



Alabama Symphony Orchestra

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The Alabama Symphony Orchestra Announces Plans for Modified 20/21 Season

(September 16, 2020 -- Birmingham, AL) After much discussion with musicians, staff members, and the Board of Directors, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has made the decision to move previously announced 20/21 performances forward to the 21/22 Season. The Orchestra will use this unique opportunity to reimagine the current season through a virtual lens!

Mark Patrick, ASO Interim Executive Director and General Manager, said, "Throughout the years the ASO has found numerous ways to Change Lives Through Music, which is why we are so excited to shift gears and interact with music lovers on a digital platform."

In the coming months, the ASO is committed to providing brand new, exciting experiences that can be enjoyed anywhere at any time. As the ASO develops its online presence, the Orchestra aims to expand access to new communities and engage loyal patrons through events like virtual Conductor's Corners, online Insider Evenings, and more. Additionally, in January, the Orchestra will offer a virtual film screening and Q&A panel.

In addition, the ASO will develop digital content, including education programs and professional development, designed for Alabama teachers and students. These programs will be accessible through the Alabama Symphony Orchestra website and social media platforms.

The Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) will also begin their Season with digital rehearsals, lectures, music theory classes, and performances planned for this fall. These activities will ensure the health and safety of these young musicians while keeping them engaged.

ASO Music Director Carlos Izcaray is enthusiastic about innovative ways the ASO can maintain their statewide presence, "As an organization, every step we take is planned with the Orchestra in mind so that our organization can evolve and adapt

to our surroundings. This ensures that the ASO can continue to thrive for many years to come.”

The ASO affirms its commitment to maintaining the safety and comfort of musicians, audiences, and staff as it navigates a return to the concert hall. The Orchestra is continuing to work with its various venues on scheduling and appropriate health protocols to determine what is possible. As such, additional announcements regarding virtual performances will be forthcoming.

ASO subscribers who currently have tickets for the 20/21 Season will automatically have their subscriptions moved to the 21/22 Season, ensuring their seats for when returning to UAB’s Alys Stephens Center is possible. All subscribers who have already renewed will receive correspondence from the ASO in the next few weeks. Please call the box office with any questions at 205.975.2787.

Additionally, the ASO will plan to move forward with their performances of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™ in Concert which is scheduled to take place April 17 & 18, 2021 at the BJCC. Ticket holders will be notified in the Spring of 2021 if these performances should be postponed due to concerns involving COVID-19.

These are challenging times for all arts organizations, and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra is no exception. Patrons of the arts can help the #ASOPlayOn by making a donation at alabamasymphony.org/donate. Each contribution is valued, and the Orchestra cannot wait to welcome concert goers back when the ASO returns to the stage!

About the Alabama Symphony Orchestra

The formation of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (ASO) began with the first performance by a group of volunteer musicians in 1921. That group would evolve from a volunteer ensemble to the state's only full-time professional orchestra. Today, the ASO is continuing to make music and provide vital services to the residents of the state, serving nearly 100,000 individuals a year through concert series, youth programs, and educational and community engagement efforts to fulfill our mission to change lives through music.

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra has entertained and enriched audiences almost 100 years, playing a variety of classical and popular music and hosting performances by some of the finest guest artists in the world. The 53 talented musicians of the ASO bring to life some of the world’s most treasured musical masterpieces and introduce listeners to exciting new works and composers, performing 100 concerts annually.