



40th Anniversary Season

2022-2023

Coastal Symphony of Georgia Celebrates 40 Years!



It began in 1982 as a vision of two public school music teachers who helped establish the Brunswick Community Orchestra. In 1994, it was renamed The Coastal Symphony of Georgia, Inc. (CSG) and professional conductors were hired to direct the community-based orchestra. In time, professional musicians were added to the mix, and in 2013, Maestro Luis Haza took the orchestra entirely professional with a vision of providing the best in musical excellence for the community. That vision and commitment continues today under the baton of Michelle Merrill who joined us as Music Director and Conductor after Haza's retirement.

Entering her fifth season with us, Merrill continues to design symphony programs of superlative quality for our audiences. She often plans pieces composed by women and composers of color, and enjoys planning music from both the old masters and new works alike.

Turn the page to see what Merrill has planned for our 2022-2023 season!

Be sure to complete the ticket order form and consider making a music dedication.

Come celebrate 40 years of symphonic music in the Golden Isles!

Start the Celebration Early!



CABARET 2022

Escape to Margaritaville

Friday, May 20



Join us for a night under the stars at the King and Prince Beach Resort.

Enjoy a delicious 3-course dinner while being entertained by the sounds of Margaritaville.

Fabulous live and silent auctions will tempt you

as you share this special evening with fellow music lovers and friends.

For ticket information visit coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org or call 912.634.2006

Start planning your favorite Margaritaville attire and gathering your friends for the fun!

CONCERT NOTES

**Monday
October 3, 2022**

**Brunswick High School
Auditorium
8:00 p.m.**

**Antonin DVORAK
*Carnival Overture***

**Walter PISTON
Ballet Suite from
*The Incredible Flutist***

**Amy BEACH
Symphony in E Minor
"Gaelic"**

Opening Night features a celebration of life, a busy marketplace, and the first successful symphony written by a woman.

The vivacious, colorful and somewhat mysterious *Carnival Overture* (1891) opens the concert in a festive setting that Brahms called "merry." Dvorak's music was written for the second piece of a trilogy of overtures titled *Nature, Life, Othello*. The Bohemian composer gives special notice to a single tambourine which plays a large role at the end of the piece.

Piston's *Ballet Suite* (1938) follows complete with dances, the arrival of a circus, a flutist who charms snakes – and women, and a polka finale set in a marketplace teeming with activity. The music is colorful, tuneful and engaging. Be sure to listen for the dog!

Beach's *Symphony* (1896), influenced by the melodies of Boston's large Irish immigrant population at the time, closes the concert. Beach was responding to Dvorak's invitation to American composers to write a distinctly American sound possibly including Native American and African American elements. But Beach, writing the first symphony by an American woman to gain public attention, was attracted to what she called the "simple, rugged, and unpretentious beauty" of Irish music.



Amy Beach

This concert will lift us up and enchant us!

**Monday
November 7, 2022**

**Brunswick High School
Auditorium
8:00 p.m.**

**Carlos SIMON
*Fate Now Conquers***

**Richard Wagner
*Siegfried Idyll***

**Ludwig von BEETHOVEN
Symphony No. 3
"Eroica"**

Music from an exciting new composer, the brilliance of Beethoven, and a sweet expression of love from Wagner are featured in our second concert.



Carlos Simon

Carlos Simon says he was influenced by an excerpt from Homer's *Iliad* that he found in one of Beethoven's journals - "But fate now conquers, I am hers..." - as well as the fluid harmonic structure of the 2nd movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony. The result is frenzied arpeggios and free-flowing running passages in *Fate Now Conquers* depicting the uncertainty of life that hovers over us. The piece was commissioned by the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2020.

A mother and son theme informs the second piece on the program in Richard Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* (1870.) Originally titled *The Tribschen Idyll*, the symphonic poem presented in sonata form celebrates private joys, domestic bliss, and the birth of a son. It has been described as a sumptuous piece of music that expresses his paternal and romantic love.

Beethoven's brilliant *Symphony No. 3, Eroica*, closes the program. It is considered a milestone work of classical-style composition and marks the beginning of the Romantic period in classical music. Gigantic in scope, the symphony covers a wealth of emotional ground thematically and launches Beethoven's creative middle period, unrivaled for its astonishing output.

This concert will inspire us!

CONCERT NOTES

Our Winter concert brings us music from a youthful Britten, a melancholy Mozart, and a renowned viola soloist.

The concert begins with the youthful exuberance of Britten's *Simple Symphony* (1933.) Based on eight themes, two per movement, the music uses bits of scores he had written for piano as a teenager. Just 20 when he completed the symphony, Britten gives us a *Boisterous Bourre*, a *Playful Pizzicato*, a *Sentimental Sarabande*, and a *Frolicsome Finale*. Prepare to be delighted!

Hugosson's *Samarthana* (2021) follows. The young, Swedish composer has been described as "a national treasure" whose music is known for memorable melodies, both moving and joyful. International violist Brett Deubner will join the orchestra for this piece, as well as Part's *Fratres* (1977/1991.) This work uses the tintinnabuli principle: not one but two melody voices a tenth apart, plus a third fill-in voice in the middle resulting in a rather meditative effect.

One of Mozart's most frequently performed and greatly admired works closes the concert. Listen for the recognizable melody in the first movement and the resounding, swiftly ascending passage in the fourth. This is Mozart in a more serious mood, and it is only one of two symphonies he wrote in the minor key.

This concert will engage our imaginations!

Our Spring concert brings us music of endurance and resilience.



Sarah Kirkland Snider

Snider's piece was commissioned by the Detroit Symphony in 2016 as a result of her receiving the DSO Elaine Lebenbom Award for Female Composers in 2014. She says thinking about Detroit caused her to think about resilience – what it means to endure. The music opens with a bold statement of hope in the horns and trombones, then takes us through humbling passages to a delicate tune in flute, harp and celeste, and on to a testing tumult before finding a "kind of a clear-eyed serenity - maybe even the kind of hope that endures."

Bottesini's Concerto follows with its mysterious melodies and deep, rich sounds. It has been said the 19th Century Italian composer was to the double bass what Paganini was to the violin or Liszt to the piano – a virtuoso supreme. A guest artist will join the orchestra for the concerto.

The evening closes with Dimitri Shostakovich's powerful and controversial Fifth Symphony. It was written at the height of Stalin's purges: a time of death, fear, and artistic repression; and there is a constant sense of urgency, an overwhelming sadness to the music. The public heard the symphony as an expression of the suffering to which it had been subjected; the authorities claimed they found everything in the work they had demanded of Shostakovich.

The Season Finale will showcase our musicians' virtuoso talents!



Johan Hugosson

**Monday
February 6, 2023**



**Wesley United
Methodist
Church
8:00 p.m.**

**Benjamin BRITTEN
*Simple Symphony***

**Johan HUGOSSON
*Samarthana for Viola
and Orchestra***

**Arvo PART
*Fratres for Viola,
Percussion and Strings***

**W.A. MOZART
*Symphony No. 40***

**Monday
May 8, 2023**

**Brunswick High
School Auditorium
8:00 p.m.**

**Sarah Kirkland SNIDER
*Something for the Dark***

**Giovanni BOTTESINI
*Concerto for Double Bass
and Orchestra***

**Dimitri SHOSTAKOVICH
*Symphony No. 5***

Message from Music Director/Conductor



Michelle Merrill
Music Director/Conductor
Coastal Symphony of Georgia

Many often ask how I go about programming the various concert programs that we at The Coastal Symphony of Georgia present throughout the year. Here is a little behind the scenes look at how I go about this process.

You have heard me mention that a good program must have elements of familiarity – what you know and love. A great program, however, has music that stretches your mind, heart, and spirit. It takes you somewhere you do not expect and remains with you as you leave the performance. It is these lasting moments I strive to create for you with our programming.

For a recent concert, I programmed two large pieces – the Reynaldo Hahn *Concerto Provençal* and the Josef Suk *Serenade for Strings* – which are not that familiar to audiences. However, I paired these with Giochino Rossini's *Barber of Seville Overture* (a perennial favorite) and Jennifer Higdon's *Amazing Grace* (not a well-known composer, but a beloved hymn.) It was this mash-up of the old and new, the familiar and the unacquainted that made this concert special.

I am always looking for music to feed the soul with these combinations, and I look forward to sharing more of my selections with you during our 40th Anniversary Season!

President's Message



Marjorie Mathieu
President
Coastal Symphony of Georgia

Spring is here, and we are looking forward to another season of our Symphony in the fall!

We are happy to be back in Brunswick High's Auditorium and looking forward to next season! We are planning four classical concerts and one Christmas brass concert for next season, with two of the performances being held at Wesley United Methodist Church. We received very positive feedback on this venue from our musicians and attendees.

We thank you for your continued support and patience during the time when we needed to juggle our programs and venues due to Covid. Hopefully, those times are behind us. I will be "passing the baton" at the end of May to my very capable Vice President, Kern Baker, as he will be taking on the role of President at that time. It has been my pleasure to serve during the past two years, even though tumultuous at times!

As always, we appreciate your patronage!

Upcoming Events

May 20	6:00 p.m.	CABARET - ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE	
October 3	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night Concert	Brunswick High School Auditorium
November 7	8:00 p.m.	Second Season Concert	Brunswick High School Auditorium
December 4	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Brass Concert	Wesley United Methodist Church
February 6	8:00 p.m.	Third Season Concert	Wesley United Methodist Church
May 8	8:00 p.m.	Fourth Season Concert	Brunswick High School Auditorium

MUSIC DEDICATION



Make a Performance Personal: Dedicate Music!

Honor a loved one or friend, commemorate a special occasion, or offer a memorial by dedicating a musical selection from this Season's Concert Series. The musical arrangements below may be selected for dedication.

\$150	Symphony in E minor "Gaelic"	Amy Beach	October
	Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"	Ludwig von Beethoven	November
	Symphony No. 40	W. A. Mozart	February
	Symphony No. 5	Dimitri Shostakovich	May
\$100	Ballet Suite from <i>The Incredible Flutist</i>	Walter Piston	October
	<i>Siegfried Idyll</i>	Richard Wagner	November
	<i>Simple Symphony</i>	Benjamin Britten	February
	<i>Something for the Dark</i>	Sarah Kirkland Snider	May
\$50	<i>Carnival Overture</i>	Antonin Dvorak	October
	<i>Fate Now Conquers</i>	Carlos Simon	November
	<i>Samarthana for Viola and Orchestra</i>	Johan Hugosson	February

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