



MasterWorks Concert

Brilliant

Featuring
Sirena Huang

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023, 2PM
KAHILU THEATRE

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

JOHANNES BRAHMS – SYMPHONY NO. 1
ANTONÍN DVORÁK – VIOLIN CONCERTO

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FROM THE MAESTRO

Aloha, and welcome to today's fantastic MasterWorks concert, *Brilliant*.

I have been looking forward to this particular performance for over two years. The pieces you will hear today are unequivocally two of the most masterful compositions in the symphonic repertoire. Dvorák and Brahms have an incredible catalogue of music that is just as vibrant, emotionally deep, and exciting today as they were when originally written.

Bringing a world-renowned virtuosic violinist to the stage of the Kahilu Theatre is what I'm most eager to share with you today. Sirena Huang is one of the fastest-rising stars in the world of classical music. The inaugural winner of the Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition and this fall's winner of the 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis are but two of a long line of competition successes.

Her violin playing will astound you, and if you are able to share a moment or two chatting with her, you'll quickly realize what an amazing personality she is—a dynamic “one-two” punch for a rising artist.

I am also looking ahead to our *Pops!* concert in May. A very Americana feel and celebration of American music and composers will be on tap. We'll also be featuring some Big Island talents during this performance. Our concertmaster Ursula Vietze and singer Binti Bailey will bring a variety of spirited tunes to life for you.

I want to thank you for being part of this magnificent concert season, and I eagerly look forward to meeting and chatting with you in the lobby after today's performance.



Mahalo nui loa,

Brian Dollinger
Artistic Director & Conductor
conductor@kamuelaphil.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends of the Kamuela Philharmonic,

Welcome to *Brilliant*, the third MasterWorks concert of our 2022-23 season. We are proud and pleased to present Symphony No. 1, in C minor, by Johannes Brahms, and Antonín Dvorák's Violin Concerto in A minor, featuring the renowned violinist Sirena Huang. These two masterpieces are beautiful and challenging mainstays of the romantic period of classical music.

Brahms started working on his first symphony in 1859, and after several years of hiatus, he resumed work in 1874. The first production took place in 1876. In 1879, Antonín Dvorák began composing his violin concerto and made final revisions in May 1880 after receiving suggestions from Joachim, a master violinist of the time who was also one of Brahms's closest friends.

This season marks our first full season of live concerts at the Kahilu Theatre since the onset of the COVID pandemic. We are excited to conclude it with a Pops Concert featuring local performing artists alongside the Philharmonic on Sunday, May 21, at 2 pm, right here at the Kahilu Theatre. We encourage you to reserve your seats as soon as possible.

We are pleased to inform you that the free programs presented by small ensembles of KPOS musicians in various public venues around the island will continue as long as funding is available. Additionally, we remain committed to providing orchestral music education and instruction to our island's keiki with our Musical Education programs because we know that musical training and knowledge improves student performance in math and science while enhancing their ability to work together and cooperate on joint projects.

We hope you enjoy the beautiful music of Brahms and Dvorák. Mahalo for your continued support of the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra.



Joel E. Gimpel
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Brilliant

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Symphony No. 1 in C minor, op. 69

- I. Un poco sostenuto – Allegro
- II. Andante sostenuto
- III. Un poco Allegretto e grazioso
- IV. Adagio – Più Andante – Allegro non troppo, ma con brio

— *Intermission* —

ANTONÍN DVORÁK

Violin Concerto in A minor, op. 53

- I. Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Adagio ma non troppo
- III. Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo

Sirena Huang, violinist

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PROGRAM NOTES

Johannes Brahms – Symphony No. 1 in C minor, op. 68

Johannes Brahms's Symphony No. 1 is one of the most significant works of the Romantic era and is considered one of the greatest symphonies ever written. It was composed between 1855 and 1876 and premiered in 1876.

The symphony is in four movements, with a duration of approximately 45 minutes. The first movement, marked *Un poco sostenuto - Allegro*, begins with a slow introduction, which sets the stage for the dramatic and passionate *Allegro* that follows. The movement is characterized by its sweeping melodies, dynamic contrasts, and rich orchestration.

The second movement, marked *Andante sostenuto*, is a serene and introspective interlude that features a solo cello and a lyrical theme passed among the strings. The third movement, marked *Un poco allegretto e grazioso*, is a lighter scherzo that offers a contrast to the intense drama of the first two movements. The fourth and final movement, marked *Adagio - Allegro non troppo, ma con brio*, is a powerful and triumphant finale that brings the work to a thrilling conclusion.

Brahms's Symphony No. 1 is known for its lush orchestration, expansive melodies, and dramatic intensity. It is often seen as a reflection of Brahms's struggle to emerge from the shadow of Beethoven, whose influence can be heard throughout the work. Despite this, Brahms's Symphony No. 1 stands as a masterpiece in its own right, and a testament to the enduring power and beauty of orchestral music.

Antonín Dvorák – Violin Concerto in A minor, op. 53

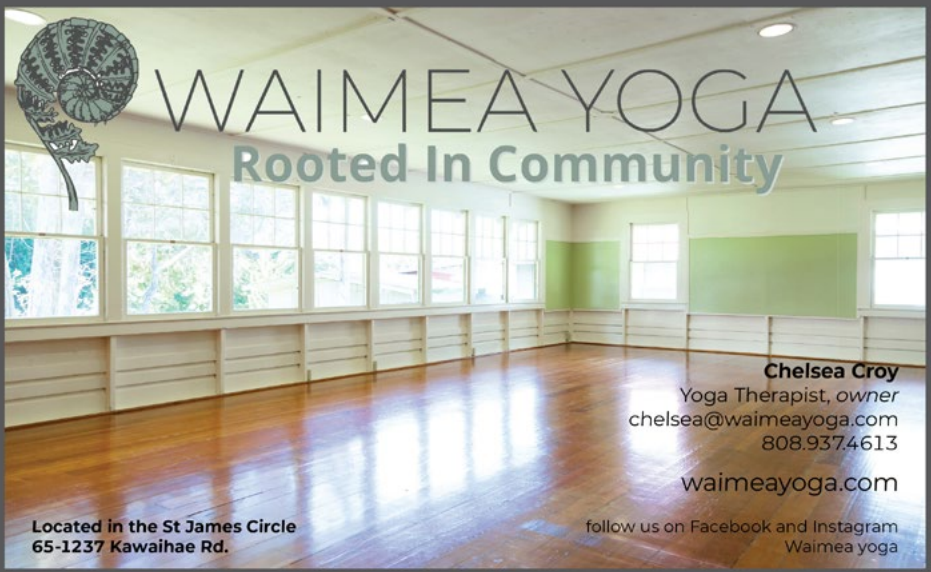
Antonín Dvorák's Violin Concerto in A minor, op. 53, is considered one of the most beloved violin concertos in the classical repertoire. Commissioned by renowned Czech violinist Joseph Joachim, the concerto was composed in 1879, during a particularly fruitful period in Dvorák's career. At the time of its composition, Dvorák was one of the leading composers in Europe, and his music was gaining increasing popularity both at home and abroad.

Dvorák's Violin Concerto is a beautiful and expressive work characterized by rich harmonies, lush melodies, and brilliant orchestration. It is also notable for its use of Czech folk melodies, which are woven into the fabric of the piece. This incorporation of folk music was a hallmark of Dvorák's style and an important part of his effort to create a distinctive Czech national music.

The concerto is in three movements, each showcasing the solo violinist's virtuosity. The opening *Allegro ma non troppo* is marked by a lyrical and expansive violin melody that is played against a rich orchestral backdrop. The second movement, *Adagio ma non troppo*, is a slow and introspective *Adagio* that features a hauntingly beautiful violin melody. The final movement, *Finale: Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo*, is a lively and energetic *Allegro* that brings the concerto to a thrilling conclusion.

PROGRAM NOTES

Despite its quality and popularity, Dvorák's Violin Concerto did not receive the same level of acclaim as some of his other works during his lifetime. It was not until several decades after his death that the piece began to gain wider recognition and appreciation. Today, it is regarded as one of the greatest works in the violin repertoire and continues to be a favorite of both musicians and audiences.



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ABOUT SIRENA HUANG, Violinist

Praised by The Baltimore Sun for her "impeccable technique...deeply expressive phrasing...and poetic weight,"

Sirena Huang is one of her generation's most celebrated violinists. She brings technical brilliance and powerful artistry to the stage and a profound sense of connection to her audience.

Sirena has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards. She is the 2022 Gold Medalist of the 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, and was also awarded eight of

the eleven special prizes. In 2017, she was awarded First Prize at the Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, and later that year, she was the winner of the New York Concert Artist Worldwide Debut Audition. In 2009, she won First Prize Gold Medalist of the 6th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians. She won First Prize and the Audience Award at the Cooper International Competition in 2011. That same year, she was also named the first Artist-in-Residence of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. In 2013, she was awarded the Hannloser Prize for Violin at the Verbier Music Festival in Switzerland. She is also a top prize winner at the Singapore International Violin Competition as well as the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition.

Sirena made her solo debut with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in 2004 at the age of nine and has performed in twenty countries across three continents. She has been featured as a soloist with more than fifty prestigious ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Shanghai, Russian, and Singapore symphony orchestras, and the Staatskapelle Weimar in Germany. She has performed in leading venues, including Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, the Kravis Center, Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay, Shanghai Concert Hall, and the Taiwan National Concert Hall, among many others. She has appeared as a guest artist at the Verbier Music Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Newport Music Festival, Music in the Mountains Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Sarasota Arts Series, "The Great Music for a Great City" series in New York City, and many others.

Motivated by a deep wish to inspire peace and harmony with her music, Sirena has performed before world leaders, thinkers, and humanitarians. She has appeared at the World Peace Conference held in Petra and at the Opening Ceremony of the "Forum 2000 World Conference" in Prague.

In addition to her TED Talk in 2006, Sirena has been featured on numerous radio and television broadcasts, including WQXR's McGraw-Hill



Young Artists Showcase, and NPR's From the Top as well as interviews with WNPR, CNBC, WTNH, WTIC, WB20, and Beethoven Radio.

Sirena performs on a Guarneri del Gesù violin, Cremona 1739 "Kortschak," which is on loan from Dr. Ryuji Ueno and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative.

ABOUT OUR MAESTRO



In 2016, Maestro Dollinger was appointed the Artistic Director & Conductor for the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra. His charisma, energy, technical clarity, deep musical passion continues to inspire musicians and audiences alike across the country. He continues into his 19th season as the Conductor and Music Director of the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra as well as celebrating his 16th season with the Clinton Symphony Orchestra as their Music Director & Conductor.

Whether on the concert stage performing masterworks or pops, or in the orchestra pit conducting opera and ballet, his personable approach combined with his clear conducting technique have come together to create a fun, inviting, energetic, and enriching atmosphere at each rehearsal and performance. He has conducted a variety of orchestras including the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Marion Philharmonic Orchestra, Idaho Falls Symphony Orchestra, and Muncie Symphony Orchestra.

Maestro Dollinger has collaborated with various dance companies in standard and non-traditional performances. He has worked with small, local studios as well as larger regional companies like Peoria Ballet, Gateway Ballet, and the Quad Cities Ballet. Since his appointment to the Philharmonic he has joined forces with musicians and dancers from the West Hawai'i Dance Theatre and Academy in performances of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. He has been appointed the Music Director & Conductor for the WHDT ballet orchestra.

Among his many interests, conducting staged performances of opera and musicals remains extra special for him. He has conducted many staged performances including *Die Fledermaus*, *The Tenderland*, *Showboat*, *My Fair Lady*, *Gianni Schicci*, and many more.

When here on Hawai'i Island, Maestro Dollinger makes it a point to work with young musicians in their school environments. He has spent countless hours with music students all across the island, as well as with young elementary school students. Mr. Dollinger has partnered with the Kailua-Kona Public Library and presented a wide variety of music sessions with children of all ages.

For more information about our Maestro, visit www.briandollinger.com.

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Ae Kyong Yoon
Kayla Uchida
Simona Gronic

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