



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2026

CONTACTS:

Ashley Mirakian, ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org

Camille McClain, camille.mcclain@atlantasymphony.org

THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS AN AMERICA @ 250 ENCORE CONCERT

Featuring music from Bernstein's *West Side Story*

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's America @ 250 series culminates by showcasing the sounds that define our nation in an encore performance featuring music from Bernstein, Copland and Barber on Wednesday, June 17 at 8pm in Symphony Hall.

Guest conductor Deanna Tham, noted for "an emotionally engaging style" (*Oregon ArtsWatch*), leads this exploration of the American song through Broadway, blues, cowboy songs and more. This encore performance features Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*, which journalist Jon Ross described as a "satisfying performance [that] felt like more than the sum of so many pop tunes."

Also included in the America @ 250 Encore are three works by Copland, including his *Fanfare for the Common Man*, which opened the ASO's current season last October to acclaim. *ArtsATL* summarized it as "a testament to the individual human spirit." The two other Copland works are dance interpretations of the American frontier: the quintessentially American *Appalachian Spring* Suite and "Hoe-Down" from the ballet, *Rodeo*. Rounding out the program are popular, cinematic overtures from Bernstein and Barber.

The America @ 250 Encore concert wraps up the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's season-long celebration of American music (aso.org/america250). Tickets for this concert will be on sale to the general public on Friday, May 8, at aso.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

America @ 250 Encore: Bernstein, Copland + Barber

Wednesday, June 17, 8 pm

Deanna Tham, conductor

BERNSTEIN: Overture to *Candide*

BARBER: *Overture to The School For Scandal*

COPLAND: *Appalachian Spring Suite*

COPLAND: *Fanfare For The Common Man*

COPLAND: "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo*

BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Broadway, the blues, fiddle tunes, and cowboy songs — 250 years into the American Dream, the bounty of the "huddled masses" ripples across the world like a beacon on a hill. Come celebrate America@250 with the ultimate all-American playlist.

In an evening of high-energy family fun, the orchestra stirs up a rumble — mambo-style — with music from Bernstein's unforgettable *West Side Story*. Also, the rugged, wide-open spaces of the American frontier come alive in Copland's breathtaking classic *Appalachian Spring*. In between, the mighty Atlanta Symphony brass delivers goosebumps with the iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*, while the strings trot out a heel-kicking "Hoe-Down." Bernstein and Barber get things underway with a snappy pair of overtures.

About Deanna Tham

Powerfully compelling, American conductor Deanna Tham is known for her captivating and tenacious spirit on and off the podium. She is currently the Associate Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and Music Director of the Union Symphony Orchestra. Previously, Tham was the Assistant Conductor of the Omaha Symphony, following her tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony and Principal Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. In 2024, she appeared in the prestigious La Maestra Conducting Competition in Paris, France, where she was a semi-finalist.

Deanna Tham has performed at the Proms in Royal Albert Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, and Seiji Ozawa Hall at the Tanglewood Music Center, working with Maestros James Ross, Joseph Young, and Sir Antonio Pappano, as well as renowned artists Isobel Leonard and Joyce DiDonato.

She has appeared with the Oregon Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Ballet Idaho, Opera Idaho, Orpheus PDX, 45th Parallel, and Present Music Milwaukee. She served as Assistant Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra (NYO-USA and NYO2) and Assistant Conductor of the Chicago Sinfonietta with Maestro Mei-Ann Chen. Tham is a cover conductor for the San Francisco Symphony.

Tham holds a Professional Studies Certificate from the Cleveland Institute of Music in Orchestral Conducting and received her Master of Music in conducting from Northwestern University.

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.

###