



Wichita Symphony Orchestra presents *The Rose of Sonora*, inviting audiences to experience the Wild West as never before

NEWS RELEASE

Wichita Symphony Orchestra

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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(Wichita, KS) The Wichita Symphony Orchestra will present a concert this April 9-10, 2022, which will thrill fans of both classical music and cowboy movies alike. With pieces by American composers Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, John Williams, and George S. Clinton, accompanied by stunning photography projected above the orchestra, concertgoers will be taken on a journey through the American Southwest.



The first half of the concert will include music by film composers created for the symphonic stage. John Williams' ("Star Wars," "Harry Potter") *The Cowboys Overture*, with themes from the 1972 film "The Cowboys," evokes images of cattle ranchers and bucking broncos. Following Williams' work is a new composition, a violin concerto, which lends its title to the name of the concert, *The Rose of Sonora*. This piece, by film composer George S. Clinton ("Austin Powers," "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee") follows the story of Rose, a rough and tumble outlaw inspired by the real lives of women of the wild west. Clinton has said of the work, "I am primarily a film composer, so it is important to me that the music tell a story." This concerto is presented in five epic western scenes: *Escape, Love and Freedom, Ambush, Death and Healing, and Vengeance*. Rose's narrative is told through the virtuosic solo violin, brought to life by WSO Concertmaster Holly Mulcahy, with the orchestra accompanying her. Mulcahy also commissioned the work from Clinton, who will be in attendance at the concert. "When George shared his idea of a story arc about a wild west outlaw woman compiled from real outlaw women, I knew we had something unique and very much needed," says Mulcahy. "Not only was it a story that captivates, it gave me what was missing from just about every Western movie I've watched: A strong female lead."

Symphony regulars will remember Clinton from the WSO's season opener concert **Old Cowtown Suite: A World Premiere Event**. Clinton composed *Old*

Cowtown Suite specifically for the WSO after a visit to Old Cowtown Museum with Mulcahy and WSO CEO Don Reinhold in 2019.



Holly Mulcahy performed a teaser of *The Rose of Sonora* with the Wichita Symphony in 2019. Photo Credit: June Trieb

The second half of the program pairs two American masterworks with photography from multimedia artist Nicholas Bardonnay of Westwater Arts, projected on a 440-square-foot screen above the musicians. A visual concerto entitled *Reflections of the Spirit*, which depicts stunning imagery of the Anasazi Native American tribe's historic settlements, will be paired with Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. The combination is described as "a meditation on the enduring human spirit and our unending connection with the environment." A technique called "symphonic photochoreography" will be utilized to "[blend] evocative panoramic photography with live classical music."

Finishing the program is Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*. Audiences will no doubt be familiar with the exhilarating themes of this piece. Originally composed in 1942 as

a modern ballet for the Ballet Russe de Monte-Carlo, *Rodeo* has since been reworked for symphonic performance, and has become ubiquitous in the culture of cowboy music. A routin' tootin' good time for cowgirls and city boys of all ages, the accompanying visual concerto of the same name will put the viewer in the front row (and sometimes the saddle) of a modern-day rodeo.

This multimedia performance will create a truly unique and immersive experience for concertgoers, pairing American masterworks of the past with stunning visuals presented on today's technology. This multi-sensory event puts storytelling at the forefront; whether it is the tale of cowboys on the prairie, an indigenous peoples' ties to their land, or The Rose of Sonora herself, this concert is sure to captivate audiences.



Imagery will be projected on screens above the orchestra, synchronized with the live music performance. Photo Credit: Westwater Arts

WSO Music Director and Conductor Daniel Hege will conduct the orchestra in Century II Concert Hall. Performances are Saturday, April 9th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 10th at 3 p.m., 2022. Tickets (from \$30) may be purchased online at

WichitaSymphony.org, or by calling the box office at (316) 267-7658, Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

This concert was originally scheduled to be performed in April 2020, and was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ticketholders from the 2020 performance were given the option to receive a refund, donate the value of their ticket to the Symphony, or retain the value of their ticket on their account for a future purchase. All previous ticketholders will need to re-purchase tickets to this event, either online or by calling the box office. Account credit can only be applied over the phone.

CONCERT DETAILS

The Rose of Sonora

Sat, April 9 at 7:30 PM and Sun, April 10 at 3PM, 2022
Century II Concert Hall

Concert Program

JOHN WILLIAMS The Cowboys Overture

GEORGE S. CLINTON The Rose of Sonora

featuring Holly Mulcahy, WSO Concertmaster

SAMUEL BARBER Adagio for Strings

*with Reflections of the Spirit visual concerto**

AARON COPLAND Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes

*with Rodeo! visual concerto***

Tickets from \$30

Online | WichitaSymphony.org

Phone | 316.267.7658

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday | 10am - 4pm

Concert week hours:

Monday - Friday | 10am - 5pm

*Photography & choreography: James Westwater. Performance:
Nicholas Bardonnay.

**Photography: Nicholas Bardonnay & James Westwater. Choreography &
performance: Nicholas Bardonnay.

Health and Safety Information

*Our Health and Safety measures have recently changed. **Proof of vaccination/Negative COVID-19 test is no longer required for attendance at Symphony performances.** Currently, masks are still required to be worn whenever indoors at Century II for this performance. For most the up to date information, please visit [WichitaSymphony.org/public-updates](https://www.wichitasymphony.org/public-updates).*

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