



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY
WELCOMES AUDIENCES BACK TO THE CONCERT HALL**

**Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3
April 24, 2021**

**Branford Marsalis Plays Ibert
May 14 & 15, 2021**

**EVENINGS AT THE PARK
A Spring Classics Mini-Series at Symphony Park
May 7, 21, and 28, 2021**

April 8, 2021 | Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte Symphony (CSO) will welcome audiences back to the Belk Theater for performances taking place on April 24 and May 14–15, 2021. This marks the first time audiences have been able to attend an indoor concert with the Charlotte Symphony since March 7, 2020. The CSO will also host Evenings at the Park, a three-concert mini-series at Symphony Park featuring classical works.

“These performances are going to be very emotional for all of us,” said Music Director Christopher Warren-Green. “For the past 13 months, we’ve been connecting with our audiences through virtual concerts and in small groups, but I cannot wait to safely reconnect with our CSO family in person – to feel the energy of an audience from the podium again – I’ve missed it so much!”

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees will lead the Orchestra in Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 3, *Strassburg*, featuring Simone Porter as soloist and Respighi’s *Ancient Airs and Dances*. The concert will be recorded and available for streaming June 5–12 as part of the virtual Classical Series *Reimagined*.

Music Director Christopher Warren-Green will be joined onstage by Grammy-Award winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis on Friday, May 14, 2021 and Saturday, May 15, 2021 to perform Ibert’s *Concertino da camera* and Schulhoff’s jazz-inspired *Hot-Sonate*. The program will also include Bartok’s *Romanian Folk Dances* and Gershwin’s *Lullaby*.

The Charlotte Symphony will also offer **Evenings at the Park**, a spring classics mini-series comprised of three concerts (May 7, 21, and 28) at Symphony Park. The concerts, conducted by Christopher James Lees, will feature works inspired by nature and the outdoors, such as

Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony and Ravel's orchestration of Debussy's *Danse*, a work based on the tarantella — a lively folk dance believed to be named for the movements used to work out the venom from a tarantula bite. The series will also include Kathryn Bostic's *Portrait of a Peaceful Warrior* – a work the composer describes as “a tribute to the vast and diverse voices of humanity coming together to stand up for justice, equality, inclusion, and human rights.”

The Charlotte Symphony will continue to offer streaming tickets to the [Classical Series Reimagined](#) and will present five in-person outdoor concerts at local breweries, as part of the popular [On Tap](#) series.

Tickets

In-person tickets to Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3 on April 24, 2021 will only be available to Charlotte Symphony subscribers. Tickets for all other events are on sale now at charlottesymphony.org.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some previously scheduled live concerts through the end of the 2020–21 season have been replaced by virtual concerts, canceled, or rescheduled. Please visit charlottesymphony.org/covid-19 for a complete listing.

Commitment to Safety

The Charlotte Symphony has worked in coordination with Atrium Health and the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center to develop safety procedures, including reduced seating capacity, physically distanced seating, enforcement of face coverings, contactless ticketing and program books, and more. All safety procedures are in alignment with local, state, and federal mandates, as well as CDC guidelines.

Biographies

[Christopher James Lees](#), [Branford Marsalis](#), [Simone Porter](#), [Christopher Warren-Green](#)

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony is a longstanding nonprofit organization committed to connecting and strengthening the community 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. We employ 58 professional full-time orchestra musicians, serve two youth orchestras, and offer significant educational programming aimed at improving areas of our community with the greatest need. The Charlotte Symphony is integral to the Charlotte area, serving its community through music that connects and inspires. charlottesymphony.org

The Classical Series is Presented to the Community by **Wells Fargo Private Bank**.

Branford Marsalis's appearance is made possible by **Atrium Health**

Support for “Branford Marsalis Plays Ibert” comes from **Lowe’s, Rodger’s Builders, Davinci Jets, Ally Financial, Domtar, Ernst & Young, Honeywell, KPMG, SteelFab, Trane Technologies, Ingersoll Rand, and Kingfisher Capital**

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