



MasterWorks Concert

# Greatness

FROM START TO FINISH

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024, 2PM**  
**KAHILU THEATRE**

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Featuring *Rei Hotoda*  
on piano



**FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN** SYMPHONY NO. 1

**JESSIE MONTGOMERY** ROUNDS FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK** SYMPHONY NO. 8

CONCERT PROGRAM



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# FROM THE MAESTRO

Welcome, and Aloha to you all!

We have an amazing afternoon of symphonic music in store for you today. *Greatness from Start to Finish* really can have multiple meanings and connections for today's concert. Starting with Haydn's Symphony No. 1 is a pretty good place to start. Known as the "Father of the Symphony," experiencing what was such an early creation of the symphony form can truly showcase where we are headed not only through musicological history but also through our performance today.

Hearing the differences in timbre, form, phrasing, depths, and influences will definitely take us all on a marvelous journey. It is a perfect juxtaposition to that of Dvořák's Eighth Symphony. For me, this symphony is second to none. It is not only a joy for me to conduct, but I have very fond memories of this piece as a bassist. For sure the fourth movement will exemplify some of my feelings for the work.

These two symphonies are going to be fantastic, but I'm the most excited about our guest artist. My amazingly talented wife, Rei Hotoda, will be performing a wondrous work by one of today's most popular living composers: Jessie Montgomery. A whimsical yet technically driven work, this piece, sandwiched between two of the symphonic giants, will definitely present an incredible array of sounds and beauty from the Kahilu stage.

I am so glad you joined us, and I can't wait to share all of this great music with you and all of our Philharmonic 'ohana.



Mahalo, and enjoy the concert!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Dollinger'.

Brian Dollinger  
Artistic Director & Conductor  
conductor@kamuelaphil.org



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Aloha, and mahalo for attending *Greatness from Start to Finish*, the third concert in our 2023-24 MasterWorks series. Today's diverse program includes a seminal work from the beginning of the symphonic era, Haydn's First Symphony, to an award-winning piece that was written within the past four years, Jessie Montgomery's *Rounds*, to one of Maestro Dollinger's personal favorite works by Antonín Dvořák; his Eighth Symphony. Oh, and did I mention Maestro Dollinger's wife, Rei Hotoda is going to be the guest artist during the performance of *Rounds*? Today's program has shaped up to be EXCELLENT!

On a personal note, I wish I were with you all today, but alas, I am not. I qualified for the Nationals in Tennis in Mixed Doubles and am currently competing in a tournament—duty calls. However, I will definitely be there for the *POPS!* on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at the lovely Kahilu Theatre. Last year, the *POPS!* concert sold out, so I recommend you reserve your seat quickly.

Mahalo for all your support and we hope you enjoy yourselves this afternoon.



Dennis Yates

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Yates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society  
Board President

A concert poster for the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society. The background is a vibrant blue with a pattern of orange geometric lines forming a grid-like structure. At the top center is the Kamuela Philharmonic logo, which features a stylized palm tree and the text "Kamuela PHILHARMONIC". Below the logo, the text "KAMUELA PHILHARMONIC PRESENTS" is written in white. The word "POPS!" is prominently displayed in large, white, 3D-style letters with orange outlines. Below "POPS!", the date and time "SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024, 2PM" and the venue "KAHILU THEATRE" are listed in white. Underneath, it says "Selections from the stage and silver screen" in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the website "WWW.KAMUELAPHIL.ORG" is written in white. The entire poster is framed by the orange geometric pattern.

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# Greatness

FROM START TO FINISH

**Brian Dollinger**, Artistic Director & Conductor

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**FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN** Symphony No. 1 in D major

- I. Presto
- II. Andante
- III. Finale: Presto

**JESSIE MONTGOMERY** *Rounds* for Piano and String Orchestra

Rei Hotoda, piano

— *Intermission* —

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 8 in G major, op. 88

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegretto grazioso
- IV. Allegro ma non troppo

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This concert is made possible with support from Carol & Clive Davies, Joanne & David Turner, and Other Friends of the Kamuela Philharmonic

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# PROGRAM NOTES



## **Franz Joseph Haydn – Symphony No. 1 in D major**

Joseph Haydn's First Symphony stands as a radiant beacon of musical innovation and ingenuity, crafted with the precision and elegance that define his musical genius. Composed during a period of transformative innovation in the late 18th century, this symphony heralds the dawn of a new era in orchestral composition, captivating audiences with its boundless creativity and emotive depth.

In this inaugural work, Haydn unveils a tapestry of melodic richness and orchestral intricacy that foreshadows the unparalleled brilliance he would bring to the world of classical music—he was prolific. The symphony's structure is meticulously crafted, with each movement seamlessly flowing into the next, creating a cohesive and immersive musical experience.

One cannot help but marvel at Haydn's innovative orchestration, as he deftly weaves together the diverse voices of the orchestra to create a symphonic palette of unparalleled richness and depth. The interplay between instruments is exquisite, with each section contributing its own unique voice to the symphonic tapestry.

It is a work of unparalleled beauty and brilliance and stands as a towering achievement in the annals of classical music. To experience this symphonic masterpiece is to embark on a journey through the very heart of musical genius—a journey that promises to inspire, uplift, and enrich the soul.



## **Jessie Montgomery – *Rounds for Piano and String Orchestra***

*Rounds for Piano and Strings* is one of Jessie Montgomery's most recent projects. Its first performances took place on March 27 and 28, 2022, and since then the piece has been taking the classical music world by storm, earning acclaim for its innovative approach to blending classical and contemporary musical elements. Most recently, *Rounds* took home the 2024 GRAMMY for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Born in New York City in 1981, the African-American composer, musician, and educator Jessie Montgomery has emerged as one of the most sought-after composers in classical music over the past few years and has become an extremely vital voice for her generation.



## PROGRAM NOTES

Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (The Washington Post).

*Rounds* showcases Montgomery's skillful blending of different musical textures and genres. The piece is structured in rounds, a musical form where different voices or instruments enter at different times, creating layers of sound that intertwine and complement each other.

Montgomery's use of the piano as both a solo instrument and an integral part of the orchestral texture adds depth and richness to the composition. The strings provide a lush backdrop, supporting the piano melodies while also adding their own voice to the musical dialogue.

The composition is known for its dynamic contrasts, rhythmic vitality, and expressive melodies. Montgomery's use of syncopation and rhythmic patterns borrowed from jazz and other genres gives the music a lively and engaging quality.



### **Antonín Dvořák – Symphony No. 8 in G major, op. 88**

Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 is a magnificent work that stands as one of the composer's most vibrant and exuberant compositions. Completed in 1889, it reflects Dvořák's deep connection to his Czech heritage while also showcasing his mastery of orchestration and thematic development. The symphony is often praised for its infectious melodies, rhythmic vitality, and colorful orchestration.

From the very opening bars, Dvořák captivates the listener with a sense of joyful energy that permeates the entire work. Each of the first three movements embody unique themes that are then woven together beautifully in the fourth and final movement, creating a sense of unity and cohesion that culminates in a thrilling finale.

Dvořák's Eighth Symphony is a masterpiece of the Romantic orchestral repertoire, combining lush melodies, rhythmic vitality, and folk-inspired elements to create a work of enduring beauty and emotional depth. Its infectious energy and exuberant spirit make it a favorite among audiences and performers alike, ensuring its place as one of Dvořák's most beloved symphonies.

## ABOUT REI HOTODA, GUEST ARTIST



*Photo by Ellie Koleen*

Conductor Rei Hotoda has been hailed as an inexhaustible dynamo with a deep commitment to reimagining the 21st-century concert experience. Her vision can be seen through her thought-provoking programming, passionate allyship to marginalized artists, advocacy for arts education, and an unwavering commitment to presenting many of today's most notable American composers.

Rei has appeared as a guest conductor with several prestigious orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Toronto, Winnipeg, St. Louis, Detroit, Hawai'i, and Utah, as well as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, among others. Her interpretations of epic centerpieces of the classical canon, such as Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 8* and Britten's *War Requiem*, make her one of the most sought-after conductors in the industry. She is a tireless advocate for the music of our time, and most recently conducted premieres by Derek Bermel, Juan Pablo Contreras, Kevin Day, Dinuk Wijeratne, John Wineglass, and Cynthia Lee Wong.

As a champion of living composers and an artist who is dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices, Rei's innovative programming and interdisciplinary collaborations continue to position her as a leader among her peers. Across nearly every concert this past season, Rei has programmed works by black, indigenous, Hispanic, and women composers, including, Grażyna Bacewicz, Juan Pablo Contreras, Gabriela Lena Frank, Damien Geter, Adolphus Hailstork, Jennifer Higdon, Hannah Kendall, Arturo Márquez, Jessie Montgomery, Paola Prestini, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Her success as the Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic since 2017 has resulted in the extension of her tenure through the 2025 season. She has worked tirelessly to build first-time and unique connections with the Fresno community with an eye toward reaching different audiences. Her programming continues to push through the preconceived notions of

## ABOUT REI HOTODA, GUEST ARTIST

the classical concert-going experience. Through her tireless efforts, she has successfully broken down the barriers that often exist between artist and listener and repositioned the Fresno Philharmonic as a leader in the community it serves.

Rei is also an active and critically acclaimed keyboardist and embraces her time conducting from the piano and harpsichord. Last season she conducted both the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Fresno Philharmonic from the keyboard in Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos in E-flat major.

Rei is the proud recipient of several prestigious awards, including the 2006 Taki-Alsoop Conducting Fellowship, created by Marin Alsoop to mentor women conductors.

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*Courtesy of the Fresno Philharmonic*



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# ABOUT OUR MAESTRO



Photo by Steven Roby

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 20th season as the Conductor and Music Director of the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra as well as celebrating his 17th 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.

Maestro Dollinger is a frequent conductor and clinician for various youth string festivals, competitions, and workshops. When Mr. Dollinger is on Hawai'i Island, he enjoys working with student ensembles as well as speaking to the youngest students about music. He was the guest conductor for the Illinois Music Educator's District Festival held on the campus of Western Illinois University in November of 2018 and 2019. He conducted the IMEA District #3 Festival in 2019 as well. In March of 2019, he was the featured wind ensemble conductor at the NUIC Music Conference Festival. During the '16-17 season, Maestro Dollinger was the guest conductor at the Iowa Junior Honors Festival held in Ames, Iowa. He has been invited on numerous

# ABOUT OUR MAESTRO

occasions to conduct at Illinois Music Educators Association events, including all-day festivals rehearsing, teaching, mentoring, and performing with some of the state's best high school symphonic musicians. He was the conductor of the 2014 Metro Orchestra Festival in Cedar Rapids (IA) and was a guest clinician at the Jefferson Orchestra Invitational in 2016, which was also held in Cedar Rapids. Mr. Dollinger has been a recurrent guest conductor with the Northwest Indiana Youth Symphony Orchestra.

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 present a wide variety of music sessions with children of all ages.

During his studies, he has studied with many prestigious pedagogues. Larry Rachleff, Adrian Gnam, Leonid Korchmar, Manual Alvarez, and Glenn Block are but a few of his mentors. Mr. Dollinger has also been awarded a number of academic honors including induction into the Phi Kappa Lamda Honor Society.

Maestro Dollinger has a unique perspective for a symphony orchestra conductor, having served in the United States Marine Corps where he was a part of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During his time in the Marine Corps, he also took part in numerous humanitarian joint task force missions to impoverished Central American countries.

For more information about our Maestro, visit his personal web site at: [www.briandollinger.com](http://www.briandollinger.com).



*Photo by Danny Waddell*

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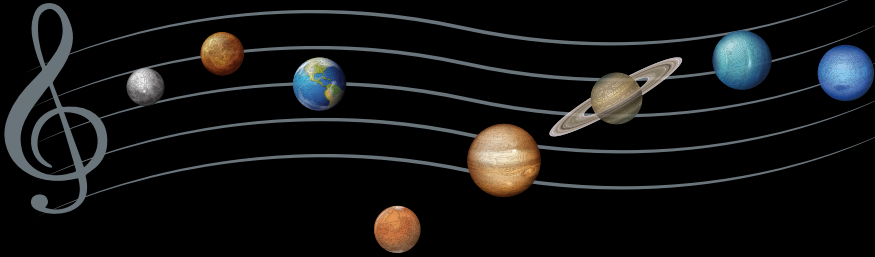
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