

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Press Contact: Joshua Cook
Office: (501) 777-5032
Mobile: (512) 201-5990
Email: joshua@ghidotti.com

ASO Concertmaster Named to *Musical America's* Top 30 Professionals of the Year

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Dec. 7, 2021) –[Arkansas Symphony Orchestra](#) (ASO) Concertmaster, Andrew Irvin, was named one of the Top 30 Professionals of the Year by [Musical America](#). The publication's Top 30 singles out individuals in the performing arts whose leadership helped navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Irvin and his colleagues at ASO received coverage from local and national media, including *The Washington Post*, CNN, and the *Kelly Clarkson Show* for his virtual, intimate performance series "Bedtime with Bach." These performances were viewed by over one million people in more than 30 countries.

In addition to serving as concertmaster for ASO, Irvin performs with an organist as a duo and with the Camino Trio in recitals throughout the US. He also maintains a very accomplished studio of violin students of all ages and conducts an ensemble in ASO's Youth Ensembles programs. Irvin's solo appearances include works by Tchaikovsky, Paganini, Bruch, Vivaldi, Korngold, Bach, Mozart, Sarasate, Ravel, and Dvorak.

Musical America was flooded with a record number of submissions to the annual "Professionals of the Year" issue. Other honorees include much-decorated violinist Jennifer Koh, Vice President of Advocacy of the League of American Orchestras, Heather Noonan, and New York Philharmonic principal clarinetist Anthony McGill, along with many other musicians, composers, executives, artistic leaders, and educators.

Susan Elliot, Editor, News and Special Reports, said, "[ASO's] concertmaster, frustrated by his March 20 concert's sudden cancellation, recorded a few solo Bach excerpts and put them on social media," adding, "ours is a field of survivors."

The publication has been a voice of the performing arts industry for more than 100 years, with an audience of more than 14,000 organizations and 24,000 musicians and professionals in more than 95 countries.

About Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 56th full season in 2021-2022. ASO is the resident orchestra of Robinson Center Music Hall. Arkansas Symphony Orchestra performs more than sixty concerts each year for more than 165,000 people through its Stella Boyle Smith Masterworks Series, Axiom Pops Live! Series, River Rhapsodies Chamber Music Series, and numerous concerts performed around the state of Arkansas, in addition to serving central Arkansas through numerous community outreach programs and bringing live symphonic music education to over 26,000 school children and

-more-

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Press Contact: Joshua Cook
Office: (501) 777-5032
Mobile: (512) 201-5990
Email: joshua@ghidotti.com

over 200 schools. ASO's education programs include the Sturgis Music Academy, which provides violin and cello instruction to more than 350 students, and the ASO Youth Ensembles Program, which has nearly 200 students enrolled in two full orchestras and a strings-only ensemble. ASO employs 12 full-time musicians, more than 70 part-time musicians and 15 administrative staff members with an annual operating budget of \$3.5 million. Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is a member of the League of American Orchestras and a partner orchestra of the National Alliance for Audition Support, an unprecedented national initiative to increase diversity in American orchestras.

For more information about the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra call 501-666-1761 or visit www.ArkansasSymphony.org

Program notes, artist bios and high-resolution headshots available upon request.

###