



MasterWorks Concert
SEASON OPENER!

PICTURES

A Symphonic Journey through Art, Passion, and Imagination 🎵

- 🎵 Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*
- 🎵 Mozart *Figaro Overture*
- 🎵 Chopin *Piano Concerto No. 1*

with guest pianist
Tyler Ramos



Concert Program



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025, 2PM
KAHILU THEATRE

Brian Dollinger Artistic Director & Conductor

This concert is made possible by the generous support of
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FROM THE MAESTRO



Aloha and welcome to the start of another exciting symphonic season with your Kamuela Philharmonic.

We have an incredible program for you today, featuring three remarkable compositions and a truly outstanding pianist.

Pictures at an Exhibition is one of the most iconic works in the orchestral repertoire — a vivid musical journey inspired by artwork. Each “Promenade” invites you to imagine strolling through a grand gallery, pausing before each piece to experience a new scene, character, or emotion. It’s not only a beautiful work of art, but also tremendous fun.

Mozart’s lively overture to his opera *Le nozze di Figaro* launches us into the afternoon with wit, brilliance, and energy. One of the most performed overtures in the world, it sets the perfect tone for a day of symphonic delights.

Then we welcome our extraordinary guest artist, Hawai’i’s own Dr. Tyler Flores Ramos. Celebrated internationally for his thoughtful, engaging, and virtuosic performances, Dr. Ramos will bring both dazzling technique and deep lyricism to Chopin’s First Piano Concerto — a work that combines poetic beauty with thrilling technical challenges.

Your support for the Philharmonic continually inspires us to raise the bar for live symphonic music here on Hawai’i Island. This orchestra is a true reflection of our community, bringing together musicians from across the island — and beyond — to create powerful performances for you.

We hope you enjoy today’s concert and will consider becoming even more involved with the Philharmonic ‘ohana.

Mahalo nui loa,



Brian Dollinger
Artistic Director & Conductor
Kamuela Philharmonic



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PICTURES

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, K.492 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 Frédéric Chopin

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Romance: Larghetto
- III. Rondo: Vivace

Dr. Tyler Flores Ramos, piano

— INTERMISSION —

Pictures at an Exhibition Modest Mussorgsky

Promenade

- I. Gnomus
Promenade
- II. Il vecchio castello
Promenade
- III. Tuileries (Dispute d'enfants après jeux)
- IV. Bydło
Promenade
- V. Ballet des poussins dans leurs coques
- VI. Samuel Goldenberg und Schmuyle
- VII. Limoges – Le marché
- VIII. Catacombæ: Sepulcrum Romanum
- IX. Cum mortuis in lingua mortua
- X. La cabane sur des pattes de poule (Baba-Yaga)
- XI. La grande porte de Kiev

***Pictures* is made possible with support from
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Niel Thomas & Hermine Baker**

PROGRAM NOTES



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756–1791)

Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492

Mozart's overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* is a sparkling curtain-raiser to one of the most beloved operas in history. Written in 1786, it brims with quicksilver strings, brilliant woodwinds, and energetic drive. Although the overture never quotes themes from the opera itself, it captures the wit, elegance, and high-spirited mischief of the story, in which clever servants outwit their aristocratic masters.

Audiences have long delighted in its breathless forward momentum, sudden contrasts, and seamless craftsmanship. It is music that seems to smile, full of warmth and humor, yet always polished with Mozart's unflinching elegance. The overture has become a concert hall favorite, standing on its own as one of the greatest examples of musical comedy distilled into symphonic form.



FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810–1849)

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

Dr. Tyler Ramos, piano

When Chopin introduced his E minor concerto in Warsaw in 1830, he was just twenty years old but already recognized as a brilliant pianist with an original voice. This concerto, though technically his second, became known as his “First” because it was published earlier. The work highlights not only Chopin's dazzling keyboard technique but also his gift for lyrical expression that would forever change the way composers wrote for the piano.

The opening *Allegro maestoso* begins with an expansive orchestral introduction before the piano enters with noble, songful phrases. The dialogue between orchestra and soloist is elegant rather than combative, showcasing Chopin's view of the piano as a singer supported by instrumental colors. The slow movement, *Romance: Larghetto*, is often compared to a nocturne—tender, dreamlike, and inward-looking, with delicate ornamentation floating above the orchestra. The finale, *Rondo: Vivace*, bursts to life with rhythms inspired by Polish folk dances, playful and exuberant, bringing the concerto to a jubilant close.

Unlike many Romantic concertos that cast the piano as a heroic force battling the orchestra, Chopin's work keeps the piano at the center, surrounded by orchestral textures that serve as frame and foil. The concerto remains a youthful yet profound statement of his genius, filled with poetry, brilliance, and a distinctly personal voice.



MODEST MUSSORGSKY (1839–1881)

Pictures at an Exhibition

Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* was inspired by an art exhibit of his friend Viktor Hartmann, who had died suddenly in 1873 at the age of 39. Deeply affected by the loss, Mussorgsky created a suite of musical “pictures,” each representing a different painting, linked by a recurring Promenade theme that portrays the composer himself wandering through the gallery.

The suite vividly transforms visual images into music. The grotesque *Gnomus* evokes a gnarled wooden toy come to life; *Bydło* depicts the heavy tread of oxen pulling a cart; *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks* flutters with playful humor; *Samuel Goldenberg* and *Schmuyle* contrasts a pompous rich man with the whining interruptions of a poor beggar; *Baba-Yaga* conjures a terrifying witch's hut mounted on chicken legs; and *The Great Gate of Kiev* rises in monumental grandeur, celebrating a design Hartmann sketched for a triumphal city gate.

Originally written for solo piano, *Pictures* was later orchestrated by several composers, but it was Maurice Ravel's 1922 version that secured its place as a cornerstone of the symphonic repertoire. Ravel's orchestration highlights every color and texture of Mussorgsky's vision, transforming the piano sketches into a dazzling orchestral showpiece that remains one of the most popular and thrilling works in the concert hall today.



Photo by Mindi Acosta

GUEST ARTIST DR. TYLER RAMOS

Dr. Tyler Flores Ramos is an award-winning pianist praised for performances that are “deeply thought-provoking, colorful, and ethereal” (*Hawai'i Music Teachers Association*). He studied with **Ellen Masaki, Thomas Yee**, and later earned his **DMA in Piano Performance and Literature** from the **Eastman School of Music**. A top-prize winner at national competitions, Dr. Ramos has performed across the U.S. and Canada and appeared at the **Banff, Chautauqua, and Colburn festivals**. He teaches at the **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Punahou School**, where he inspires students of all ages to explore and excel in music.

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 22nd season as the Conductor and Music Director of the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra and was recently appointed the Music Director & Conductor of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra in the suburbs of Chicago.

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

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, Manuel 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

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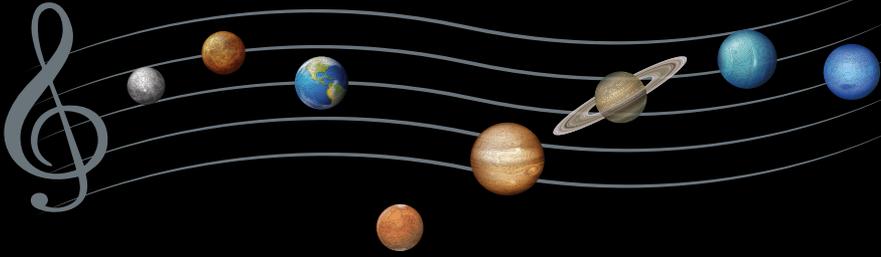
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