



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2023

CONTACT: Ashley Mirakian, 404-733-4349
ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org

STAR VIOLINIST JOSHUA BELL JOINS THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM TWO WORKS, INCLUDING *THE ELEMENTS*, PREMIERED THIS MONTH

ATLANTA – Joshua Bell, one of the most celebrated violinists of his generation, joins the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Peter Oundjian, for a one-night-only performance on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 8:00pm in Symphony Hall.

This Delta Classical Series concert opens with Oundjian conducting Smetana’s *The Moldau* before diving into Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 featuring Bell. The most anticipated work of the night follows. *The Elements* is a cycle of pieces for violin and orchestra that Joshua Bell recently commissioned from five of today’s most dynamic American composers.

Bell had this to say about the new work: “It consists of five distinct pieces, each written by composers I greatly admire--Jake Heggie (“Fire”), Jennifer Higdon (“Air”), Edgar Meyer (“Water”), Jessie Montgomery (“Space”) and Kevin Puts (“Earth”). The process of working with such an incredible collection of talent has been extremely rewarding, and to have them all represented in one epic opus is truly historic. I am thrilled to have the chance to share this collective work celebrating the beauty of our natural world.”

Bell premiered the entire work earlier this month with the New York Philharmonic to critical acclaim. He created a [micro-site](#) about the project with information, reviews and videos posted by Bell and each composer.

The ASO concert will feature three of the movements: “Earth” by Kevin Puts, “Water” by Edgar Meyer, and “Fire” by Jake Heggie. The evening will be rounded out by Oundjian leading the orchestra in Rimsky-Korsakov’s high-octane Spanish romp, *Capriccio espagnole*.

CALENDAR LISTING

Joshua Bell + The Elements

Wednesday, October 25, 8pm

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Woodruff Arts Center

Peter Oundjian, conductor
Joshua Bell, violin
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SMETANA	<i>The Moldau</i>
BRUCH	Violin Concerto
VARIOUS	<i>The Elements: Suite for Violin and Orchestra</i>
Kevin Puts	<i>Earth</i>
Edgar Meyer	<i>Water</i>
Jake Heggie	<i>Fire</i>
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	<i>Capriccio espagnol</i>

The ASO welcomes two Grammy® award-winning artists. Joshua Bell, one of the most celebrated violinists of his generation, presents *The Elements*, a cycle of pieces for violin and orchestra by leading American composers, and the rousing Violin Concerto No. 1 by Max Bruch. Canadian-American conductor Peter Oundjian conducts Rimsky-Korsakov's high-octane Spanish romp, *Capriccio espagnol* — a true showpiece for this virtuoso orchestra.

About Joshua Bell

With a career spanning almost four decades, GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Bell has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world and continues to maintain engagements as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor, and as the Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Bell's highlights in the 2023-24 season include an international tour of his newly-commissioned project, *The Elements*, featuring works by renowned living composers. The work will receive its premiere performances with the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Hong Kong Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

Bell will release his new album on Sony Classical, *Butterfly Lovers*, in summer 2023. Bell will also lead the Academy of St Martin in the Fields on tour in Australia and throughout the United States. He will appear as artist-in-residence this season with the NDR Elbphilharmonie, and as guest artist with the New Jersey Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Philadelphia Orchestra, and more.

Bell has been nominated for six GRAMMY® awards, was named "Instrumentalist of the Year" by *Musical America*, and received the Avery Fisher Prize. He has performed for three American presidents and the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Bell also participated in President Barack Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' mission to Cuba on an Emmy-nominated PBS Live from Lincoln Center special; *Joshua Bell: Seasons of Cuba*, celebrating renewed cultural diplomacy between Cuba and the United States.

Peter Oundjian, conductor

Peter Oundjian is currently serving as the Music Director of the Colorado Music Festival and Principal Conductor of the Yale Philharmonia. He was the Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) for 14 seasons where he reinvigorated the TSO with recordings and tours that included sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall and a performance at the famed Wiener Konzerthaus.

Oundjian was also the Music Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO). He toured the globe with the orchestra, they recorded albums together, and they presented Britten's monumental *War Requiem* at the BBC Proms.

Oundjian has also served as the Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director of the Caramoor International Music Festival, Music Director of the Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra's Mozart Festival. He has also made numerous guest conducting appearances throughout his career with leading orchestras in America and around the globe.

Raised in Surrey, England, Oundjian grew up performing frequently as a violinist and choral singer. He attended the Royal College of Music in London where he was awarded the Tagore Gold Medal, presented to him by Queen Elizabeth. After graduating from the Juilliard School, he spent 14 years performing around the world with the Tokyo String Quartet. In 1995, Oundjian was forced to step away from the violin, having developed focal dystonia in his left hand.

At the age of 25, he became a visiting professor at the Yale School of Music and has mentored young violinists, conductors, and chamber groups at Yale for 42 years.

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.

###