



Kamuela
PHILHARMONIC

MasterWorks Concert

BEETHOVEN & De Ann

- ♪ Beethoven **Violin Concerto**
- ♪ Schubert **Symphony No. 1**
- ♪ Rossini **Overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers***

Guest violinist
De Ann Letourneau



Concert Program



SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026, 2PM
KAHILU THEATRE

Brian Dollinger Artistic Director & Conductor

This concert is generously underwritten by **Annie & Tomas Hill**
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2025/26
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FROM THE MAESTRO



Good afternoon and welcome to our final MasterWorks concert of the season — and what a true gem we have for you today.

There are many composers whose sound is almost instantly recognizable as their own, and Rossini is certainly one of them. His vast library of overtures carries such a playful yet virtuosic character that, within seconds of hearing the music, it is unmistakably Rossini. Witty, charming, lighthearted, and simply fun to listen to — and to perform — a comic opera deserves a vivacious musical setting, and Rossini delivers this throughout his work.

Virtuosity is on display throughout today's program. From Rossini's virtuosic humor, we turn to a young Franz Schubert and one of his earliest symphonic works. At a mere sixteen years old, Schubert's compositional brilliance is already evident throughout this piece. The clarity of its structure and the beauty of its melodies are truly inspiring.

The Violin Concerto of Ludwig van Beethoven has become a pillar of the violin repertoire. While it contains its share of virtuosic techniques for the soloist, Beethoven was also pushing beyond conventional boundaries. He created a breadth and expansion of musical line that some have described as "Olympian" in nature. I am especially eager to introduce you to my new friend and colleague from the Las Vegas Philharmonic, De Ann Letourneau. Her engaging, energetic, and personable spirit will most assuredly shine through in today's performance of this extraordinary concerto.

As always, performing here in this Hawaiian paradise is a joy. Seeing familiar faces and growing together as a community is something truly special. I hope you'll take a few moments to come say hello after the performance so we can begin our own new connection.

Mahalo nui loa, and I'll see you in May for the *POPS!*

Brian Dollinger

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

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BEETHOVEN & *De Ann*

De Ann Letourneau, violin
Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Overture to the *Italian Girl in Algiers* Gioachino Rossini

Symphony No. 1 in D major, D.82 Franz Schubert

- I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
- II. Andante
- III. Menuetto: Trio
- IV. Allegro vivace

— *INTERMISSION* —

Concerto for Violin in D Major, Op. 61 Ludwig van Beethoven

- I. Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Larghetto
- III. Rondo (Allegro)

De Ann Letourneau, violin

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PROGRAM NOTES



GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792–1868)

Overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*

Rossini's overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers* (L'italiana in Algeri) captures the wit, energy, and theatrical flair that made the composer one of the great masters of comic opera. Premiered in 1813, the opera tells a playful story of romance, clever deception, and cultural misunderstandings.

The overture begins with mysterious, quiet gestures before quickly bursting into lively rhythms and sparkling orchestral color. Rossini's signature crescendos—gradual builds of excitement—drive the music forward with irresistible momentum. Brilliant woodwind passages and playful exchanges among the orchestra create an atmosphere of lighthearted drama.

Even without the opera's characters onstage, the overture conveys Rossini's unmistakable style: elegant, humorous, and full of exuberant energy.



FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Symphony No. 1 in D Major, D.82

Franz Schubert was just sixteen years old when he composed his Symphony No. 1 in 1813, yet the work already reveals the melodic imagination that would define his music. Written while he was still a student in Vienna, the symphony reflects the influence of Mozart and Haydn while offering glimpses of Schubert's own distinctive voice.

The opening begins with a stately introduction before launching into a bright and energetic Allegro. The second movement unfolds with lyrical warmth, highlighting Schubert's gift for songlike melody. A spirited Menuetto brings rhythmic drive and contrast, while the final movement bursts forward with youthful vitality and quicksilver orchestral exchanges.

Though written early in his life, this symphony displays remarkable confidence and charm, foreshadowing the musical depth Schubert would later achieve.

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LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827) Concerto for Violin in D Major, Op. 61

Beethoven's Violin Concerto, premiered in 1806, stands today as one of the most beloved works in the violin repertoire. Though its initial reception was modest, the concerto later gained recognition for its expansive musical

vision and expressive depth.

The opening movement begins quietly with a series of timpani taps before unfolding into a sweeping orchestral landscape. When the solo violin enters, it weaves long, lyrical lines that soar above the orchestra. The serene second movement offers a moment of calm reflection, with the violin singing in luminous simplicity. Without pause, the music moves into the joyful final Rondo, where playful rhythms and brilliant passages bring the concerto to an exhilarating conclusion.

Combining lyric beauty with virtuosic brilliance, Beethoven's concerto remains a cornerstone of the violin repertoire.

GUEST ARTIST: DE ANN LETOURNEAU

Violinist **De Ann Letourneau** is Concertmaster of the Las Vegas Philharmonic and is widely recognized for her artistry, leadership, and versatility across musical genres. Her career spans classical, pop, jazz, and film music, with performances on many of the world's most prominent stages alongside renowned artists.

In Las Vegas, she served as Concertmaster for *Weekends with Adele* at Caesars Palace and as Associate Concertmaster during Celine Dion's eight-year residency. Her performances have also been featured at major televised events, including Andrea Bocelli's *Home for the Holidays* (CBS) and the Latin Grammy Awards with Rubén Blades, as well as concerts with artists such as Carrie Underwood, Imagine Dragons, and Rascal Flatts.

Beyond the stage, Letourneau is deeply committed to music education and advocacy. She serves as Board Chair of the Nevada School of the Arts and is active in both the Musicians Union Local 369 and the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra Committee.



Photo by Wade-Vandervort

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, and 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*.

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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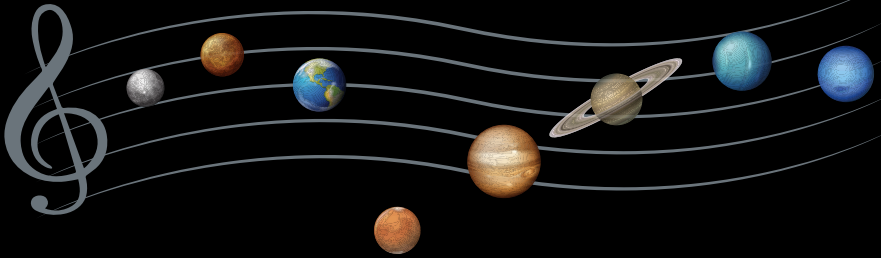


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