

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes | May 16, 2021 | Corning, NY

Midori Premieres New Concertino by Derek Bermel with Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes

The Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (YOSFL) welcomes back virtuoso violinist, Midori, for a virtual performance of a new concertino by Derek Bermel to be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The virtual concert will be conducted by Augusto Diemecke, Conductor of the YOSFL and Concertmaster of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. This performance is made possible by the Orchestra Residencies Program to members of the League of American Orchestras during the 2020-2021 season to help keep young musicians engaged, motivated, and excited during these unusual times.

In addition to this virtual performance, composer Derek Bermel, also presented a composition workshop for the youth orchestra students on April 27 and May 1.

“This is an amazing opportunity for our Youth Orchestra students to perform with Midori and to learn a new composition that has never been performed. It is quite different from learning music that you have already heard. Dr. Bermel made a special arrangement of the second movement specifically to accommodate the wind players in the YOSFL. We are doubly honored to work closely with Midori and Dr. Bermel,” explains Karen Dusek, Managing Director of the OSFL.

Japanese-born violinist Midori’s rise to fame began as a child prodigy when at the age of 11, conductor Zubin Mehta invited her to perform with the New York Philharmonic. As a leading concert violinist for over 35 years, Midori regularly transfixes audiences around the world, combining graceful precision and intimate expression. Midori is a visionary artist, activist, and educator who is dedicated to exploring and building connections between music and the human experience. She serves as a United Nations Messenger of Peace.

Twice Grammy-nominated composer-clarinetist, Derek Bermel, has been hailed for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity. Bermel is the Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra and his many honors include the Alpert Award in the Arts, Rome Prize, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has received commissions from the Pittsburgh, National, Saint Louis, Boston, Seattle, and BBC Symphony Orchestras, Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, WNYC Radio, eighth blackbird, the Guarneri, Ying, and JACK Quartets, Seattle and La Jolla Chamber Music Society, FIGURA (Denmark) Ensembles, Midori, ASKO/Schoenberg Ensemble, and Veenfabriek (Netherlands).

The virtual concert is free and open to the public. Details will be available at osfl.org and on the OSFL Facebook page at facebook.com/theOSFL.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

Due to the pandemic shutdown of large gatherings, the OSFL remains off-stage until further notice. In a normal year, the OSFL offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side by side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, several concerts by the Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble, as well as smaller ensemble concerts for children. Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble programs, as well as the Hertzog Concerto Competition for young artists in grades 9 - 12. The OSFL collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to advance our mutual artistic growth in the greater Elmira-Corning area.

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