



Windborne's Music of Queen

November 22, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Brent Havens, conductor | MiG Ayesa vocals

George Cintron, guitar/vocals | Justin Avery, keyboard/vocals

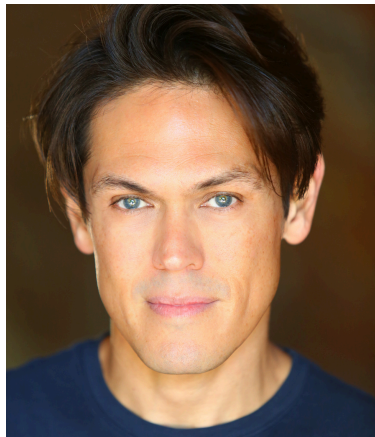
Dan Clemens, bass/vocals | Powell Randolph, drums/vocals

Selections to be announced from stage.



Brent Havens, conductor

Berklee-trained arranger/conductor Brent Havens has written music for orchestras, feature films and virtually every kind of television. His TV work includes movies for networks such as ABC, CBS and The Family Channel, commercials, sports music for networks such as ESPN, and even cartoons. He worked with the Doobie Brothers and the Milwaukee Symphony, arranging and conducting the combined group for Harley Davidson's 100th Anniversary Birthday Party Finale attended by over 150,000 fans. Havens' most recent film work includes the score for the film *Quo Vadis*, a Premier Pictures remake of the 1956 gladiator film. Havens is Arranger/Guest Conductor for all of Windborne's symphonic rock programs.



MiG Ayesa, vocals

Guest vocalist MiG Ayesa was born in the Philippines and grew up in Australia, starting his career there in Buddy. He was then chosen to join the London cast including a royal variety performance for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. MiG's other West End credits include *We Will Rock You*, *Thriller Live*, *Rent*, and *Seasons of Larson*.

His Broadway credits include *Burn the Floor* and *Rock of Ages*, which he also joined on the 1st US National Tour and in the Philippines. Back in Australia, his credits include *Grease*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin*, *West Side Story*, *Rent*, *Fame*, *The Music of Andrew*

Lloyd Webber, and a UK and Australian Tour of *The Music of Queen: Rock and Symphonic Spectacular*. He reprised the role of Galileo for the 10th Anniversary World Arena Tour of *We Will Rock You* and as one of the Tenors of Rock at their resident headline show in Las Vegas and on the high seas. MiG also sailed with *Rock Rhapsody*, as well as headlining his own one man show *MiG Rocks the Boat*.

As a devout classic rock/Queen fan, MiG's enthusiasm, vocal ability and onstage energy were the perfect fit for *The Music of Queen* show.

THE MUSIC OF QUEEN: A ROCK SYMPHONY

Bridging the gulf between rock 'n' roll and classical music, conductor/arranger Brent Havens takes the podium to present Windborne's The Music of Queen, a program he scored to extend the listening experience of Queen's exceptional tunes. Performed by an orchestra and amplified with a full rock band and vocals, Havens and his ensemble capture Queen's distinct sound while presenting some familiar and lots of new musical colors.

Delivering a fabulous rendition of Freddie Mercury's vocals is London's West End and Broadway's MiG Ayesa. "I had worked with MiG on a Rock of Ages show in St. Louis and when we were looking for a new Music of Queen show singer I immediately thought of MiG. His energy, musicianship and fantastic voice made an immediate impression on me," says Havens. "Clearly, there will never be another Freddie Mercury, and I don't want MiG to try to be him... but MiG delivers an amazing and wonderful performance on this show. He has the audience swept up in this music like no other."

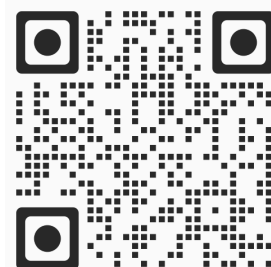
Heightened by rock concert lighting, the symphonic rock hybrid has met with riotous approval at both ends of the hall. Many classical musicians also enjoy the change of pace. "So many of the musicians grew up with this music much like we did," says Havens. "They may not have studied it to the extent that my musicians have studied it, but they are certainly familiar with the music. Who can avoid hearing 'We Will Rock You' at sporting events, on TV shows, and even in the supermarket?" Indeed, Queen's music seems omnipresent.

"We've successfully merged four different rock groups with the orchestra, and it seemed to me the next logical step in selecting a group was Queen. As always, we wanted to keep the foundation of the music as close to the originals as we could and then add additional colors to enhance what Queen had done," says Havens. "The wonderful thing with an orchestra is that you have an entire palette of sounds to call upon. The band is reproducing what Queen did live, as closely as possible within the constraints of personnel, and then having an orchestra behind the band gives the music richness, a whole new feel, a whole different sense of color but still preserving the wonderful music that they originally produced."

The show has proven a great way to introduce rock fans to the symphony experience. "As with our other shows, I'm sure there are people who are going to come out who have never seen their city's symphony orchestra, and this allows them to experience something new along with the music that they already love," says Havens.

This printed program is a condensed version.

For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the full program notes, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



*program subject to change