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THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO PIEDMONT PARK FOR FREE CONCERT IN APRIL

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra announces its much-anticipated return to Piedmont Park on Sunday, April 19, at 6:00 pm with a free performance of symphonic gems on Oak Hill.

Finan Jones conducts the evening’s program, featuring a selection of orchestral favorites specially selected to highlight our nation’s 250th anniversary. Program selections will include works by such beloved American composers as John Williams, Leonard Bernstein and Florence Price, plus masterworks by Dvořák and Mozart.

“Returning to perform in Piedmont Park is a cherished tradition for the orchestra that allows us to share our music with Atlantans in a gorgeous setting under the stars,” said Jennifer Barlament, the ASO’s Executive Director. “I’m particularly excited to share this year’s program that was especially crafted to explore the impacts that Americans have had on the world of orchestra music over the past 250 years.”

The evening begins with an overture from Leonard Bernstein’s Broadway musical, *Candide*, and is followed by a pair of fanfares by two of America’s most well-known composers, John Williams and John Adams. Then the orchestra performs movements from symphonies by African American composers Florence Price and William Grant Still. The program takes a local turn when the orchestra performs a work by a teenage composer from Georgia, *Reflections on Georgia*. The concert finale is a work inspired by Dvořák’s visit to America in the late 1800’s—the Symphony No. 9 “From the New World”.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as seating with a good view of the stage is first-come, first-served. Admission is free to the public, and tickets are not required. There will also be food trucks with beverages to complete the picnic experience. Family-friendly activities will be hosted by the ASO Education and Community Engagement Department.

Currently in its 81st season, the GRAMMY® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, will soon announce its 2026/27 season, including Family and Holiday programming on March 25.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concerts in the Park are presented by the Charles Loridans Foundation, Inc. Major support is provided by QUIKRETE, Tower Beer, Wine & Spirits, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the Georgia Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional details, including biographies and full program information are available at www.aso.org/piedmont.

Concert in the Park

Piedmont Park, Oak Hill (371 10th St. NE)

Sunday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

Finan Jones, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BERNSTEIN	Overture to <i>Candide</i>
WARD	<i>America the Beautiful</i>
J. WILLIAMS	<i>Summon the Heroes</i> (1986 Olympics)
J. ADAMS	<i>Tromba Lontana</i>
PRICE	Finale, Symphony No. 1
STILL	Movement II, Symphony No. 3
MOZART	Movement I, <i>Haffner Serenade</i> (1776)
E. KLAYMAN	<i>Reflections on Georgia</i>
DVOŘÁK	Finale, Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"

Important Concert Information

- The performance will take place at Piedmont Park's Oak Hill, located in the southwest corner of the park.
- Seating with a direct view of the stage is not guaranteed. Patrons are encouraged to arrive early, as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- There is limited parking at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Parking Facility, adjacent to Piedmont Park. Patrons are encouraged to carpool, ride MARTA to Arts Center Station or Midtown Station, walk or bike to the event.
- Patrons may bring outside food and beverages into the concert area; however, grills, glass containers and outside alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
- Beer, wine and food will be available for purchase on-site.
- Pets are not permitted at this event. However, the Piedmont Park Dog Park will be open.
- In the case of inclement weather, check aso.org and ASO social media channels for updates. There is no scheduled rain date.

About Finan Jones

Finan Jones, Assistant Conductor, is praised for his "instinctive musicality and his passion for music of different genres." He has conducted orchestras including the English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, London Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble and the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

In 2024, Finan was appointed Conducting Fellow of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra by Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann after a week working together with the London Symphony Orchestra. He has

worked as an assistant to many high-profile conductors, including an apprenticeship with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, working as his assistant with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, and the Philharmonia Orchestra. As an assistant conductor, work has taken him to the Wiener Musikverein, Royal Albert Hall, Köln Philharmonie, Barbican Hall, Het Concertgebouw and St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Finan has a significant interest in Opera, having conducted a performance of British Youth Opera's new production of Rossini's *L'Occasione fa il Ladro* (Opera Holland Park 2021). He was part of the original creative team that developed a new opera with support from the Barbican Centre, *Sane and Sound* (Milton Court Theatre 2019), for which he conducted the premiere, and was assistant conductor to Dominic Wheeler and chorus master for Lliam Paterson's new opera *The Angel Esmeralda* (GSMD 2020). He was also part of the music staff for the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and Monteverdi Choir's 2023 performances of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*.

Finan is a strong advocate for learning and participation projects, with a keen interest in music education. This has included education work with the Royal Albert Hall, LSO Discovery, and developing his own projects, taking chamber orchestras into schools in London. Recently, this included leading a session with the LSO's pioneering East London Academy.

In the recording studio, Finan has assisted on an album of orchestral works by Jonathan Dove performed by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and has conducted the West European Symphony Orchestra for two recording sessions in Abbey Road studios. He is currently working with Sir John Eliot on his new Brahms Symphony cycle with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Deutsche Grammophon.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to experience the power of live orchestra music.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs regularly with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings.

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