

All Classical

P O R T L A N D

presents

Mark O'Connor's *An Appalachian Christmas*

featuring the O'Connor Band
with special guest Nancy Ives

"All Christmas music should be played so elegantly on violin" - Boston Globe

"The audience was on its feet . . . They were moved by Mr. O'Connor's journey without maps, cheering for the only musician today who can reach so deeply first into the refined, then the vernacular, giving his listeners a complex, sophisticated piece of early-21st-century classical music and then knocking them dead with the brown-dirt whine of a Texas fiddle." - The New York Times

PORTLAND, OR., September 29, 2016 — All Classical Portland presents Grammy-winning violinist Mark O'Connor at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Wednesday, December 14th as part of the acclaimed *An Appalachian Christmas* tour. The performance features "heavenly" (*Associated Press*) interpretations of Christmas classics found on O'Connor's celebrated album of the same name, which ranked #1 on Billboard's Bluegrass Album charts and has been in the top five each year since. Hailed by critics from the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* as a top 10 album of the holiday season, *An Appalachian Christmas* has become the quintessential classic American Christmas recording.

This will be the fourth consecutive year that All Classical Portland has partnered with Mark O'Connor to bring his holiday tour to Portland, and the third time presenting it in Portland's beloved Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. This "infectious mix of roots music" (*The Oregonian*) is now an established holiday tradition for Portland families. Don't miss your opportunity to secure seats! Tickets cost \$18-\$105 and are available through the Portland's website, at portland5.com. Donors to All Classical Portland receive a \$5 discount on all ticket purchases.

For the first time, Nancy Ives, principal cellist with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra will make a special guest appearance, performing works originally played by Yo-Yo Ma on O'Connor's trilogy of "Appalachia" albums, and accompanying the O'Connor Band on additional selections.

This tour features the O'Connor Band, bringing together elements from folk, bluegrass and classical traditions to create an "Americana" sound and technique that feels both modern and nostalgic. The touring musicians are founder and internationally acclaimed fiddler Mark O'Connor, fiddler and singer Maggie O'Connor, singer-songwriter and mandolinist Forrest O'Connor, singer-songwriter and fiddler, Kate Lee, bluegrass guitarist Joe Smart, and bassist/old-time banjoist Geoff Saunders.

Watch the O'Connor Band here perform here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_Siw3RifZc

Check out this backstage warmup from last year's Appalachian Christmas tour:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-VP5gHr6do>

All Classical Portland prides itself not only on reflecting the spirit of the Pacific Northwest, but on programming classical music, as much as possible, through a distinctively American lens. As one of the country's few remaining independent classical stations producing and presenting original content around the clock, with a listenership that spans the globe, the station is most relevant when showcasing local, regional and national American talent, and embracing a wide selection of the most inspiring music. In presenting Mark O'Connor, a native of the Pacific Northwest, All Classical Portland brings together a culturally vibrant community in the spirit of the season with an innovative, relevant, and delightful holiday program. **Sponsored by Bob's Red Mill**, this special concert kicks off a month of seasonal holiday music including All Classical Portland's annual **Festival of Carols, December 22nd to 24th**: four days of beautiful, uplifting and heartwarming classical music, carefully selected to be the perfect accompaniment to your holiday activities.

All Classical Portland is Portland, Oregon's classical radio station. Established in 1983, our mission is to advance knowledge of and appreciation for classical music; to build and sustain culturally vibrant local and global communities around this art form; to reflect the spirit of the Pacific Northwest; and to foster integrity, quality, and innovation in all that we do. For more information, visit www.allclassical.org.

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including videos and tickets
visit www.portland5.com