



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MICHELLE CANN PERFORMS RACHMANINOFF'S 2nd PIANO CONCERTO WITH ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring a special reception and archival display for *The Classics | Honoring Black Women in Symphonic Music*.

ATLANTA – One of the most popular works in the concert hall, Rachmaninov's romantic Piano Concerto No. 2 will be performed by the expressive virtuoso, Michelle Cann, with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in three Delta Classical Series concerts at Atlanta Symphony Hall on Thur/Sat, Nov. 16/18 at 8pm and Sun, Nov. 19 at 3pm.

Conductor David Danzmayr will lead the piano concerto, which blends soulful lyricism with show-stopping thunder. Also on the program is the vivacious Symphony No. 7 by Sergei Prokofiev.

The concert opens with *Short Piece for Orchestra*, a lively and somewhat raucous piece written by composer Julia Perry, a Black woman who was breaking down barriers in the classical music world back in 1952 when this piece was published.

"Michelle Cann's passion, virtuosity and nuanced interpretations always make for an exciting performance, and it's wonderful to welcome her back to perform this blockbuster concerto with the ASO," said Jennifer Barlament, ASO Executive Director.

Surrounding the Saturday evening performance on November 18 will be a special archival display and reception: **The Classics | Honoring Black Women in Symphonic Music**. Honorees include musicians, composers, and guest soloists who have performed with the ASO through the years as well as local female educators who have laid the foundation to inspire the next generation.

The post-concert reception features:

- Spelman student vocalists
- Maria Clark (Senior Voice Instructor at Spelman, Coordinator of Applied Lessons)
- Attendance by guest pianist Michelle Cann
- Spoken word performance by Theresa the SONGBIRD

Honorees include:

- Krissi Davis: GMEA Orchestra Chair and Orchestra Director at Midtown High School
- Monica Fogg: K-12 Music Coordinator at DeKalb County Schools
- Dr. Joyce Johnson: Spelman organist and Professor Emerita of Music
- Myra Rhoden: Founder of Athena Music and Leadership Camp
- Dr. Tia Roper: Flute Instructor at Lovett Conservatory of Music and Band Director at Mill Springs Academy
- Dr. Patrice E. Turner: Director of Worship & Arts at Ebenezer Baptist Church

CALENDAR LISTING

Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 8pm

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 8pm

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 3pm

David Danzmayr

Michelle Cann, piano

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

PERRY: *Short Piece for Orchestra*

RACHMANINOV: Piano Concerto No.2

PROKOFIEV: Symphony No.7

Among the most popular works in the concert hall, Rachmaninov's Romantic Piano Concerto No. 2 blends soulful lyricism with show-stopping thunder to produce a perennial winner. The wonderfully expressive virtuoso Michelle Cann returns to play the luscious concerto with the ASO. Also, guest conductor David Danzmayr leads the Orchestra in the vivacious Symphony No. 7 by another Russian Romantic, Sergei Prokofiev. The concert opens with *Short Piece for Orchestra*, a lively and somewhat raucous piece written by composer Julia Perry.

ABOUT MICHELLE CANN, piano

Lauded as "exquisite" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and "a pianist of sterling artistry" by *Gramophone*, Michelle Cann has become one of the most sought-after pianists of her generation. She made her debut in 2021 with The Philadelphia Orchestra and has recently performed concertos with The Cleveland Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Sinfônica Municipal de São Paulo, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, and Cincinnati.

Highlights of Cann's 2023-24 season include appearances with the Charlotte, Hawaii, Indianapolis, Québec, Sarasota, and Winnipeg symphony orchestras, and recitals in New York City, Portland, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Denver.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price's *Piano Concerto in One Movement* with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in July 2016. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a Grammy Award in 2023. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in May 2023.

Cann was the recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and an Artist's Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music. Cann joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies, and she joined the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in 2023.

Listen now to Michelle Cann's solo album *Revival*, Music of Price and Bonds, by scanning the QR code below using the camera on your mobile phone. More information at [Curtis.edu/revival](https://curtis.edu/revival).

ABOUT DAVID DANZMAYR, conductor

David Danzmayr is widely regarded as one of the most exciting European conductors of his generation. He is in his second season as Music Director of the Oregon Symphony and also stands at the helm of the versatile ProMusica Chamber Orchestra Columbus, an innovative orchestra comprised of musicians from all over the USA.

In addition, he holds the title of Honorary Conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra with whom he had served as Chief Conductor - leading the Zagreb musicians on several European tours with concerts in the Salzburg Festival Hall, where they performed the prestigious New Year's concert, and the Vienna Musikverein.

David has won prizes at some of the world's most prestigious conducting competitions including at the International Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition and at the International Malko Conducting Competition. In recognition of his successes, he has been awarded the Bernhard Paumgartner Medal by the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum.

Propelled into a far-reaching international career, Danzmayr has quickly become a sought-after guest conductor having worked in Europe and America with such symphonies as those of Cincinnati, Minnesota, St. Louis, Seattle, Baltimore, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Detroit, Colorado, Utah, Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Houston Symphony. He frequently appears in the world's major concert halls, such as the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, Grosses Festspielhaus Salzburg, Usher Hall Edinburgh, and the Symphony Hall in Chicago.

Danzmayr received his musical training at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg where, after initially studying piano, he went on to study conducting. He has served as Assistant Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, performing in all the major Scottish concert halls.

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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