



ASO36

REVIVAL
SEASON

2020/21
SEASON
PROGRAM

MARIUSZ SMOLIJ MUSIC DIRECTOR

acadianasymphony.org

ASO36 REVIVAL SEASON



I am honored and delighted to welcome you to Acadiana Symphony Orchestra's 36th concert season. This year has been particularly challenging for all of us. The pandemic deeply affected our communities, towns, and entire societies around the globe. In a strange way we are all united in dealing with the changing reality and finding new ways to move forward. Culture in general, but music in particular, can offer much needed solace, comfort and hope. As we navigate to a brighter future, our organization is fully committed to providing high quality musical programs both in education and concert performances to the Acadiana community.

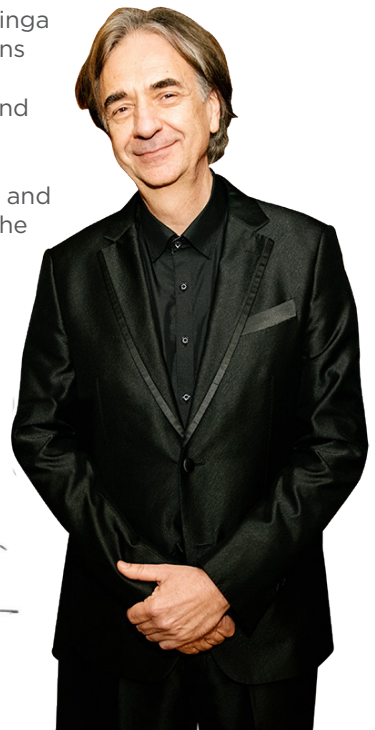
Our orchestra will perform the first few concerts of the season virtually, available to you, in an online format. Due to safety precautions, we can't invite you to our concert hall, but we would very much like to visit you with our live performances in the comfort of your own home. We've made special preparations to offer the thrill of easily accessible, live musical performances, available online, and with the highest possible technical and artistic quality.

Join us as we present masterworks of yesteryears and today. We will feature beautiful Baroque jewels by Vivaldi and Handel, great classics by Mozart and Beethoven, romantic tunes by Rachmaninoff and Elgar, music with storytelling by Prokofiev and Stravinsky as well as popular compositions by George Gershwin, Richard Rogers or Cole Porter. We will feature world class soloists including violinist Kinga Augustyn and Gold Medal winner of the New Orleans International Piano Competition, Zhiang Xu. Also joining us will be your favorite local artists, choirs and Acadiana Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO).

I invite you to join us on this new musical journey and I know that we can count on you being with us all the way. Your understanding and support is especially important and valued during these challenging times. Together, through the arts, we can discover new beauty and strength. We can unite, overcome, and REVIVE!

I am looking forward to seeing you on the downbeat. Happy listening!

MARIUSZ SMOLIJ
ASO Conductor
& Music Director





GET TO KNOW MAESTRO SMOLIJ

Considered one of the most exciting conductors of his generation, Maestro Mariusz Smolij (pronounced **MAR-EE-OOSH SMOLY**) has led over 130 orchestras in 27 countries on five continents appearing in some of the most prestigious concert halls in the world.

Smolij currently serves as Conductor and Music Director of the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Riverside Symphony in New Jersey as well as Artistic Director of Lipiński International Violin Festival and Competition in Poland. An accomplished conductor, he has served previously as Resident Conductor of the Houston Symphony, Associate Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony, Artistic Director of Wrocław Lutosławski Philharmonic and International Festival Wratysłavia Cantans and Toruń Symphony Orchestra in his native country of Poland.

Additionally, he is a frequent recording artist for Naxos International, and has consistently gained international acclaim including praises by the New York Times for “compelling performances.” In North America he conducted the Orchestra of the Chicago Lyric Opera, St. Louis Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, New Orleans Philharmonic, Hartford Symphony and Symphony of Nova Scotia among many others. Internationally, he enjoys notable reputation appearing with accomplished orchestras of Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, Holland, Austria, Israel, South Africa, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Poland.

He is an internationally recognized pedagogue, having served as professor at the Northwestern University in Chicago-Evanston, also teaching at Zurich Conservatory in Switzerland and is a frequent guest professor at Tianjin Conservatory in China.

In 2015, his Naxos CD with music by distinguished woman composer Grażyna Bacewicz won a Fryderyk Award (equivalent of Polish Grammy). Most recently, in 2019, the president of Poland awarded Smolij the “Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland” for distinguished contributions to international cultural collaborations.



UNITE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
7PM | VIRTUAL STAGE

UNITED by music! From Italy's Venetian coast to the marshes of Louisiana - Selections that express the essential human desire for beauty and peace.

PROGRAM NOTES

For composers across the world, the sound of a small string orchestra, known as a chamber orchestra, has been a popular form of expression. The only wind element in this concert is the opening trumpet concerto by Antonio Vivaldi. This fanfare-like composition will serve as a joyful announcement of not only the start of our new season, but more importantly as a musical proclamation of new beginnings and better things to come. The idea that the American dream is still alive and well finds its voice in a composition by the same Louisiana based musician and composer, ASO principal viola player, Christopher Lowry. Similar desires and dreams inspired Polish contemporary composer, Romuald Twardowski, in his many creations including his violin concerto, premiering here in America. This author lived through both World War II and communist oppression, but never allowed adversity to silence his hope, love for music, and his creative voice.

British composer, Benjamin Britten's Simple Symphony is one of the most popular works in the string orchestra repertoire. The first sketches of this composition date to the composer's early childhood, and at the age of 20 were rewritten to be played by an amateur orchestra. Since its premiere in 1934, this short symphony has been enjoyed by performers and audiences alike due to its simplicity, directness, and desire to create absolute musical joy for everyone.

The last two works on the program are unified by the idea of shared creativity. Both works are an elaboration of an original piece which was later redeveloped by other artists. Such process creates a one of a kind connection and unity between different musicians regardless of historical and geographical circumstances. In the first instance, a solo piano composition by George Gershwin originally written in 1926 was then rewritten in 1942 for solo violin with piano accompaniment by the famous violin virtuoso, Jascha Heifetz. In the summer of 2021 Mariusz Smolij created this version for violin solo and chamber orchestra, premiering at this concert. The second example of shared creativity is a set of variations for violin solo and orchestra by Spanish virtuoso, Pablo de Sarasate. This work is intended to showcase the virtuosic abilities of Sarasate and is based on several popular songs from the opera, Carmen, by French master George Bizet. Both compositions and Twardowski's violin concerto will be presented by young New York based Polish virtuoso, Kinga Augustyn.

PROGRAM

KINGA AUGUSTYN | GUEST ARTIST

- Concerto for Two Trumpets** **Antonio Vivaldi**
(1678 - 1741)
Nicholas Whitchurch, Paul Morton, *trumpets*
- American Dream** **Christopher Lowry**
(1989-)
- Violin Concerto** **Romuald Twardowski**
(1930-)
(American premiere) Kinga Augustyn, *violin*
- Simple Symphony, op. 4** **Benjamin Britten**
(1913 - 1976)
Boisterous Bourrée - Playful Pizzicato
Sentimental Saraband - Frolicsome Finale
- Three Preludes** **George Gershwin**
arr. J. Heifetz/M. Smolij
Kinga Augustyn, *violin*
- Carmen Fantasy** **Pablo de Sarasate**
(1844 - 1908)
(Based on themes by George Bizet)
Kinga Augustyn, *violin*

KINGA AUGUSTYN GUEST ARTIST

Kinga Augustyn is a New York City-based virtuoso concert violinist and recording artist. Ms. Augustyn has a large repertoire of more than 40 concerti that she has performed with orchestras worldwide.

Her most recent recording (Naxos 2019) features world premieres by contemporary Polish composer Romuald Twardowski (b. 1930) performed with the Torun Symphony Orchestra and maestro Mariusz Smolij. She is committed to raising awareness of Polish composers, and has made significant contributions to Polish music by recording Polish Violin Music, a highly praised, “fascinating” (The Strad) album of lesser-known Polish composers.

Ms. Augustyn has won international awards, including First Prizes at the Alexander & Buono International String Competition (NYC), Artist International Presentations (NYC), J. S. Bach String Competition (Poland), and the 2017 “Young Poland” contest in Poland. Other top honors include prizes at the Johannes Brahms International Competition (Austria) and the Kloster Schoental International Young Artist Competition (Germany).

Ms. Augustyn studied at The Juilliard School with Dorothy DeLay, Cho-Liang Lin, and Naoko Tanaka, earning both a Bachelors and a Masters degree. She also holds a doctorate from the Stony Brook University where she worked with Phil Setzer and Pamela Frank.

Kinga plays on a violin made by Joseph Gagliano in 1774, generously on loan to her from a private collector.



THANK YOU

UNITE was made possible in part
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