



MasterWorks Concert

INSPIRATION OF UNITY

**SUNDAY
MARCH 23, 2025, 2PM
KAHILU THEATRE**

Brian Dollinger Artistic Director & Conductor

Featuring Acclaimed Guest Pianist

**JEFFREY
BIEGEL**



CONCERT PROGRAM



This concert is made possible by the generous support of the American Composers Forum, Carol & Clive Davies, Jim Monk, and Joanne & David Turner.

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FROM THE MAESTRO



I am beyond the moon excited to be sharing this wonderful afternoon of live symphonic music with you all. I have been talking about this amazing program for so long that it hardly seems real—we are finally here for its performance!

Bringing a brand-new piece of music to life is something we have embraced here in Hawai'i since my appointment as your Artistic Director. However, today's performance is particularly special

because of the background and inspiration behind its creation. Representing the State of Hawai'i in this nationwide project is an honor that I know we all share and take great pride in. I'll leave the intimate details of the project to Mr. Biegel, who will share more in his own words.

Celebrating one of the most iconic piano masterpieces in American music history will also be an incredible experience. The 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* has sparked a worldwide resurgence of performances, and having an artist of Mr. Biegel's caliber makes today's performance even more special.

Iconic American music will fill the air today as we come together to celebrate and connect with some of the greatest sounds of symphonic music Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin—oh my!

Mahalo for your continued support of this amazing organization. I can't wait to chat with you all in the lobby after the concert!

Brian Dollinger

Artistic Director & Conductor
Kamuela Philharmonic



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Aloha, and mahalo for attending *Inspiration of Unity*, the third concert in our season. I'm pleased to welcome you to this performance, where we celebrate the bold, dynamic sounds of American symphonic music. From Copland's iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man* to Bernstein's *Overture to West Side Story*, today's program shines a spotlight on the music that has shaped our nation's cultural landscape.

We are especially honored to present the Hawai'i premiere of Peter Boyer's *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*, part of a groundbreaking 50-state consortium project. Having Jeffrey Biegel as our soloist—an artist deeply connected to this piece—makes the experience even more special. And, what better way to mark the 100th anniversary of *Rhapsody in Blue* than hearing it live?

Before the music begins, I also want to invite you back for our *Pops!* concert on Sunday, May 4—an afternoon of beloved favorites. Mahalo for your support of the Kamuela Philharmonic. Enjoy the concert!

Dennis Yates

A handwritten signature of Dennis Yates in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Kamuela Philharmonic
Board President

A promotional poster for the Kamuela Philharmonic's POPS! concert. The poster has a black background with a gold-colored geometric border. At the top center is the Kamuela Philharmonic logo, which includes a palm tree and the text "Kamuela PHILHARMONIC". Below the logo, the word "POPS!" is written in large, bold, white serif capital letters with a gold outline. Underneath "POPS!", the text "SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025, 2PM" and "KAHILU THEATRE" is written in white sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom center, the website "WWW.KAMUELAPHIL.ORG" is written in white sans-serif capital letters. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code.

INSPIRATION OF UNITY

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Aaron Copland *Fanfare for the Common Man*

Leonard Bernstein *Overture to West Side Story*
Maurice Peress

Peter Boyer *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*

Hawai'i Premiere – 50 State Consortium

Jeffrey Biegel, piano


— INTERMISSION —

Calvin Custer *Salute to the Big Apple*

George Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*

Jeffrey Biegel, piano

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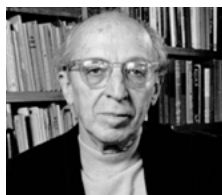
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PROGRAM NOTES



AARON COPLAND (1900–1990)

Fanfare for the Common Man

Inspired by Vice President Henry Wallace's call for the "Century of the Common Man," Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* (1942) is a stirring tribute to everyday heroes. With its noble brass and thunderous percussion, the piece embodies resilience and hope. Originally composed for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra during World War II, it has since become one of the most recognizable and revered American works.



LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918–1990)

MAURICE PERESS (1930–2017)

Overture to West Side Story

This electrifying overture captures the energy and drama of *West Side Story*, Bernstein's groundbreaking 1957 musical. Arranged by Maurice Peress, it seamlessly weaves together the show's unforgettable melodies, from the pulsating Mambo to the heartfelt strains of Somewhere. Infused with Latin rhythms, jazz influences, and sweeping lyricism, the overture showcases Bernstein's genius in blending classical and popular styles.



PETER BOYER (B. 1970)

Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue

Hawai'i Premiere – 50 State Consortium

Jeffrey Biegel, piano

Commissioned as part of a historic 50-state consortium, *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue* is a major new work celebrating America's rich musical traditions. Composer Peter Boyer, known for his dynamic orchestral writing, pays tribute to the legacy of George Gershwin, blending jazz influences with sweeping classical textures in a piece that is both nostalgic and boldly original.

The project was spearheaded by pianist Jeffrey Biegel, whose passion for commissioning new works has brought this exciting composition to life. Tonight's performance marks the Hawai'i premiere, adding to the national journey of this piece as it makes its way across the country.

Boyer's music, often described as cinematic and propulsive, has been performed by leading orchestras worldwide. With *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*, he continues the great American tradition of fusing classical virtuosity with the rhythmic spirit of jazz.

This performance is a special moment—uniting past and present, tradition and innovation, in a rhapsody that truly belongs to all.

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COMPASS

PROGRAM NOTES

CALVIN CUSTER (1939–1998)

Salute to the Big Apple

Custer's *Salute to the Big Apple* is a vibrant medley celebrating New York City's musical legacy. Featuring beloved tunes such as *Give My Regards to Broadway* and *New York, New York*, this orchestral arrangement captures the city's energy, elegance, and showbiz flair. Custer, a versatile composer and arranger, skillfully blends nostalgia and excitement in this joyful tribute to the city that never sleeps.



GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898–1937)

Rhapsody in Blue

Jeffrey Biegel, piano

A defining work of American music, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) fuses classical form with jazz idioms, creating an exhilarating piano concerto unlike any other. From its iconic opening clarinet glissando to its dazzling solo passages, the piece captures the energy and optimism of 1920s America. As *Rhapsody* celebrates its 100th anniversary, pianist Jeffrey Biegel brings his deep understanding of this masterpiece to life in a performance that honors its enduring legacy.



Peter Boyer & Jeffrey Biegel, Photo by Benjamin Ealovega

GUEST ARTIST JEFFREY BIEGEL



Considered one of the world's most prolific pianists, Jeffrey Biegel is celebrated for his masterful interpretations and commitment to expanding the repertoire. He has commissioned over 25 works for piano and orchestra, most recently launching the 50-state *Rhapsody National Initiative* with Peter Boyer's *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*, recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra on Naxos.

A 2024 GRAMMY® nominee for Best Choral Performance, Mr. Biegel's recording of Jake Runestad's *Dreams of the Fallen* reflects his dedication to meaningful musical storytelling. The 2024–25 season includes world premieres with the Pacific Symphony and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, celebrating the legacy of American music.

Mr. Biegel's extensive discography includes the first digital recordings on his Naturally Sharp label, as well as numerous premieres with leading orchestras. A champion of new music, he has collaborated with composers such as Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Kenneth Fuchs, and William Bolcom.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Mr. Biegel is on faculty at the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College.

For more, visit jeffreybiegel.com.

The advertisement features a large, stylized illustration of a violin on the left, rendered in vibrant, swirling colors of orange, yellow, and purple. The background is a light teal with faint floral patterns. The title "Magic Strings" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the title, the text "Looking for elegant live music for your next special event?" is followed by "Classical string ensembles for hire!" in a bold, italicized sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the name "Ursula Vietze" is listed with the phone number "808.936.5701", the website "www.MagicStrings.com", and the email "Ursula.MagicStrings@gmail.com". On the bottom right, there is a circular inset photograph of Ursula Vietze, a woman with blonde hair, smiling and playing a violin.



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 Maestro, visit briandollinger.com.



Photo by Danny Waddell

ROSTER OF MUSICIANS

VIOLIN I

Ursula Vietze-Koehler
Concertmaster
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Heather Turner
Ray Broggini
Simona Gronic
Laurie Shimabukuro

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Elise Doran
Cathy Young
Alden Young
Mai Kawahara
Joanne Turner
Joanie Collins
Jennifer Haywood-Farmer

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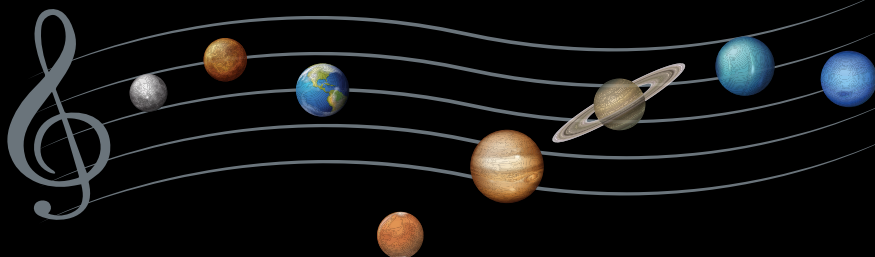
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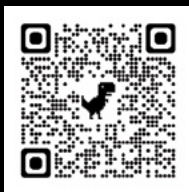


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