



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY AND QUEENS UNIVERSITY PRESENT

MUSIC + HEALING

**A Concert Showcasing the Universality and Healing Power of Music
Led by Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees**

**Featuring Principal Cellist Alan Black in the
Orchestral World Premiere of Mark Leonard Lewis's *I Will Wade Out***

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens University

February 15, 2022 | Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte Symphony will make its debut at the Sandra Levine Theatre in the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens University of Charlotte with a program showcasing the unique healing power of music on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. As a universal language, music has the extraordinary ability to unite humanity in a shared mental and emotional connection. That universality allows music to be used to explore complex topics — like race, mental health, and climate change — and even to help heal in the face of trauma.

Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees will lead the concert, featuring Principal Cellist Alan Black as soloist on the orchestral World Premiere of Mark Leonard Lewis's *I Will Wade Out*, a piece that reflects on the universal human experience as we work toward collective healing.

“For me,” said Lewis, “the work is meant to encapsulate triumph over adversity, to stir the spirits of fortitude, to swim out of the depths of despair, yet to realize one has always been on a path to awakening.”

The program will also include Philip Herbert's *Elegy: in Memorium - Stephen Lawrence*, a work composed as a gesture of empathy following the tragic and racially motivated murder of British teen, Stephen Lawrence; David T. Little's *Haunted Topography*, a meditation on a story about a mother's grief and healing for the son she lost in Vietnam; *Speak*, a work by Syrian composer Kinan Abou-afach about the displacement of refugees; Michael Abels's *Global Warming*; the Rigaudon from Ravel's *le Tombeau de Couperin*, dedicated to a friend he lost during WWII; and Symphony No. 2 by Saint-Georges, a work that brings voice to previously neglected music by composers of African descent.

Tickets

Tickets start at \$25 and are available now at charlottesymphony.org.

Health and Safety

The Charlotte Symphony is committed to the health and safety of our patrons, musicians, and employees and continues to work in coordination with Atrium Health and all performance venues to develop safety procedures, including the mandatory use of masks and proof of vaccination or negative COVID tests for attending performances in indoor venues. All safety procedures are in alignment with local, state, and federal mandates, as well as CDC guidelines. Please [click here](#) for a complete outline of our health and safety guidelines.

About the Charlotte Symphony

Celebrating its 90th anniversary in the 2021–22 season, the Charlotte Symphony is committed to uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. Led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Symphony upholds the highest artistic integrity and takes bold steps to engage the community through music. The CSO employs 62 professional full-time orchestra musicians, serves three youth orchestras, and offers significant educational programming aimed at improving areas of our community with the greatest need. The Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and aims to serve the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

About Queens

Queens University is a private, coeducational university located in Charlotte, N.C. The university serves nearly 2,500 students with 43 major and 63 minor undergraduate degree options and 12 graduate degrees. Students represent 44 states and 70 foreign countries. As part of the university's vision to promote educational experiences that nurture intellectual curiosity and promote global understanding, nearly two-thirds of traditional undergraduates participate in study abroad experiences and 100 percent take part in internships. The U.S. News & World Report ranked Queens 15th among regional universities in the south in its 2022 edition of Best Colleges.

Event Listing

Music + Healing

Sandra Levine Theatre in the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement at Queens University of Charlotte
Sunday, April 3, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Christopher James Lees, *conductor*
Alan Black, *cello*

Kinan ABOU-AFACH
Philip HERBERT
SAINT-GEORGES
David T. LITTLE
RAVEL

Speak
Elegy: in Memorium - Stephen Lawrence
Symphony No. 2
haunted topography
Le Tombeau de Couperin (IV. Rigouidon)

Mark Leonard LEWIS
Michael ABELS

I Will Wade Out
Global Warming

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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