



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2023/24 SEASON

Sounds of New Orleans with Byron Stripling

Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 2 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Ernest Richardson, conductor | Byron Stripling, trumpet | Carmen Bradford, vocalist

Rich Thompson, drum set | Bobby Floyd, piano

Selections to be announced from stage.



Ernest Richardson, conductor

Ernest Richardson is the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has been integral in the development of the Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs, in addition to his artistic leadership in the creation and curation of the successful Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and Movies Series. Richardson's innovation can be especially seen in the Symphony's Choral Collaborative, Celebrate Creativity, and Mission: Imagination programs, which remain mainstays of the organization's season.

In addition to his post in Omaha, Richardson holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. During his tenure, the organization has grown from a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra, attracting the finest musicians from the Front Range of Colorado. He is also the founding artistic director and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.

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Featured Artist



Byron Stripling, trumpet

With a contagious smile and captivating charm, conductor, trumpet virtuoso, singer, and actor Byron Stripling has ignited audiences across the globe. In 2020, Stripling was named principal pops conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and currently serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Stripling's baton has led countless orchestras throughout the United States and Canada including the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Fort Worth Symphony to name a few.

As a soloist with the Boston Pops, Stripling has performed frequently under the baton of Keith Lockhart, as well as being the featured soloist on the PBS television special *Evening at Pops*, with conductors John Williams and Mr. Lockhart. Currently, Stripling serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra.

Since his Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops, Stripling has become a pops orchestra favorite throughout the country, soloing with over 100 orchestras around the world including the Boston Pops, National Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and orchestras throughout Europe and Asia. He has been a featured soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and performs at festivals around the world.

An accomplished actor and singer, Stripling was chosen, following a worldwide search, to star in the lead role of the Broadway bound musical *Satchmo*. Many will remember his featured cameo performance in the television movie *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and his critically acclaimed virtuoso trumpet and riotous comedic performance in the 42nd Street production of *From Second Avenue to Broadway*.

Stripling earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster. He has also played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Dave Brubeck, Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, and Buck Clayton in addition to The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, and The GRP All Star Big Band.

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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

