

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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American Idol-winner Kris Allen to Perform with Arkansas Symphony for Holiday Spectacular

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Nov. 9, 2021) – The [Arkansas Symphony Orchestra](#) (ASO) will present the [Kris Allen Holiday Spectacular](#), the first concert of the 2021-2022 Acxiom Pops Live! season, on Friday, December 17 and Saturday December 18 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 19 at 3:00 p.m. at the Robinson Center. Kris Allen joins ASO for a program featuring the American Idol-winner singing holiday standards like *Silent Night*, *O Holy Night*, *Jingle Bells* and *Silver Bells* as well as several of the singer/songwriter's own holiday songs like *Baby Won't You Wait Until the New Year* and *Mommy Is There More Than One Santa Claus*. The program also features music from the hit film *The Polar Express*, lush symphonic instrumentals and choral works with choirs from Bryant High School and Parkview High School.

"The vision for this concert has literally been years in the making," said ASO Artistic Director Geoffrey Robson. "Kris and I have been talking about collaborating with the ASO for years and it will finally happen in the form of the 2021 ASO Holiday Spectacular! I can't wait to hear his incredible voice backed by the lush sounds of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra."

Kris Allen, a central Arkansas native and alumnus of the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra program, won season eight of American Idol and launched a career as a prolific songwriter. Now based in Nashville, Tennessee, Kris has released 11 albums, written hundreds of songs and dedicated himself to philanthropy, especially for projects supporting music education.

"It has been a dream of mine to play my songs with a symphony," said Allen. "For it to be happening at home with the symphony I grew up listening to feels like a dream with a side of hot chocolate. It's gonna' be a great time."

Kris Allen Holiday Spectacular is sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The Pops Live! series is sponsored by Acxiom. Tickets are \$16, \$36, \$59 and \$72. Active-duty military and student tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.ArkansasSymphony.org; at the Robinson Center street-level box office beginning 90 minutes prior to a concert; or by phone at 501-666-1761, ext. 1. All Arkansas students are admitted free of charge with the purchase of an adult ticket using the Entergy Kids' Ticket, downloadable at <https://www.arkansassymphony.org/freekids> or by calling the box office.

Artists

Kris Allen, vocals/guitar
(bio: <https://www.arkansassymphony.org/kris-allen>)

Bryant High School Camerata, Tanner Ogelsby, director

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Parkview High School Madrigals, Mary Shollmier, director

Geoffrey Robson, conductor
(bio: <https://www.arkansasymphony.org/geoffrey-robson>)

Program

Stephenson	Holiday Overture
Alan Silvestri (arr. Brubaker)	Polar Express Concert Suite
Anderson	Sleigh Ride
Guaraldi/Arr. Sterling	Christmastime is Here
Allen (Arr. K.S. Rhoads)	Just Like Snow
Allen (Arr. K.S. Rhoads)	Mommy Is There More Than One Santa Claus
Traditional (Arr. K.S. Rhoads)	Silent Night
Traditional (Arr. O'Loughlin)	Christmas Canticles
José Feliciano (arr. Vanacore)	Feliz Navidad
Allen (Arr. K.S. Rhoads)	Baby Won't You Wait Until the New Year
Traditional (Arr. Ryden)	O Holy Night
Allen (Arr. K.S. Rhoads)	Peace and Happiness
Lowry/Greene/Orch. Hart	Mary Did You Know?
Paul O'Neil (arr. Phillips)	Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24
Various (Arr. Finnegan)	Singalong

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 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.

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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.

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