



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS WITH NEW *SOUNDS OF THE SEASON* CONCERT

A creative melding of classical favorites with swinging holiday tunes.

ATLANTA – The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**'s celebrated Coca-Cola holiday series welcomes a new concert offering to the mix with the ***Sounds of the Season*** ushering in holiday spirit with two performances on Sat, Dec. 23 at 3pm and 8pm at Symphony Hall.

"We are always looking for ways to invite new audiences to engage with the ASO," said Jennifer Barlament, ASO Executive Director. "We know that during the holidays families are looking for something fun and meaningful to do with the whole family. In ***Sounds of the Season*** offers a wide variety of music in a fast-moving program, including everything from orchestral favorites like excerpts from *The Nutcracker* to jazzy takes on favorite holiday tunes. There's something to delight everyone in the family."

Associate Conductor William R. Langley leads the orchestra in a family-friendly program that features the jazz styling of singer **Tammy McCann**. She will offer stirring renditions of festive carols, such as "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"It's a wonderful idea to have a concert with popular songs that people can walk out humming," said Langley. "We want this to be a show where everybody can come and bring their kids."

Interspersed in the program will be movements from *The Nutcracker* that will be performed by the ASO in an entirely fresh way—first with Tchaikovsky's original version right next to Duke Ellington's big-band arrangements.

Internationally recognized vocalist and Music Institute of Chicago Artist-in-Residence Tammy McCann said that she is "a huge fan of Christmas music. I hate that we can only sing it once a year."

One of her favorite songs on the program is “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” It’s more than a Christmas song to her; it’s part of her artistic origin story. “It’s a song from my childhood,” McCann says. “When I saw Judy Garland perform this song, I said to myself, even as a child, it made me understand what singers do. They make people feel things.”

CALENDAR LISTING

Sounds of the Season

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Sat., Dec. 23, 3pm and 8pm

William R. Langley, conductor

Tammy McCann, vocalist

The sparkling sounds of the season abound when your symphony performs your favorite holiday music! Hear *The Nutcracker* in an entirely fresh way—first with Tchaikovsky’s original version right next to Duke Ellington’s big-band arrangements. This family-friendly holiday celebration features singer Tammy McCann, whose powerful, sultry, voice merges jazz with a Gospel esthetic to bring her unique sound to festive tunes. “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” with his friend “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” as we all go on a “Sleigh Ride” together!

LEROY ANDERSON	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>
DUDLEY BROOKS	<i>(Everybody’s Waitin’ for) The Man With the Bag</i>
PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY	Selections from <i>The Nutcracker</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY/Ellington/Strayhorn	Selections from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i>
MEL TORME/Stephenson	<i>The Christmas Song</i>
LEROY ANDERSON	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
JOHNNY MARKS	<i>Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer</i>
JOHANN STRAUSS, JR.	<i>Thunder and Lightning, Polka, Op. 324</i>
ADOLPHE CHARLES ADAM	<i>O Holy Night</i>
HUGH MARTIN AND RALPH BLANE	<i>Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas</i>
J. FRED COOTS	<i>Santa Claus Is Comin’ to Town</i>

More information and a full list of holiday concerts can be found at aso.org/holidays.

Holiday concerts are made possible through an endowment from the Livingston Foundation, in memory of Leslie Livingston Kellar. Additional support of Christmas with the ASO provided by BlackRock.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

WILLIAM R. LANGLEY, CONDUCTOR

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Associate Conductor William R. Langley began his career as an orchestral conductor at age sixteen. In 2009 he founded the Wolf River Chamber Orchestra and in 2011 the Memphis Repertory Orchestra. Langley also serves as the music director of the Atlanta

Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Blueshift Ensemble, a contemporary music ensemble dedicated to programming and promoting new and existing chamber works while incorporating multigenre collaborations.

An avid performer, the young Maestro has appeared as guest conductor with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Starling Chamber Orchestra, Blueshift Ensemble, Concert:Nova, and All of the Above Ensemble.

In demand as a cover conductor, Langley has been a frequent cover with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, and Cincinnati covering such conductors as Nathalie Stutzmann, Sir Donald Runnicles, Louis Langrée, Carlos Kalmar, Juanjo Mena, Jonathon Heyward, Ramón Tebar, Peter Oundjian, and Miguel Harth-Bedoya, to name a few.

Langley holds a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Cincinnati where he studied under the tutelage of Maestro Mark Gibson. He was selected by members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the American Austrian Foundation to be awarded one of two esteemed Ansbacher Fellowships for Young Conductors with the opportunity to study in Austria at the 2019 Salzburger Festspiele.

TAMMY MCANN, jazz vocalist

Named the *Chicago Tribune's* 2020 Person-of-the-Year in jazz, Tammy McCann is an internationally recognized jazz vocalist and is currently an artist-in-residence for the Music Institute of Chicago. Her powerful, sultry, and emotionally charged voice paints pictures and tells stories by merging classical vocal technique and gospel esthetic with jazz to create a sound that is completely her own.

Tammy McCann has performed with such luminaries as Ramsey Lewis, John Clayton, Branford Marsalis, Joe Locke, Charles McPherson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Carmen Bradford and toured as a "Raelette" with the great Ray Charles.

McCann has thrilled audiences in festivals and clubs worldwide from Bangkok, Thailand to the Harrods Atticus in Greece. As well as the nation's premier concert and jazz venues, Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland, The Blue Note, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, and Chicago's own Jazz Showcase.

As an educator, her teaching style meets vocal students where they are and all instruction has a classical foundation with a focus on jazz.

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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