



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOHN WILLIAMS' BASSOON CONCERTO PERFORMED BY THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Featuring a world premiere by film composer Chanda Dancy

ATLANTA – Hollywood’s refined musical side is on full display at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s Delta Classical Series concerts in Atlanta Symphony Hall on Thursday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8pm. Led by one of Hollywood’s busiest musicians, Anthony Parnter, the orchestra will explore works by two film composers, the legendary John William and Chanda Dancy.

When John Williams was in between composing film scores in 1995, he wrote a bassoon concerto, *The Five Sacred Trees*, in honor of the New York Philharmonic’s 150th anniversary. Soloist Anthony Brady will be featured in the concerto—one inspired by Celtic mythology. It makes perfect sense that Anthony Parnter would choose to conduct this work when you consider the fact that he has an active career as a bassoonist and can be heard on many John Williams soundtracks.

The concert opens with the world premiere of a work from film composer Chanda Dancy—*Cacophony of Spirits: A Cinematic Tone Poem*. It is composed as a theme and variation in four continuous parts: Joy/Wonder, Fear/Suffering, Rage/Destruction, Sorrow/Acceptance.

Dancy wrote this about her work, “The past few years have been all at once a time of incalculable loss, suffering and a general sense of doom as found ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic with millions dead, widespread political upheaval, and on top of it all, my own personal tragedy with the loss of my spouse. I have found my soul crying out, along with infinite others as we grapple with this uncertain journey called Life. *Cacophony of Spirits* was born of these deep feelings.”

The evening comes to a close with Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, who overcame racial and gender barriers to compose works performed by major American orchestras in the 1930s and 40s. While this work doesn’t have a direct link to the film world, she did use her music to create a sense of time, place and character that can feel cinematic at times. Perhaps it comes from her days as a student where she accompanied silent films on the organ and improvised some of the music.

These concerts are sponsored by Alston and Bird.

CALENDAR LISTING

John Williams' *The Five Sacred Trees*

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 8pm

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 8pm

Anthony Parnter, conductor

Andrew Brady, bassoon

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

CHANDA DANCY: *Cacophony of Spirits: A Cinematic Tone Poem*

JOHN WILLIAMS: *The Five Sacred Trees*

PRICE: Symphony No. 3

Guest conductor Anthony Parnter makes his Delta Classical Series debut with a program close to his heart. As a veteran Hollywood bassoonist, Parnter has played on many of the *Star Wars* soundtracks. He comes to Atlanta to conduct a bassoon concerto by film legend John Williams. Ever the visual composer, Williams's Concerto for Bassoon, titled *The Five Sacred Trees*, draws its inspiration from Celtic mythology. For the Concerto, the ASO welcomes an old friend, Andrew Brady. Parnter opens the concert with a world premiere by the rising-star film composer Chanda Dancy and concludes with the Symphony No. 3 by Arkansas-native Florence Price, who overcame racial and gender barriers to compose works performed by major American orchestras in the 1930s and 40s.

ANTHONY PARNTER, conductor

American conductor Anthony Parnter is in his fifth season as Music Director of California's San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra. As conductor of the Gateways Music Festival Orchestra, whose members hail from leading orchestras nationwide, it was Parnter who led its sold-out Carnegie Hall debut, showcasing the world premiere of *I Can* by five-time Grammy-winner Jon Batiste.

A master of multiple genres, Parnter has conducted many of the world's preeminent artists, from Joshua Bell, Lynn Harrell, Jessye Norman, and Frederica von Stade to Imagine Dragons, John Legend, Avenged Sevenfold, Wu-Tang Clan, and Rihanna. Recent engagements include collaborations with the Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Music Academy of the West, National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Sydney Symphony in Australia.

Dedicated to amplifying traditionally underrepresented voices, Parnter has reconstructed and performed orchestral works by Margaret Bonds, Duke Ellington, Zenobia Powell Perry, Florence Price, William Grant Still and Samuel Coleridge Taylor. As well as leading LA Opera's world premiere of Tamar-kali Brown's oratorio *We Hold These Truths* and Long Beach Opera's revival of Anthony Davis's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Central Park Five*. For his extensive championing of works by Black, Latino, and women composers, Parnter was profiled in 2015 as a "Local Hero" by Los Angeles's KCET/TV.

As one of today's foremost film conductors, Parnter helms recording sessions for many of the world's top international feature films and television series, working in close collaboration with some of the most decorated media composers on the scoring stages of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Nashville, Budapest, Glasgow, and London. Recent projects include *Avatar: The Way of Water*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, *Encanto*, *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*, *Nope*, *Creed III*, *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, *Diaries of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules*, *Ice Age: Adventures of Buck Wild*, *Tenet*, *American Dad*, *Oppenheimer*, *Turning Red*, *Star Wars: The Mandalorian*, *Star Wars: Book of Boba Fett*, and *League of Legends*.

ANDREW BRADY, bassoon

Native Tennessean Andrew Brady joined The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in the 2022-23 season as Principal Bassoon. Brady comes to Minnesota from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, having served there as Principal Bassoon since January 2016. Prior to the ASO, Brady held the same position for two years with the Louisiana Philharmonic.

As a soloist, Brady has performed concertos by Hertel, Rossini, Mozart, Weber and Zwilich with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Southeast Symphony, the Los Angeles Doctor's Symphony and The Colburn Orchestra. He appears regularly as Principal Bassoonist with the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, and he has performed as guest principal with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, as well as at Carnegie Hall and on European tours with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

In past summers, Brady has been a proud member of the Chineke! Orchestra including a performance at the 2017 BBC Proms. The ensemble is the UK's first Black and ethnically diverse orchestra and seeks to promote diversity and change within classical music by increasing the representation and visibility of musicians of color. Andrew is also thrilled to have participated in the "Juneteenth: A Global Celebration for Freedom" concert with the Re-Collective Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl in June 2022. The concert was broadcast live on CNN and marked the first performance of an all-black orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl.

Enthusiastically involved in music education, Brady has taught as an Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University. He has also served on the faculties of the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival, National Orchestral Institute, Brevard Music Center, Festival Napa Valley and National Youth Orchestra/NYO2 through Carnegie Hall.

Brady graduated with his Bachelor of Music degree from The Colburn School Conservatory of Music in 2013, where he studied with Richard Beene. Other major teachers and influences include Anthony Parnter, Rick Ranti and Suzanne Nelsen.

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 fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs celebrate

anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

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 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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