

Geoffrey Robson has emerged as a force of artistic leadership throughout the U.S. and the state of Arkansas. In 2017, he was awarded the Respighi Prize in Conducting by the Chamber Orchestra of New York. He currently serves as Artistic Director and is the principal conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

His dynamic leadership of the ASO during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in state-wide and national

visibility for the organization. By overseeing an aggressive shift to virtual offerings of performances and educational content, Robson helped ensure the ASO's continued success and full employment of all musicians and staff.

The orchestra's online *Bedtime with Bach* series received nationwide acclaim and was featured by the *Washington Post* and the *Kelly Clarkson Show*. During his tenure in Arkansas, he has conducted critically acclaimed and sold-out masterworks, pops, chamber, and educational concerts throughout the state.

He frequently collaborates with organizations in the community, such as Ballet Arkansas, Arkansas Children's Theater, Opera in the Rock, the Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, and many local choral groups. He served on the faculty of Hendrix College from 2018-2021. In 2013-2014 he served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Central Arkansas and conducted the Conway Symphony Orchestra.

Robson serves as Artistic Director of the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival, a summer concert series and 10-day intensive chamber music camp that provides a unique immersive experience to music students in central Arkansas in the art of playing chamber music.

He has worked with renowned artists such as Gil Shaham, Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Vadym Kholodenko, Alexander Markov, Mandy Gonzalez, Calvin Lee, and the Beach Boys. He regularly brings emerging world-class talent to Little Rock to entertain audiences and educate and inspire young musicians.

A champion of new music, he collaborates with and explores the music of renowned living composers. In 2016, he conducted the premiere of James Stephenson's *Concerto for Hope* with celebrated trumpeter Ryan Anthony and the San Juan (Colorado) Symphony. Recently, he conducted the premiere of *Into the Beautiful North*, by Joe Brent, performed by the trio 9 Horses. He has promoted works by composers with Arkansas connections, such as Jeremy Crosmer and Karen Griebling.

Robson is also an orchestral arranger, and his works have been featured in the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's pops series concerts on numerous occasions. Additionally, he writes string arrangements for recording artists to assist them in achieving their musical goals in the studio. He also writes and produces *At the Symphony*, a concert preview radio series on KLRE Classical 90.5 in Little Rock.

As a violinist, he frequently performs on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's popular *River Rhapsodies* chamber music series, often sharing the stage with principal

orchestra members. While in graduate school, he served as concertmaster of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and assistant concertmaster of the Waterbury Symphony. Recognized for his skill and versatility as a violinist and fiddle player, he is increasingly sought after as a studio musician.

Robson studied orchestral conducting at the Mannes College of Music in New York City under the tutelage of David Hayes and holds violin performance degrees from Yale University and the Michigan State University Honors College. Primary violin teachers include Erick Friedman, Dmitri Berlinsky, and I-fu Wang.

He studied conducting at Yale University with Lawrence Leighton Smith, Edward Cumming, and Shinik Hahm. Other notable teachers include Leon Gregorian, John Farrer, Neil Thomson, and Larry Rachleff.



STEPHEN MULLIGAN, Conductor

Berlin-based American conductor Stephen Mulligan recently concluded his tenure as Associate Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Mulligan served as a Dudamel Conducting Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in the 2018-19 season, leading the orchestra on the Toyota Symphonies for Youth series and assisting Music Director

Gustavo Dudamel, Conductor Laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen, and guest conductors Lionel Bringuier, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Zubin Mehta, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

In the 2021-22 season, Mulligan debuts with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Lakes Area Music Festival. Highlights of recent previous seasons include leading the National Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, Portland Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, Reading Symphony Orchestra, London Symphonia, and Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Rochester Philharmonic.

During the 2017-18 season, his first with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Mulligan stepped in on short notice for three classical subscription programs over the course of six weeks, working with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano and pianists Jorge Federico Osorio and Behzod Abduraimov to critical acclaim. Mulligan is a two-time recipient of the prestigious Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award.

From 2014-16, Stephen Mulligan served as Assistant Conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and Music Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Orchestras Program. In the summer of 2015, after winning the Aspen Conducting Prize, he served as the Assistant Conductor of the Aspen Music Festival.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Stephen Mulligan began his music studies with his father Gregory, former concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony and current violinist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He studied conducting at Yale University with Toshiyuki Shimada, at the Peabody Institute with Gustav Meier; Markand Thakar; and Marin Alsop; and at the Aspen Music Festival and School with Robert Spano.



GENEVA LEWIS, Violin

New Zealand-born violinist Geneva Lewis has forged a reputation as a musician of consummate artistry whose performances speak from and to the heart. Lauded for the "remarkable mastery of her instrument" (CVNC) and hailed as "clearly one to watch" (Musical America), Geneva is the recipient of a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant and Grand Prize winner of the 2020 Concert Artists Guild Competition. Other

recent accolades include Kronberg Academy's Prince of Hesse Prize and being named a Finalist at the 2018 Naumburg Competition, a Performance Today Young Artist in Residence, and Musical America's New Artist of the Month.

After her solo debut at age 11 with the Pasadena Symphony, Geneva has gone on to perform with orchestras around the world, including recent and forthcoming appearances with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Sarasota Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony, Augusta Symphony, and Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra. She has worked with a number of notable conductors, including Nic McGegan, Edwin Outwater, and Michael Feinstein, and looks forward to collaborations with Giordano Bellincampi, Sameer Patel, Peter Rubardt, and Dirk Meyer. In recital, recent and upcoming highlights include performances at Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw, Tippet Rise, Emory University, Purdue Convocations, Kravis Center, and Myra Hess, among others.

While Geneva's claim to chamber music fame came early on as a member of the renowned Lewis Family Trio with her siblings Nathan (piano) and Rochelle (cello), she has since established the Callisto Trio, Artist-in-Residence at the Da Camera Society in Los Angeles. Callisto received the Bronze Medal at the Fischoff Competition as the youngest group to ever compete in the senior division finals. They were recently invited on the Masters on Tour series of the International Holland Music Sessions and performed at the celebrated Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

Deeply passionate about collaboration, Geneva has had the pleasure of performing with such prominent musicians as Atar Arad, Efe Baltacigil, Glenn Dicterow, Miriam Fried, Ilya Kaler, Michael Kannen, Kim Kashkashian, Ida Kavafian, Marcy Rosen, Mitsuko Uchida, and the Borromeo String Quartet, among others.

An advocate of community engagement and music education, Geneva was selected for the New England Conservatory's Community Performances and Partnerships Program's Ensemble Fellowship, through which her string quartet created interactive educational programs for audiences throughout Boston. Her quartet was also chosen for the Virginia Arts Festival Residency, during which they performed and presented masterclasses in elementary, middle, and high schools.

Geneva is currently in the Artist Diploma program as the recipient of the Charlotte F. Rabb Presidential Scholarship at the New England Conservatory studying with Miriam Fried. Past summers have taken her to the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Steans Institute, Perlman Music Program's Chamber Workshop, International Holland Music Sessions, Taos School of Music and the Heifetz International Music Institute.



JAMES LEE III, Composer in Residence

James Lee III, born in 1975, graduated with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 2005. James Lee III's orchestral works have been commissioned and premiered by the National Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony, and the orchestras of Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and many

others. His works have been conducted by Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, Michael Tilson Thomas, Juanjo Mena, and others. During the 2021-2022 season, Amer'ican, was premiered by the Detroit Symphony in October. Niiji Memories, his flute concerto was premiered by Julietta Curenton and the Columbia Orchestra also in October. In November the Calyx Piano Trio premiered Tones of Clay at Tanglewood and the Saint Louis Symphony performed Emotive Transformations. Other world premieres in early 2022 include Freedom's Genuine Dawn, which was premiered by the Baltimore Symphony in January, Arukah Symphony was premiered by the Maryland Symphony in February, and Violin Concerto No. 2 "Teshuah" to be premiered by Carla Trynchuk and the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra on March 12. A Double Standard for Karen Slack and the Pacifica String Quartet was premiered on June 18 and 19 at Carnegie Hall and Shriver Hall.



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Beyond Sensorial Portals / JAMES LEE III

b. St. Joseph, Michigan, USA/ November 25, 1975

THE COMPOSER HAS WRITTEN THE FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION:

Beyond Sensorial Portals is a rhapsodic orchestral work that can also be summarized with one word: celebration! One particular cause for joy and celebration is the opening of the new concert hall for the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, the Steinmetz Hall. The title of the work is inspired by the idea of concertgoers anticipating going to an orchestral concert and hearing great music! One imagines the initial admiration of a patron upon entering a building which contains a concert hall. After entering the edifice, one's senses may be impressed by observing the beauty of the chandeliers, paintings in the foyer, and other visual items of art. I also tried to hint in the music the idea of various conversations discussing the works that one will soon hear. Throughout my composition, I introduced themes that are presented, revisited, and transformed in playful, reflective, and triumphant manners. After the concertgoers' sense of sight has been dazzled by the scenes in the foyer, the sight is further impressed by the beauty of the concert hall itself after passing the next "portal." The visuals of the orchestral players playing through certain passages is then surpassed by the sense of hearing that tries to distinguish between melodies among the different family groups of instruments. Finally, after the first downbeat of the concert, the audience members' senses of sight and hearing see the gestures of the conductor and hear the beautiful and coherent sounds emanating from the orchestra. It is then that we pass through the next "portal" and go beyond the senses and directly focus on the music itself. The various episodes of the music also include moments of beauty and reflection upon the great Creator, who gave us the wonderful gift of music. After continual ascents in the orchestra, the piece ends with a heroic and grand explosion of sound.

Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64 / FELIX MENDELSSOHN

b. Hamburg, Germany / February 3, 1809; d. Leipzig, Germany / November 4, 1847

In 1835, Mendelssohn took up the post of Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig. Under his patient, exacting supervision, only a few years passed before that ensemble's concerts came to be considered the finest given anywhere in Europe. The orchestra's concertmaster, Mendelssohn's old friend, Ferdinand David, made important contributions to that upgrading process. In gratitude, Mendelssohn composed this Violin Concerto for him. David performed the premiere, in Leipzig on Mar. 13, 1845.

The concerto is a beautifully polished work of art, combining sureness of construction with passion, warmth and playfulness. Mendelssohn directed that its three sections be played without any breaks between them, a typical Romantic practice designed to increase the music's cohesiveness and sense of momentum. The majority of the concerto's dramatic content unfolds during the urgent first movement. The second movement is an interlude of gentle melodic beauty. A brief bridge passage then ushers in the impish finale. Its solo fireworks are backed by the kind of light, gossamer orchestration which became a Mendelssohn trademark.

Symphony No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 82 / JEAN SIBELIUS

b. Hämeenlinna, Finland / December 8, 1865; d. Järvenpää, Finland / September 20, 1957

Sibelius's Fifth Symphony underwent the longest, most difficult gestation of all his works. He began composing it during the late summer of 1914, with the goal of having it premiered as the centrepiece of a concert to be given in Helsinki as part of the gala celebrations honoring his fiftieth birthday. He made slow progress, writing in his diary, "It is as if God the Father had thrown down mosaic pieces from heaven's floor and asked me to put them back as they were."

Nevertheless, the premiere, which he conducted himself, took place as planned on December 8, 1915. What the audience heard was much different from the work as it is known today. Sibelius authority Robert Layton has written that "listening to the 1915 version is rather like experiencing Hamlet in a dream. There are some familiar signposts and fragments of the familiar lines but in the wrong places and spoken by strange voices: the image is somehow blurred and confused."

Listeners reacted favorably to the new piece, but the composer, who had completed it in some haste in order to meet the deadline, did not. The following year, he produced a revised version because, as he wrote, he wished to "give my new symphony a different, more human form. More earthy, more vibrant." The principal alteration was to compress its four movements into three. He achieved this by joining together the thematically-linked opening pair. He was still not satisfied after hearing it. He produced the definitive version in the autumn of 1919.

The Fifth ranks with the Second as Sibelius's two most popular symphonies. Although they are much different in detail, they share an epic quality, a sweep and grandeur that triumphs over passing feelings of anxiety to celebrate the heroic, optimistic power of life.

The very opening is rich with atmosphere: quiet, dreamy, like a forest before break of day. The music's thematic fragments coalesce as the piece unfolds. Eventually a grandiose climax ushers in the brightly animated, scherzo-like second half of the movement. The following movement is a set of variations, as much on the opening rhythm as on any theme. Much of it is lightness personified; only occasionally do clouds darken the sky.

The second theme of the finale is a noble melody introduced on the horns. In Sibelius's diary, in an entry dated April 21, 1915, he revealed that it represents a specific image: "Today at ten to eleven I saw 16 swans. One of my greatest experiences! Lord God, what beauty! They circled over me for a long time. Disappeared into the solar haze like a gleaming silver ribbon. Their call the same woodwind type as that of cranes, but without tremolo... A low-pitched refrain reminiscent of a small child crying. Nature mysticism and life's angst! The Fifth Symphony's finale-theme: legato in the trumpets!"

PROGRAM NOTES BY DON ANDERSON © 2022



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Patron's Club donors are invited to enjoy complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during intermission of all mainstage concerts.

The ASO Patrons' Club is located in the Barry Travis Lounge on the historic lobby level.

If your seat is on the Orchestra Level: take the elevators to level 2, then take a right.

If your seat is on the Grand Tier: exit through the double doors at the top of the stairs and take a left, or take the elevators to level 2, then take a right.

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The Arkansas Symphony would like to thank the following donors who have made a lasting commitment to great symphonic music and music education in Arkansas through their gifts to the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Foundation. The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is now in its 57th season, and these gifts to the ASO Foundation help ensure future generations can enjoy the artistic excellence and education programs of the orchestra for the next 50 seasons and beyond.

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- Your donation amount
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FIRST ORION POPS SERIES

Home for the Holidays

Geoffrey Robson, conductor

Bijoux • Satia Spencer • Karen Q. Clark • John Willis, vocalists

Bryant High School Camerata, Tanner Oglesby, director Central High School Madrigals, Christy Fudge, director Parkview High School Lab Singers, Mary Shollmier, director

Santa's Strings

arr. Hess Christmas Overture

arr. Forrest The First Noel

arr. Herman We Need a Little Christmas

arr. Ross 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

ADAM, Adolphe O Holy Night

(1803-1856) Karen Q. Clark, vocalist

arr. Ryden

arr. Wendel Little Bolero Boy

arr. Richardson Il est né, le divin enfant /

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Santa's Strings



VEGAS: ARKANSAS STYLE!



Home for the Holidays continued

INTERMISSION

arr. Friedman A Chanukkah Overture

arr. DeVol Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

arr. Price/Black Away in a Manger

arr. Vrtacnik Sleigh Ride

Bijoux, vocalist

WHITACRE, Eric Glow

(b. 1970)

SILVESTRI, Alan Believe from The Polar Express

(b. 1950) John Willis, vocalist

arr. Joubert Great Joy

I. Joy to the World

II. Go Tell it on the Mountain

Satia Spencer, vocalist

arr. Ridenour We Wish You a Merry Christmas

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Home for the Holidays

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ARTISTS



BIJOUX, Vocalist

Bijoux, a native of Little Rock, is a sultry soul singer adept in various styles. The daughter of West African parents, Bijoux grew up in a household exposed to differing genres of music including folk, classic rock and roll, makossa, country, and R&B. Bijoux's jovial spirit, endearing vocals, vibrant entertaining, and musical versatility make her a perfect artist for any event or atmosphere!



KAREN Q. CLARK, Vocalist

Karen Clark is an Actors' Equity Association member and a music teacher at Episcopal Collegiate School. Holding her MM in Vocal Performance, Karen also graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (Integrated Program) in NYC. Some theaters across the country where she performed include: Sacramento Music Circus, Worcester Foothills, The Arkansas Rep, and Boston's Wheelock Family

Theatre. She was nominated as best actor for the title role of *The It Girl* from Independent Reviewers of New England, and awarded best actress for the title role in *Mary Poppins* at Murray's Dinner Playhouse from Broadway World Arkansas. She recently played the Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* at The Arkansas Rep and Charlotte in *A Little Night Music* at Argenta Community Theatre. Karen is a member of the Art in Education Artist Roster with the Arkansas Arts Council. She received the Excellence in Arts Education award from ACT and the Outstanding Lower School Faculty from Episcopal Collegiate School.



SATIA SPENCER, Vocalist

Satia Spencer is a mezzo-soprano and armed forces veteran who honorably served in the U.S Marine Corps. She now serves as a music educator for the LRSD, a clinician, and sponsor for various music and theater programs for youth in the central Arkansas region. She is also an avid actor and performer of musical theater both locally and regionally. Her most notable credits include Felicia in *Memphis the Musical* (ACT), Mother

Abbess in *The Sound of Music* (ACT/Wildwood), Sarah in *Ragtime* (ACT). Stepmother in *Into the Woods* (The Rep), Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (TWT), Celeste in *Troubled Island* (OITR), Miss Hannigan in *Annie* (Wildwood), and Alice's Daughter in *Big River* (AST). Satia is no stranger to the ASO Pops concert series. Previous performances include 2010 Christmas Pops (David & The Divas), 2012 "Valentines in New York" (The Wedding Singer), 2017 "Home for the Holidays" (Praeclara), 2022 "Tribute to the Queen of Soul: Aretha Franklin" (Aretha Tribute Choir), 2022 "Halloween Spooktacular" (Choral Ensemble). She is so honored and elated to return to the Robinson stage with the elite musicians of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Joy to the World!



JOHN WILLIS, Vocalist

John Willis is a musician and music educator in Little Rock and holds a Master of Arts in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. He has served as musical director or pianist for numerous musical theater and operatic productions in Central Arkansas, including Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Songs for a New World, Tuck Everlasting, The Rocky Horror Show, and Next to Normal (UCA) and in Opera in

the Rock's production of Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief.* John's work as a music educator extends to the piano and voice studio and to working with young people in musical theater, including Wildwood Park for the Arts' *Art to Go* children's theater touring production, The Studio Theatre's productions of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The NeverEnding Story* (composer), and most recently as musical director for Pulaski Academy's production of *The Wizard of Oz.* As a singer/songwriter, John has performed and recorded regularly since 2008, and his music was featured in the 2019 Pureflix film, *Sweet Inspirations.* John is a former Artist, Inc. fellow (2013) through the Mid-America Arts Alliance and former advisory board member of the ACANSA performing arts festival (2016) and is a member of ACDA and NAfME.



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The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is deeply grateful to the following individuals who support our concert season and services to the community through generous contributions to the Annual Fund. Special appreciation to the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Foundation, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild, the Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village Symphony Guild, and the Russellville Symphony Guild for their extraordinary support.

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10/10-11/9 Margo Duvall: All She Needed to Do

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11/16-11/19 Servant of Two Masters
2/16-2/19 Muse Project
3/11 All-Night Theatre
4/20-4/23 42nd Street

Visit **obu.edu/calendar** for showtimes.

One-Act Play Festival

MUSIC

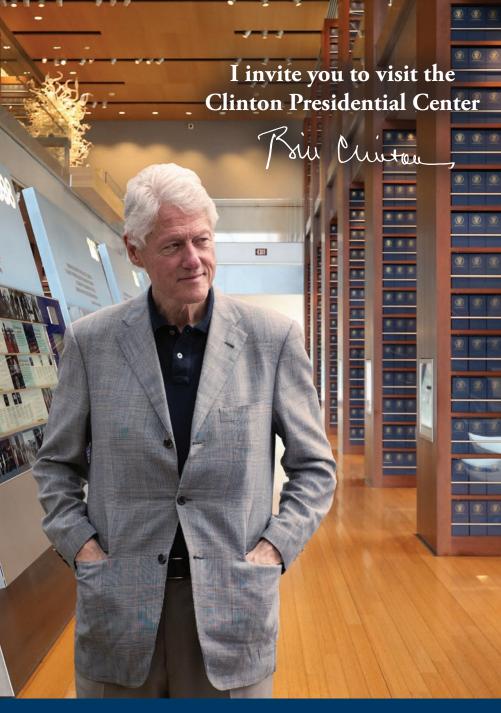
9/12 NFMC Young Artist Winner: Shaina Martinez, soprano 12/2-12/3 A Festival of Christmas

9/16 Faculty Musical Showcase 12/6 A Service of Lessons and Carols

9/20 Seraph Brass 3/1 Night of Worship

 10/11
 Faculty Recital: Dr. Natilan Crutcher, soprano
 4/27
 David Glaze Music Competition

 11/3-11/5
 Opera: This is my Father's World
 5/1
 Instrumental Prism Concert



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