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>>Olga Kern Images

Brevard Music Center and Asheville Symphony Partner to Bring Pianist Olga Kern to Western North Carolina for Two Performances

Brevard and Asheville, NC – Brevard Music Center (BMC) and the **Asheville Symphony** have partnered together to bring legendary pianist **Olga Kern** to Western North Carolina for two exquisite performances. Kern will perform a **BMC recital on Tuesday, May 14 in the Parker Concert Hall** and then will join the Asheville Symphony for “**Masterworks 7: Titan**” for a matinee on **Saturday, May 18**, in BMC’s Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium.

On **Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 PM**, BMC will feature Kern in the final program of its 23/24 Parker Concert Hall Series before launching its [2024 Summer Music Festival](#) from June through August. Kern’s BMC recital at its lakeside, 400-seat [Parker Concert Hall](#) will include works by Rachmaninoff, Schumann, Gershwin, Scriabin and more. Tickets for [Olga Kern in Recital](#) start at \$40 and can be reserved by visiting brevardmusic.org/tickets, calling 828.862.2105, or emailing the BMC Box Office at boxoffice@brevardmusic.org.

"For 16 years I proudly served as concertmaster of Asheville Symphony, so it is a true delight to be partnering together to bring Olga Kern back to Western North Carolina," said **Jason Posnock, BMC President & CEO**. "Wonderful things happen when regional arts organization unite to bring world-class artists and experiences to music lovers. Olga is a generational artist and one that our shared audiences will be excited to hear in recital at the intimate Parker Concert Hall and on the big stage at Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium. It will truly be an inspiring week of music-making in Brevard – please join us!"

"By collaborating with our friends at Brevard Music Center, we have the opportunity to bring some truly extraordinary talent to Western North Carolina," said **Daniel Crupi, Asheville Symphony Executive Director**. "Both organizations are pillars of musical excellence in our region, so it makes complete sense to join forces in crafting unique and outstanding artistic experiences in our communities."

On **Saturday, May 18 at 2:00 PM**, Kern will join the Asheville Symphony for its 23/24 Season Masterworks series finale, "[Masterworks 7: Titan.](#)" at BMC's 1800-seat, open-air Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium. "Masterworks 7: Titan" will feature two monumental works of the Western repertoire: Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Mahler's Symphony No. 1, "Titan." Tickets to "Masterworks 7: Titan" start at \$17 and are available now and can be purchased online at ashevillesymphony.org or by contacting the Asheville Symphony Box Office at (828) 254-7046.

Asheville Symphony Music Director Darko Butorac says he is thrilled to share the stage with Kern. "We will be performing with a truly world-class, renowned pianist." said Butorac. "Olga Kern is a living legend, and one of her famous interpretations is that of the Tchaikovsky Concerto No.1. It is a timeless classic — audiences will immediately recognize the stunning opening — and I feel so grateful we are able to share the stage with such an important musician.

"To hear a Mahler symphony is very special and somewhat rare. Mahler consistently pushes the limit of expression, often by composing for massive forces — this symphony features an enormous wind and brass section: double the usual size. One can literally feel the sound, so thundering are the climaxes in his work! This is also why we are performing at Brevard, for there is no stage large enough in Asheville to accommodate such a grand orchestra."

ABOUT OLGA KERN

With a vivid onstage presence, dazzling technique, and keen musicianship, pianist Olga Kern is widely recognized as one of the great artists of her generation, captivating audiences, and critics alike. She was born into a family of musicians and began studying piano at the age of five. At seventeen, she was awarded first prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, and in 2001, she launched her U.S. career, winning a historic Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition — the only woman in the last 50 years to do so.

ABOUT BREVARD MUSIC CENTER | SUMMER INSTITUTE & FESTIVAL

Founded in 1936, the Brevard Music Center stands as one of this country's premier summer classical music training programs and festivals. Each summer, over 700 gifted students come to the Music Center from across the United States and around the world to study with a distinguished faculty and renowned guest artists. Brevard's hallmark is the powerful sense of community that re-emerges each year as faculty and students present remarkable concerts and events to summer audiences. Learn more at www.brevardmusic.org.

ABOUT ASHEVILLE SYMPHONY

The Asheville Symphony performs and promotes symphonic music for the benefit, enjoyment, and education of the people of Western North Carolina. Related organizations include the Asheville Symphony Guild, Asheville Symphony Chorus, Asheville Symphonettes, and education initiatives such as the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra, Music in the Schools, MusicWorks, Spotlight on Young Musicians, Symphony Talk, and pre-concert lectures. Learn more at www.ashevillesymphony.org.

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