

## **Love and Legends**

### *Epic and heartfelt stories of adventure and love*

**Auburn, WA:** Auburn Symphony Orchestra's upcoming concert, ***Love and Legends***, will tell epic and heartfelt stories of adventure and love. ***Love and Legends***, conducted by Wesley Schulz, will be performed **Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 PM in the Auburn Performing Arts Center**. Pre-concert talk by Classical King's Dave Beck at 1:30 in the lobby. Tickets and information can be found at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org) or by calling the box office at 253-887-7777. Ticket pricing is \$42 (\$37 seniors, \$12 students/families). And Auburn Symphony Orchestra believes that orchestral music is for everyone. So you may choose to pay another amount that is within your means using the Pay What You Can option when buying tickets.

What can you expect from Auburn Symphony's January concert, *Love and Legends*?

#### **Dramatic music**

Both *The Firebird* and *Don Juan* are heroic adventures, stories of dashing heroes complete with seduction and vengeance. Igor Stravinsky's ballet *The Firebird* takes you on a journey through a Russian folktale about a hero, Ivan Tsarevich, who battles the evil sorcerer Kashchei with the help of a mythical firebird. Richard Strauss's virtuosic tone poem *Don Juan* tells an exuberant tale that scandalized Strauss's contemporaries.

#### **Viola solo**

Award-winning Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. ASO welcomes him to Auburn to tackle Bela Bartok's *Concerto for Viola*.

#### **New music**

ASO is also pleased to present the Washington State premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain Suite*, a co-commissioned project with 37 other orchestras across the country inspired by Charles Frazier's novel.

**ASO guest artist Jordan Bak hosts a masterclass** for advanced high school and college level violists. Learn something new with this world-class artist as he works with students on their musicianship. Free and open to the public to observe. Saturday, January 27, 2024 2:00 - 4:00 PM at St Matthew / San Mateo Episcopal Church in Auburn.

In a masterclass a student has the opportunity to play for a teacher who works with the student on musicianship, technique, tone, and performance skills in a public setting. A masterclass is different from a private lesson in that the teaching happens in a way that includes everyone in the room.

Award-winning Jamaican-American violist **Jordan Bak** has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. Critics have described him as “an exciting new voice in Classical performance” (I Care If You Listen), “a powerhouse musician, with a strong voice and compelling sound” (The Whole Note) and lauded his “haunting lyrical grace” (Gramophone). The 2021 YCAT Robey Artist and a top laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak is also a Grand Prize winner and Audience Prize recipient of the 2019 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, the recipient of the 2019 Samuel Sanders Tel Aviv Museum Prize and the 2019 John White Special Prize from the Tertis International Viola Competition. Other recent accolades include being named one of ClassicFM's "30 Under 30" Rising Stars, Musical America's New Artist of the Month and being a featured artist for WQXR's inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab. More information at [jordanbak.com](http://jordanbak.com).

**Jennifer Higdon** is one of America's most acclaimed figures in contemporary classical music, receiving the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto, a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto and, most recently, a 2020 Grammy for her Harp Concerto. Higdon's first opera, Cold Mountain, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere and the opera recording was nominated for 2 Grammy awards. Most recently, she was inducted into membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works and her works have been recorded on more than seventy CDs. Her music is published exclusively by Lawdon Press.

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Auburn Symphony Orchestra changes lives and our South Puget Sound community through the shared experience of live orchestral music performances and by nurturing the relationship between our audience and our artists. Learn more at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org) and social media pages [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).

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