



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 21, 2021  
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## **HALLOWEEN WITH THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY**

### **FREE EVENT: *SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY***

**Edgar Lee Masters' Series of Monologues Told from Beyond the Grave  
Featuring Local Actors, Voices From the Past, and  
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Trombone Quartet  
October 3, 2021 at Elmwood Cemetery**

### **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN CONCERT**

**Danny Elfman's Score Performed Live Along With the Complete Film  
Costumes Are Welcomed and Encouraged  
October 22–23, 2021 at Belk Theater**

**September 21, 2021 | Charlotte, NC** – This October, the Charlotte Symphony presents two events guaranteed to get you in the Halloween spirit: A staged performance of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, October 3, 2021 at Elmwood Cemetery and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* with Danny Elfman's colorful score performed by the Charlotte Symphony live to the complete film, October 22–23, 2021 at Belk Theater.

#### ***Spoon River Anthology***

The Charlotte Symphony presents the premiere of a new stage adaptation of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, a series of monologues that collectively tell the story of Spoon River, a fictional small town in Illinois, spoken from beyond the grave by the town's former residents who provide accounts of their lives, losses, and deaths.

Live music will be performed throughout the show by The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, a trombone quartet featuring musicians from the Charlotte Symphony. The music will be interwoven and paired with the dialogue, evoking turn-of-the-century America with selections by John Phillip Sousa, Scott Joplin, and W.C. Handy — incorporating hymns, ragtime, blues, and classical works inspired by folk traditions such as Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and the Largo from Dvořák's *New World Symphony*.

The performance will take place on October 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in Charlotte's historic Elmwood Cemetery. There are many parallels between Elmwood Cemetery and Oak Hill Cemetery, the basis for Spoon River. Those who are buried in both cemeteries lived, worked, and died in the same era — facing similar hardships and chasing similar dreams.

Members from Mecklenburg Historical Association's Voices From the Past will be onsite to greet and interact with guests.

### **The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert**

The Charlotte Symphony will present Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* featuring a full screening of Disney's timeless holiday classic with Grammy-winning composer Danny Elfman's musical score performed live to the film. The concert will be conducted by Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees on October 22–23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Belk Theater.

Concertgoers will receive the ultimate cinematic experience when Danny Elfman's rambunctious and colorful score is brought to life by the Charlotte Symphony while the full-length film is shown on a larger-than-life screen above the Orchestra. Those planning to attend are encouraged to wear costumes.

### **Tickets**

*Spoon River Anthology* is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Those planning to attend should bring their own chairs and/or blankets; seating will not be provided. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tickets to **The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert** start at \$10 (subject to change) and are available now through [charlottesymphony.org](http://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 Blumenthal Performing Arts 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 fulltime 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.

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Support for *Spoon River Anthology* comes from **Roberta H. Cochran**

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Operational Support for *Spoon River Anthology* comes from **William Bibby**, Director of Cemeteries for the City of Charlotte

## Event Listing

### ***SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY***

Elmwood Cemetery (700 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Charlotte, NC 28202)

Sunday, October 3, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

#### Production

Chris Stonnell, Author / Director  
Gray Rodgers, Assistant Director  
Kat Brown, Stage Manager

Brian Gluf, Sound Design  
Gary Fry, Musical Adaptation

#### Company

Nick Asa  
Melissa Bowden  
Nancy Cottingham  
Frank Dominguez  
Isabel Gonzalez

Haley Harkins  
Morgan McDonald  
Tyler (Hope) Milton  
Anthony Neal  
Hank West

#### Ensemble: Four Horsemen, a Quartet of Trombones

Tom Burge  
Justin Isenhour

Michael Hosford  
Scott Harman

Edgar Lee MASTERS

*Spoon River Anthology* (Premiere of stage adaptation written by  
Chris Stonnell)

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## **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN CONCERT**

Belk Theater at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

Friday, October 22, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Christopher James Lees, *conductor*

Danny ELFMAN

*The Nightmare Before Christmas*

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**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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Deirdre Roddin at 516.816.8977 or [droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org)*