



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATHALIE STUTZMANN CONDUCTS CONCERTS FEATURING THE MUSIC OF ANTON BRUCKNER
Architect of the Spirit: Celebrating Bruckner @ 200.**

ATLANTA – Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann returns to Atlanta Symphony Hall to lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) in two programs featuring music by Anton Bruckner, featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus (ASOC) on Jan. 18/20, followed by guest pianist Sunwook Kim on Jan. 25/27. These concerts are part of the festival *Architect of the Spirit: Celebrating Bruckner @ 200*.

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann programmed this festival to celebrate the composer's 200th birthday and said, "People speaking about Bruckner's music immediately refer to it as highly Catholic and religious. I believe that Bruckner's symphonies are Universal. They represent the longing for the eternal. He leads listeners into a unique world that they would otherwise never enter."

The first set of concerts on Thursday and Saturday, January 18 and 20 at 8:00 pm, features the combined power of the Orchestra with the ASO Chorus in Bruckner's watershed Symphony No. 9 and *Te Deum*, two epic works cut from the same cloth. The 1885 *Te Deum* is a massive, joyous hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God. The Ninth Symphony is dedicated to "the beloved God," but was tragically incomplete at the composer's death. Although the intended finale is unfinished, the *Te Deum* serves as a satisfying cap on the evening.

The second set of concerts on Thursday and Saturday, January 25 and 27 at 8:00 pm, features the works of two composers who lived in Vienna, though they were born 68 years apart: Mozart and Bruckner. Stutzmann leads the orchestra in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 featuring pianist Sunwook Kim. After intermission, the Orchestra pulls out all the stops for Bruckner's muscular, mysterious, and awe-inspiring Symphony No. 7.

The Bruckner celebration also includes a pre-concert talk on January 18 at 6:30 that is free to ticket holders. Michael Accurso, Director of Music and Liturgy for the Cathedral of Christ the King, presents

Bruckner's Hymn of Praise: an in-depth look at the history and music of Anton Bruckner's *Te Deum* in C major and the overall *Te Deum* tradition.

The January 18 and 20 performances were made possible by a grant from Barney M. Franklin and Hugh W. Burke Charitable Fund. The January 18 performance is sponsored by Troutman Pepper.

CALENDAR LISTING

Architect of the Spirit: Celebrating Bruckner @ 200

Stutzmann Conducts Bruckner + ASO Chorus

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 8pm

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann

Christina Nilsson, soprano

Marina Viotti, mezzo-soprano

James Ley, tenor

David Leigh, bass

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BRUCKNER: Symphony No.9

BRUCKNER: Te Deum

Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann marshals the combined forces of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to perform Bruckner's watershed Symphony No. 9 and *Te Deum*, two epic works cut from the same cloth. The 1885 *Te Deum* is a massive, joyous hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God, written for orchestra, chorus, vocal soloists and Bruckner's own instrument, the organ. The Ninth Symphony is dedicated to "the beloved God," but was tragically incomplete at the composer's death. Nevertheless, the Ninth, with its three cathedral-like movements, has over an hour's worth of completed music. Although the intended finale is unfinished, the *Te Deum* serves as a satisfying cap on the evening. This performance is part of a two-week celebration of Bruckner.

Nathalie Stutzmann Conducts Mozart + Bruckner

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 8pm

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann

Sunwook Kim, piano*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 22

BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 7

Two composers lived, worked, and died in Vienna. One was a paragon of classicism; the other a mystic. One loved the nightlife and applied exceptional technique to a visceral understanding of the human condition. The other was intensely pious and riddled with self-doubt. Yet a kinship exists between the two. Born 68 years apart, these visionary artists helped define the essence of one of the world's great musical capitals. ASO music director Nathalie Stutzmann leads the orchestra in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 featuring pianist Sunwook Kim. After intermission, the Orchestra

pulls out all the stops for Bruckner's muscular, mysterious, and awe-inspiring Symphony No. 7. This performance is part of a two-week celebration of Bruckner.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Nathalie Stutzmann is the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She is also the Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

When Nathalie made her spectacular debut at the 2023 Bayreuth Festival leading Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, *BR Klassik* observed having "never experienced such a standing ovation at a pit debut in Bayreuth." Last season also saw her acclaimed debut at the Metropolitan Opera with productions of both *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni* that *The New York Times* declared "the coup of the year."

During the 23-24 season, she leads the Atlanta Symphony in twelve programs spanning some of her favorite core repertoire and a West Coast tour. With The Philadelphia Orchestra she returns to New York for her much-anticipated Carnegie Hall debut. Nathalie Stutzmann is an exclusive recording artist for Warner Classics/Erato.

As one of today's most esteemed contraltos, she has made more than 80 recordings and received the most prestigious awards. Recognized for her significant contribution to the arts, Nathalie was named "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur," France's highest honour; and "Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French government.

Sunwook Kim, piano

Sunwook Kim came to international recognition when he won the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition in 2006, aged just 18, becoming the competition's youngest winner for 40 years, as well as its first Asian winner.

Since then, he has established a reputation as one of the finest pianists of his generation, appearing as a concerto soloist in the subscription series of some of the world's leading orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Berlin Radio Symphony, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Finnish Radio Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Orchestra of Wales, Radio-France Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Hallé Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for his BBC Proms debut in Summer 2014.

Conductor collaborations include Karina Canellakis, Nathalie Stutzmann, Thomas Sondergard, Tugan Sokhiev, Daniel Harding, Paavo Jarvi, David Afshar, Edward Gardner, John Elliot Gardiner, Myung-Whun Chung, Osmo Vänskä, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Kirill Karabits, Marek Janowski, Sakari Oramo, Andrew Manze, Vassily Sinaisky, Paavo Järvi, Michael Sanderling, Yuri Bashmet and Sir Mark Elder.

Recital highlights to date include regular appearances at the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, in the 'Piano 4 Etoiles' series at the Philharmonie de Paris and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Piano aux

Jacobin Festival, AIX Festival, La Roque d'Antheron International Piano Festival (France) as well as at the Beethoven-Haus Bonn, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festspiele, Teatro Colon Buenos Aires, Kioi Hall in Tokyo, Symphony Hall Osaka and Seoul Arts Centre. Sunwook is also a keen chamber musician and has collaborated with singers.

Sunwook will also return to the Bournemouth Symphony as both a soloist and conductor. Sunwook's return to the Bournemouth Symphony as conductor follows his instant success having made his play-direct debut with the orchestra and international conducting debut with the KBS Symphony only last season. In August 2022, Sunwook also had the honour to conduct the Seoul Philharmonic in their National Liberation Day Concert.

Sunwook Kim's debut recital disc was released on the Accentus label in October 2015, featuring Beethoven's Waldstein and Hammerklavier sonatas. His most recent chamber music release features the Violin Sonatas of Beethoven in collaboration with Clara Jumi Kang.

His discography also includes multiple concerto recordings, including ones on Accentus Music with the Staatskapelle Dresden featuring Brahms' Piano Concerto no. 1 (2019) and Six Piano Pieces (2020). In addition to two recordings on Deutsche Grammophon with the Seoul Philharmonic.

Born in Seoul in 1988, Sunwook completed an MA in conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and was subsequently made a fellow (FRAM) of the Royal Academy of Music in 2019.

Christina Nilsson, soprano

The young Swedish soprano Christina Nilsson was born in Ystad in Southern and then studied in Stockholm where she received her master's degree from the University College of Opera in Stockholm.

In the season of 2017/18 Christina got her breakthrough with her role debut as Aida at The Royal Swedish Opera. Christina appeared in concerts with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and she was a guest at the Opéra national de Lorraine in Nancy where she sang Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder*. The following season Christina performed her first Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Oper Frankfurt, and at Opéra de Lausanne, as well as a guest appearance as Aida at the Irish National Opera.

She commenced last season by performing at the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm and made her debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper. This past spring included another role debut; Tosca in Stockholm, which will be followed by performances of Aida at Deutsche Oper in Berlin.

The previous season Christina appeared in two roles at the Royal Swedish Opera, Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the title role in Aida. In the summer of 2021 Christina was a guest at the Tiroler Festspiele in Austria where she sang the role of Elsa von Brabant in *Lohengrin*. The season before included Aida in a concert version at Deutsche Oper and Christina also appeared in the star-studded Gala Concert "*Bolshoi and Plácido Domingo: Life in Opera*" at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Marina Viotti, mezzo-soprano

In April 2019 Marina Viotti was awarded the "Best Young Singer of the Year" at the prestigious International Opera Awards in London. She also won the 3rd prize at the "Concours de Genève" in 2016, and the International Belcanto Prize at the Rossini Festival in Wildbad in 2015.

After studying flute, Marina Viotti first experimented with jazz, gospel and heavy metal. She got a master's degree in philosophy and literature before she began her vocal training with Heidi Brunner in Vienna and continued at the Lausanne University of Music in the class of Brigitte Balley. She completed her studies with a diploma as a soloist and studied Belcanto with Raul Gimenez and Alessandra Rossi.

Marina Viotti's first steps on the operatic stage after her studies took her to the Lausanne Opera, the Lucerne Theatre and, as part of the young ensemble, to the Grand Théâtre de Genève. She made her debut as Isabella (L'italiana in Algeri) at the Rossini Festival in Bad Wildbad in 2015.

Marina Viotti is a sought-after concert singer and has performed under the baton of maestros Corboz, Dudamel, and De Billy, to name but a few. Moreover, Marina Viotti is regularly invited to festivals all over the world, to present her very unique shows such as "Love has no borders" (voice, piano, sax and contrebasse), "Porque existe otro querer" (duo voice/guitar) or "About last night"(cabaret).

James Ley, tenor

American-born James Ley is a graduate of the Opera Studies program at New York's prestigious Juilliard School.

James Ley began last season with a debut at the Edinburgh International Festival as the Second Nazarene in *Salome* with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. He made his first appearance at Oper Bern as Vaudémont in *Iolanta*.

The previous season included house debuts at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and Opéra National de Bordeaux as Ferrando with Les Musiciens du Louvre. On the concert stage, he debuted with Opéra de Limoges in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and with Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk in Mendelssohn's *Elias*.

Further performing experience to date includes the world premiere of Marius Felix Lange's *Der Gesang der Zauberinsel* at Salzburg Festival, Le petit vieillard in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with the Juilliard Orchestra conducted by Emmanuel Villaume.

In concert, James has performed Handel's *Messiah* at Wheaton College, as well as excerpts from Schubert's *Winterreise* with Brian Zeger at Alice Tully Hall as part of Juilliard Songfest.

James Ley has appeared in Masterclass with Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as in Carnegie Hall's SongStudio, with guest teachers including Renée Fleming. For the 2020/21 season he was a member of the Opernstudio of Bayerische Staatsoper Munich as the recipient of an Opera Foundation scholarship, where he sang the Messenger in *Aida* under Zubin Mehta as part of the Munich Opera Festival.

Adam Lau, bass

American bass Adam Lau continues a busy and active career with a wide range of engagements last season, including debuts with four opera companies. Those companies included the San Francisco Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Florentine Opera of Milwaukee and the New Orleans Opera, in one of his signature roles, that of Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*.

The previous season was also busy for Mr. Lau. In addition to his Met debut, he sang with Utah Opera, North Carolina Opera and two roles with Dallas Opera--the Bonze in *Madama Butterfly* and again, Don Basilio. That spring, he sang with the Atlanta Opera, and he returned to Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

Adam Lau won First Prize in the 2016 Jensen Vocal Competition and Top Prize in the 2015 George London Competition. He was also a finalist in the 2016 Dallas Opera Competition. He has appeared with such opera companies as Seattle Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Dallas Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Portland Opera, Utah Opera, and North Carolina Opera, as well as with some of the nation's leading summer programs including Merola Opera Center, Aspen Opera Theater, and Santa Fe Opera.

In addition to opera, Mr. Lau maintains an active concert career. He has appeared with several leading symphonic organizations including Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony, San Diego Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

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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