MasterWorks Concert

# SHAKESPEARE IN PARADISE

### SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2025, 2PM KAHILU THEATRE Brian Dollinger Artistic Director & Conductor

#### PROGRAM

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION WINNERS SHOWCASE

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY ROMEO AND JULIET FANTASY OVERTURE

FELIX MENDELSSOHN NOTTURNO FROM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

VINCENZO BELLINI OVERTURE TO THE CAPULETS AND THE MONTAGUES



CONCERT PROGRAM

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Thank you for supporting the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra.

### FROM THE MAESTRO

Aloha and welcome to 2025! Happy New Year to you all!

Winter is truly upon us—some more than others–as I write this from my home surrounded by more than six inches of snow! Returning to Hawai'i always lifts my spirits, especially when and making beautiful music with the talented musicians

Today's concert is a celebration of our youngest musicians. The winners of our annual Youth Concerto Competition have the unforgettable opportunity to perform with the Philharmonic—a moment they will cherish forever. It is an honor to be part of such a significant milestone. Their extraordinary talent is sure to inspire!

Composers are moved by many sources of inspiration, and literature remains one of the most enduring. Today's program highlights works by brilliant composers who found creative spark in stories and characters that have resonated through the ages.

Just as chefs combine unique ingredients to create delicious dishes, today's musical "menu" was crafted to offer new "tastes" that elevate your sense of wonder and enjoyment. With a blend of beloved classics and exciting new works, this symphonic feast promises something for everyone to savor.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital organization. I encourage you to consider joining our 'ohana to help ensure the longevity and success of live symphonic music here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa,

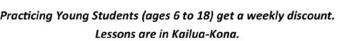


Brian Dollinger

Artistic Director & Conductor Kamuela Philharmonic



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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Aloha, and mahalo for joining us for Shakespeare in Paradise, the second MasterWorks concert of our 2024-25 season. Today's program honors the timeless influence of the Bard, showcasing music inspired by his enduring works.

We're especially thrilled to showcase the remarkable talent of the four young winners of our 2024-25 Madeline Schatz-Harris Youth Concerto Competition: Eliana Chang, Ben Liu, Justin Chan, and Sophie Chan. These exceptional performers from O'ahu dazzled us with their extraordinary technique and artistry during the auditions, and we are confident you'll be captivated by their performances.



Thank you for being part of this special musical journey. We hope the music inspires and delights you. Enjoy the performance!

Dennis Yates

Dennis Gales

Kamuela Philharmonic Board President







#### 23 March 2025: INSPIRATION OF UNITY

Celebrating Gershwin's famous *Rhapsody in Blue*, featuring the outstanding guest pianist Jeffrey Biegel. The Americana-inspired program also includes Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Custer's A Salute to the Big Apple, Brubaker's A Touch of Jazz, and rounding out the concert, the Hawai'i premiere of Peter Boyer's *Rhapsody in Red*, *White, and Blue*.



#### 4 May 2025: POPS!

The POPS! is an annual fan favorite! Expect many talented Hawai'i Island artists to join the Philharmonic for this highly entertaining and fun concert that includes an enjoyable mix of light classical works and famous selections for stage and screen.

#### **LEARN MORE!**



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### Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Vincenzo Bellini Ov	Overture to I Capuletti e i Montecchi
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Camille Saint-Saëns ...... Selections from The Carnival of the Animals

Introduction and March of the Lion Aquarium Fossils Swan Finale

Justin Chan and Sophie Chan, piano (16)

Felix Mendelssohn ...... Notturno from A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sergei Prokofiev ...... Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26

Movement I: Andante - Allegro

Eliana Chang, piano (12)

### - INTERMISSION -

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky...... Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

Edvard Grieg ..... Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16

Movement I: Allegro molto moderato

Ben Liu, piano (14)



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### **PROGRAM NOTES**



### VINCENZO BELLINI (1801–1835) Overture to / Capuletti e i Montecchi

Bellini's *I Capuletti e i Montecchi* is a bel canto opera based on the tragic tale of Romeo and Juliet. The overture sets the stage with a mix of lyrical beauty and dramatic tension, hallmarks of Bellini's style. It begins with a stately

introduction, featuring solemn brass chords, before transitioning into a lively Allegro. The overture's flowing melodies and dramatic contrasts capture the passion, conflict, and heartbreak of the star-crossed lovers' story. This piece showcases Bellini's mastery of melodic expression and his ability to convey deep emotion, making it a favorite in the operatic repertoire.



### CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835–1921) Selections from *The Carnival of the Animals*

Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals* is a whimsical suite of 14 movements, each portraying a different animal or scene. The suite balances humor and artistry, delighting audiences of all ages. This performance features:

- Introduction and March of the Lion: A regal opening with roaring themes in the piano and strings.
- Aquarium: A shimmering depiction of underwater beauty, with flowing arpeggios and ethereal harmonies.
- **Fossils:** A humorous piece featuring the piano to mimic the clinking of bones.
- Swan: A serene and iconic solo, representing grace and elegance.
- **Finale:** A lively, energetic conclusion bringing together the suite's playful spirit.

Performers: Justin Chan and Sophie Chan, piano (16)



### FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847) Notturno from A Midsummer Night's Dream

Mendelssohn composed his *A Midsummer Night's Dream* music to accompany Shakespeare's play, blending lyrical melodies with delicate orchestration to evoke the enchantment of the story. The Notturno, a nocturne-like interlude,

captures the magic and serenity of the fairy world with its lush horn solo and gentle string accompaniment. This piece exemplifies Mendelssohn's gift for creating atmospheric music, filled with romantic warmth and graceful charm, offering a moment of reflection amid the play's lively and mischievous scenes.

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### PROGRAM NOTES



### SERGEI PROKOFIEV (1891–1953) Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26 Movement I: Andante - Allegro

Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 is among the most celebrated works of the 20th-century concerto repertoire. The first movement begins with a serene Andante

introduction, featuring a solo clarinet melody that evolves into a vibrant Allegro. Prokofiev's signature mix of lyricism and virtuosity is on full display, with dazzling piano passages and bold orchestral writing. This concerto is a favorite for its playful energy, dramatic contrasts, and technical demands.

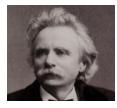
Performer: Eliana Chang, piano (12)



### **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893)** *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* is a symphonic poem that retells Shakespeare's tragic love story. The piece opens with a solemn hymn-like theme symbolizing Friar Laurence, transitioning into dramatic and tumultuous passages

that represent the Montagues and Capulets' feud. The famous love theme, soaring and heartfelt, captures the tenderness and passion of Romeo and Juliet. The overture concludes with a poignant reflection on their tragic fate. Tchaikovsky's mastery of orchestration and emotional depth makes this work a cornerstone of the Romantic repertoire.



#### EDVARD GRIEG (1843–1907) Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16 Movement I: Allegro molto moderato

Grieg's Piano Concerto is one of the most beloved in the Romantic era, blending Norwegian folk elements with classical forms. The first movement begins with a dramatic

cascade of piano chords, leading into a sweeping main theme introduced by the orchestra. Rich melodies, dynamic contrasts, and virtuosic piano writing characterize this movement. The concerto's lyrical beauty and dramatic power make it a timeless favorite for both performers and audiences.

Performer: Ben Liu, piano (14)

### MADELINE SCHATZ-HARRIS YOUTH CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS



**Eliana Chang, 12,** is a 6th grader at Niu Valley Middle School on O'ahu and studies piano with Dr. Thomas Yee at the University of Hawai'i. She began playing piano at age five and quickly developed a love for music, earning her first recognition at six with a second-place award at the Aloha International Piano Competition.

In 2023, Eliana performed at Carnegie Hall as a winners' concert participant and won first place in the Hawai'i State Music Competition and the Osaka Competition-Hawaii

regional. In 2024, she claimed first place in the MTNA Junior Piano Division. She enjoys the challenge of learning complex works, such as Prokofiev's Piano Concerto, inspired by watching pianist Yuja Wang.

Eliana also studies cello with Ms. Nancy Masaki, performing with the Hawai'i Youth Symphony and her school orchestra. Beyond music, she enjoys reading, poetry, swimming, and exploring her passion for animals and plants.



**Ben Liu, 14,** is a freshman at 'Iolani School in Honolulu. He began studying piano at age six under the guidance of Bichuan Li. Over the years, Ben has excelled in numerous prestigious competitions, including the Aloha International Piano Competition, several Hawai'i Music Teachers Association (HMTA) events, the Steinway Piano Competition, the Osaka International Music Competition, the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition, and the Taiwan AIMA International Competition.

This past summer, Ben performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City as a winner of the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition. Beyond solo performances, he has also played in chamber music quintets, school talent shows, churches, and senior homes, sharing his music with diverse audiences.

In addition to piano, Ben enjoys playing tennis, golf, basketball, and violin. Music holds a special place in his life, and he finds inspiration in one of his favorite quotes: "Life is like a piano; the white keys represent happiness and the black keys represent sadness. But as you go through life's journey, remember that you need both to create music."

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### MADELINE SCHATZ-HARRIS YOUTH CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS



**Justin Chan and Sophie Chan, 16-year-old twins,** and juniors at Punahou School, began studying piano at the age of four. Their shared journey has fostered a deep passion for art and music. They currently study piano with Dr. Wendy Yamashita in Honolulu, Oʻahu.

The duo has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and competed in events like the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and Hawai'i Music Teachers Association (HMTA) competitions.

In 2023, Sophie performed with the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra and is honored to collaborate with them again this year. Both Sophie and Justin are grateful for the opportunities music has brought into their lives and look forward to continuing to share their passion.

This marks a historic moment in the Philharmonic's history as it is the first time the competition has awarded joint winners.

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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 21st season as the Conductor and Music Director of the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra as well as celebrating his 18th 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, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, and Southwest Symphony Orchestra in Illinois.

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 occasions to conduct at Illinois Music Educators Association events, including

### ABOUT OUR MAESTRO

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 presented 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 Lambda 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 website at: <u>www.briandollinger.com</u>.



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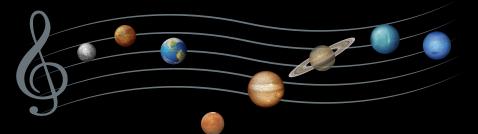
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