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Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Announces July 4th America Strong Concert

FWSO hosting socially-distanced concert in July 4th celebration

FORT WORTH, TX – June 22, 2020 – Today the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO) announced the organization will be hosting a special July 4th *America Strong* concert at the new Dickies Arena in Fort Worth. The performance will include guest artists from the Fort Worth Opera, The Cliburn and Texas Ballet Theater, with a special appearance by Broadway star baritone and Fort Worth favorite Major Attaway. The concert will be broadcast by WFAA on Channel 8 at [on July 4, 2020. *America Strong* will also be available to watch on the FWSO's website for two weeks following the event.

The FWSO spearheaded the collaboration with prominent local arts organizations in Fort Worth to celebrate the best of America. For the FWSO, this concert will be the first time in more than three months that the organization has been able to perform due to the virus.

"The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to bring together several prominent guest artists and Fort Worth arts organizations to be part of the *America Strong* concert," says Keith Cerny, Ph.D, President and CEO of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. "This event would not be possible without these talented performing artists, and we hope this concert can help bring hope and healing to our community during these challenging times."

The FWSO worked closely with the local and national musician unions to structure a unique stage layout that keeps all participants at a safe distance from one another during the concert. Musicians and members of the FWSO production team will rehearse and perform this concert in compliance with CDC and government guidelines for social distancing.

"We are proud to be able to provide this celebratory concert experience to North Texas and beyond," says Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass. "This collaboration among our arts community is very special. These artists get to come together to do what they love, and offer the gift of music and dance to North Texas."

The *America Strong* concert program will feature a diverse group of musicians, composers and guest artists to reflect the cultural fabric of this country. Several of the works were composed by prominent African-American composers, including William Christopher (W.C.) Handy, Scott Joplin and James Weldon Johnson.

"Dickies Arena is excited to provide a home for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra during their *America Strong* concert," said Trail Drive Management Corp's Matt Homan, president and general manager of Dickies Arena. "This special event will showcase the incredible talent of the

FWSO, The Cliburn and Texas Ballet Theater at Fort Worth's newest entertainment venue, and Dickies Arena and our partners are proud to have the opportunity to support *America Strong*."

Like many other performing arts organizations, the FWSO's 2020 schedule was disrupted due to the virus, and cut short Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya's final concerts with the organization. Harth-Bedoya will be leading the *America Strong* concert, which will close out his distinguished 20-year tenure with the organization.

For more information on the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's *America Strong* concert, please visit <https://fwsymphony.org/>.

About Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra is deeply committed to uniting its community through performance, education, and outreach, reaching an audience of more than 200,000 annually. Since its beginnings in 1912, the FWSO has been an essential thread in the city's cultural fabric and the very foundation of Fort Worth's performing arts. Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya, now in his 20th and final season at the artistic helm of the FWSO, has led the orchestra into the 21st century to new levels of excellence. Under his leadership, the FWSO has performed at Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras. Throughout his tenure, the FWSO has released 13 recordings – with several being world premiere releases – garnering international acclaim. Miguel Harth-Bedoya and the FWSO have embraced creative collaborations through residencies, partnerships, and commissions. As the principal resident company of the acoustically superb Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, the Orchestra performs a full season of concerts featuring internationally acclaimed guest artists and works by living composers. The Orchestra performs and partners with the Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, The Cliburn, and Performing Arts Fort Worth. Each summer at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the FWSO presents *Concerts in the Garden* – a series of family-friendly concerts that has become a city-wide tradition. Additionally, the orchestra hosts an annual Festival of Orchestras, providing an opportunity for non-professional orchestras across the state of Texas to perform in Bass Performance Hall. The FWSO keeps exceptional musical experiences at the heart of its community. After all—life is better with music!

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