



POPS!

America 250: A Musical Celebration



SUNDAY. MAY 31. 2026. 2PM

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

KAHILU THEATRE

**2025/26
SEASON**



VIEW PROGRAM



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FROM THE MAESTRO



Aloha and welcome to the *POPS!*

A special concert is in store for you and everyone gathered here today.

All across this great country, there are concerts, parades, displays, picnics, fireworks, and everything in between celebrating our young country's 250th Anniversary.

Through every year, every decade, and now two and a half centuries, regardless of circumstance, we continue to persevere.

Today's performance will take us on a journey through history and musical genres as we celebrate America 250. From early songs and historic words to creative musical genius and

powerful storytelling, you are in for an eclectic and inspiring afternoon of symphonic music.

As we close the 2025–26 concert season, I want to personally thank you for being here today and throughout the MasterWorks season. You are an important part of these performances, and we look forward to seeing you alongside the Philharmonic for many seasons to come.

Have a wonderful summer. Be sure to watch for next season's ticket announcements, enjoy today's concert, and above all, be kind and celebrate all the good.

Mahalo nui loa,

Brian Dollinger
Artistic Director & Conductor
Kamuela Philharmonic



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POPS!

Brian Dollinger, Artistic Director & Conductor

Highlights from *Hamilton* Lin-Manuel Miranda

"You'll Be Back" "Helpless" "My Shot" "Dear Theodosius"

"It's Quiet Uptown" "One Last Time"

American Frontier arr. Calvin Custer

"The Girl I Left Behind Me" "Chester" "Oh Suzanna" "Shenandoah"

"America the Beautiful"

Lincoln Speaks of Liberty: Gettysburg Address David Stern

Jeff Case, narrator

"Hoedown" from *Rodeo* Aaron Copland

A Salute to Rodgers & Hammerstein John Moss

"I Whistle A Happy Tune" "My Favorite Things" "Some Enchanted Evening"

"The Surrey With A Fringe On Top" "You'll Never Walk Alone"

INTERMISSION

Band of Brothers Michael Kamen

Armed Forces Salute arr. Bob Lowden

Binti Bailey, vocalist

"Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables* arr. Bob Krogstad

Binti Bailey, vocalist

"The Ludlows" from *Legends of the Fall* arr. John Moss

God Bless America Irving Berlin

Binti Bailey, vocalist

Duke Ellington (A Medley for Orchestra) arr. Calvin Custer

"Don't Get Around Much Anymore" "Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me"

"Sophisticated Lady" "It Don't Mean A Thing"

Video Games LIVE! arr. Ralph Ford

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PROGRAM NOTES

This year's *POPS!* concert celebrates America 250 through music that reflects the many stories, sounds, and traditions that have shaped the American experience.

The program opens with selections from *Hamilton*, Lin-Manuel Miranda's groundbreaking musical that reimagined the nation's founding through a contemporary musical lens. *American Frontier* follows with sweeping musical imagery inspired by westward expansion and the spirit of exploration.

Selections by Aaron Copland — including the spoken *Gettysburg Address* from *Lincoln Portrait* and the energetic "Hoedown" from *Rodeo* — evoke themes of resilience, optimism, and Americana. The Rodgers & Hammerstein medley highlights some of Broadway's most enduring songs and storytelling traditions.

Music from film and television also plays a central role in the program. *Band of Brothers* honors the courage and sacrifice of soldiers during World War II, while "The Ludlows" from *Legends of the Fall* offers one of James Horner's most lyrical and expansive cinematic themes.

Vocal selections featuring Binti Bailey include "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables* and Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*, two works that continue to resonate across generations.

The concert concludes with a tribute to the enduring influence of American jazz through the music of Duke Ellington, followed by *Video Games LIVE!*, celebrating the modern evolution of orchestral music through the world of video game scores.



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SPECIAL GUESTS



Binti Bailey, Guest Vocalist

Binti Bailey is a Hawai'i Island vocalist, performer, educator, and community arts leader whose work spans music, theater, and arts education. A versatile performer with roots in jazz, soul, gospel, rock, and musical theater, she has appeared in productions and performances across Hawai'i Island, O'ahu, and Maui.

Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Binti performed with an all-female band before relocating to Hawai'i Island in 2010, where she began building deep connections within the local arts community. In addition to performing, she has contributed extensively to local theater through acting, vocal direction, and choreography.

Binti currently serves as a music teacher at Kuleana Education Academy and choir director at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. She also serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra.

Known for her warmth, expressive musicality, and genuine connection to audiences, Binti brings both artistry and heart to every performance.

Jeff Case, Narrator

Jeff Case joins the Philharmonic as narrator for David Stern's *Lincoln Speaks of Liberty: Gettysburg Address*, bringing Abraham Lincoln's iconic words to life alongside the symphonic accompaniment of the orchestra.

Jeff is honored to be part of this uplifting concert program. After a longtime career in medical laboratories and CAP inspections, he recently chose to pursue a lifelong passion for theater and performance.

His early theater experience included roles in productions of *Hello, Dolly!*, *Charlie's Aunt*, *Mack and Mabel*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Fantasticks*, and numerous one-act plays. Since relocating to Hawai'i Island in late 2024, Jeff has become involved with the local theater community through Aloha Theatre, recently appearing as Col. James Arbuthnot in *Murder on the Orient Express* and King Arthur in *Spamalot*.

Jeff extends heartfelt thanks to Jillian Bulwa and Victor Pisauro for encouraging him to discover the courage to ask, "What if?"



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, 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
 Katie Button
 Richard Lee
 Mai Kawahara
 AeKyong Yoon
 Morgan Chan

VIOLIN II

Joel Gimpel
 Elise Doran
 Jessica Salerno-Woodbury
 Joanie Collins
 Laurie Shimabukuro
 Joanne Turner

VIOLA

Susan McGovern
 Gary Yap
 Valeriia Yoder
 Chiyoko Terada
 Marya Szaur

CELLO

Kelly Stuart
 Ruth Miyamoto
 Cheryl Lindley
 Meg Saunders
 Julie Salis

DOUBLE BASS

Delphina Dorrence
 Sayuri Yamamoto
 Shawn Leavey
 Ronald Delano

PIANO

Adrienne Cherry

FLUTE

Joanna Byng
 Barbara Coffman

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 Merry Kay Kiyon

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Robbie Brown
 David Turner
 Melissa Thompson, b.cl

BASSOON

Wayne Kawakami
 John Lundgren

HORN

Jessica Dahlke
 Colleen Whitty
 Mckenzee Espiritu
 Sara Kamibayashi

TRUMPET

Gary Ross
 Ross Roussel
 Logan Tsuji

TROMBONE

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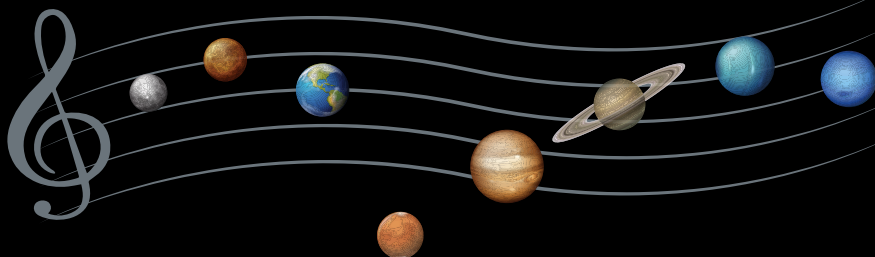
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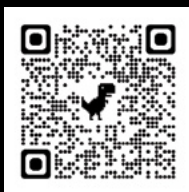
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