

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
*BECOME OCEAN***

**A 360° SPATIAL AUDIO IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE AT BLUME STUDIOS
Featuring John Luther Adams's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Piece *Become Ocean***

February 28 and March 1, 2025 | Stage 1 at Blume Studios

December 19, 2024 | Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO), in partnership with Blumenthal Arts, will make its debut at Blume Studios presenting John Luther Adams's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Become Ocean* on February 28 and March 1, 2025, conducted by Courtney Lewis. Set in this new immersive venue, the performance will feature 360° spatial audio, custom lighting design, and a spatially divided orchestra, creating a unique sensory experience.

Adams's *Become Ocean* is a powerful meditation on the beauty and fragility of the natural world, inspired by the composer's environmental concerns and love of nature. The work was premiered by the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in June 2013 and won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Music and the 2015 Grammy for Best Classical Contemporary Composition. Adams writes in his program note:

“If you stop and think about the oceanic dimension of music, there's this implication of immersion. We came from the ocean, and we're going back to the ocean, right? We're made up mostly of water, and life on Earth first emerged from the seas. And with the melting of the polar ice caps and the rising sea levels, we may become ocean sooner than we imagine.”

The three performances at Blume Studios will include light projections and a fully 360° spatial audio experience that will create a mesmerizing exploration and meditation on the vast, deep, and mysterious tides of existence. The Charlotte Symphony will also partner with the North Carolina Aquarium Society to present activities that celebrate the vital link between humanity and the oceans. Details to be announced at a later date.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to explore two innovative installations at Blume Studios following the performance:

- **GAIA:** Measuring six meters in diameter, the mesmerizing GAIA features 120 dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. This beautiful artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three dimensions.

- **Groundswell:** Cleverly combining auditory, sculptural, and interactive elements, Groundswell prompts a meditation on our relationships with the earth and one another. A six-meter platform sits atop a sea of some 40,000 illuminated steel spheres and tilts as you walk on top, causing rippling waves of cascading ball bearings to summon a complex oceanic soundscape.

Become Ocean is part of the Charlotte Symphony's exploration of immersive programming, funded by a generous grant from the Knight Art + Tech Expansion Fund of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Tickets

Tickets start at \$35 and are available for purchase now at charlottesymphony.org.

For press tickets, contact Deirdre Roddin at droddin@charlottesymphony.org or 704-714-5112.

About the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is one of the premier music organizations in the Southeastern United States and the oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas. As Charlotte's most active performing arts group, the CSO presents around 150 concerts each season, reaching more than 130,000 music lovers. The CSO is committed to its mission of uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. Led by Music Director Kwamé Ryan, the CSO employs 65 professional full-time orchestra musicians, fosters four youth orchestras, and offers significant educational support aimed at serving the under-resourced areas of our community. Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and serves the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

Event Listing

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
Become Ocean

Stage 1 at Blume Studios (904 Post St., Charlotte, NC, 28208)

Friday, February 28, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Courtney Lewis, conductor

John Luther ADAMS *Become Ocean*

ALL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Become Ocean is supported by a grant from the **Knight Art + Tech Expansion Fund** of the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**.

*Hi-res photography is available in the Charlotte Symphony's [photo gallery](#)
or by contacting Deirdre Roddin at droddin@charlottesymphony.org*