



Dear Friends of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra,

I begin my letter with a quote from writer Craig D. Lounsbrough, "An end is only a beginning in disguise." It is in this spirit of optimism and anticipation that I announce my retirement as

Music Director of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra at the end of this season. It has been a joy to make music for three decades with this fine orchestra and these fabulous musicians. Long-term planning is underway to ensure the continued success and vitality of the SSO.

In the meantime, I'm at a loss to contain my excitement for this current season, "**American Legacy**", which I'll highlight! For the first time the orchestra will integrate blue-grass music into its programming on Oct. 8 with the collaboration of the **Multiple Grammy-winning Mark O'Conner Duo with Maggie O'Conner!** They will dazzle us with their Threads and Strings Suite.

The SSO reunites with undoubtedly two of my favorite church music ministries, St. Michael on Dec. 9 and St. Francis of Assisi on Dec. 10 for "**Holiday Harmonies**". These holiday community outreach concerts are audience favorites!

From a 20 year poll of its listenership, the London based radio station ClassicFM announced **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2** to be at the top of the popularity list. On March 3, Chicago area native Michael Finlay will perform this beloved work in a program entitled "**The Romantics**".

Southwest United States is known for more than its perennial droughts! Discover for yourself on April 7 when the "**Southwest Symphony Orchestra Journeys Southwest**" to perform Grofé's Grand Canyon Suite and Copland's Billy the Kid Suite plus another SSO collaborative first: Square Dancers TBA!

We culminate the season and my tenure with the orchestra on May 11, a special Saturday evening concert featuring **Grammy-nominated Helen Welch**. This will be Ms. Welch's third appearance with the SSO as she celebrates the Great American Songbook.

Join the Southwest Symphony Orchestra in "**American Legacy**" this season! Subscription options are available...

Best Wishes,

David Crane
Music Director

EDUCATIONAL CONCERT



Thursday,
October 26, 2023
10 am

SPOOKTACULAR!



Phantom of the Opera Selections
Harry Potter Highlights
Sorcerer's Apprentice Themes
Pirates of the Caribbean
Night on Bald Mountain

Plus an introduction to the families of instruments.

Ozinga Chapel - Trinity Christian College

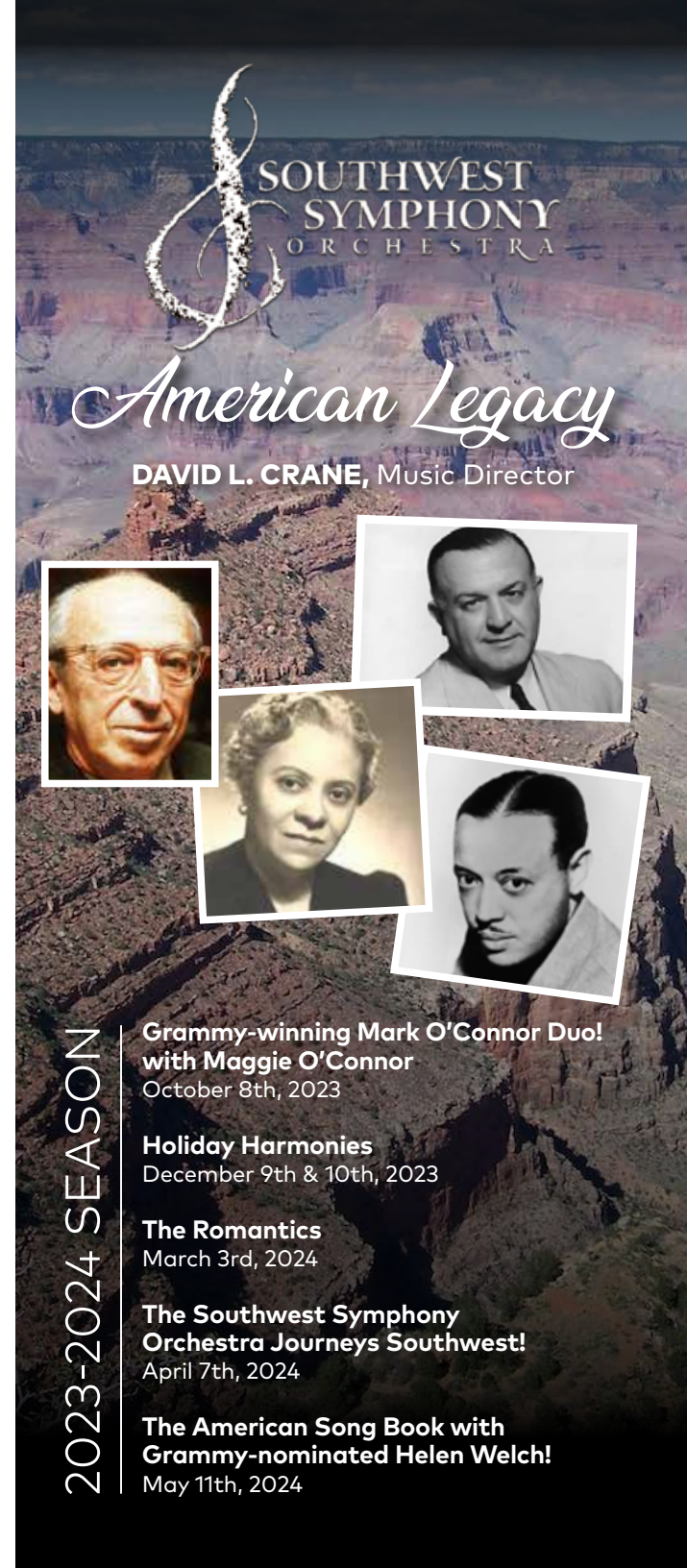
Call 708-802-0686
for more information.

TO ORDER TICKETS:

Mail insert with check to
SSO, 6601 W. College Dr. Box 270
Palos Heights IL 60463
or visit www.southwestsymphony.com
or call 708-802-0686
Email: southwestsymphony@gmail.com



This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council



American Legacy

DAVID L. CRANE, Music Director



2023-2024 SEASON

Grammy-winning Mark O'Connor Duo!
with Maggie O'Connor
October 8th, 2023

Holiday Harmonies
December 9th & 10th, 2023

The Romantics
March 3rd, 2024

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra Journeys Southwest!
April 7th, 2024

The American Song Book with Grammy-nominated Helen Welch!
May 11th, 2024

American Legacy

2023-2024 Season



TRINITY



All concerts at Trinity Christian College
Ozinga Chapel Auditorium unless otherwise noted.
6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 | 4:00 P.M.

Grammy-winning Mark O'Connor Duo! with Maggie O'Connor

Appalachian Spring *Copland*
Strings & Threads Suite
Mark O'Connor Duo with Maggie O'Connor
Symphony No. 3 *Price*



"One of the most talented and imaginative
artists working in music -- any music -- today."
- The Los Angeles Times

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.

Holiday Harmonies at St. Michael Church

14327 Highland Ave., Orland Park, IL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 4:00 P.M.

Holiday Harmonies at St. Francis of Assisi

15050 Wolf Rd., Orland Park, IL

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 | 4:00 P.M.

The Romantics

The Moldau *Smetana*
Piano Concerto No. 2 *Rachmaninoff*
Michael Finlay, piano
Symphony No. 2 *Sibelius*



"Sensitive, commanding"
- WFMT, Chicago classical radio

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2023 | 4:00 P.M.

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra Journeys Southwest!

Billy the Kid Suite *Copland*
Go West! Suite
Magnificent 7/The Good, Bad & the Ugly/
Hang 'Em High
Southwest from "The American Scene" *Still*
Desert Moods from "Celebrate America"
(World Premiere) *Wallin*
Square Dancing Medley
TBA
Grand Canyon Suite *Grofé*

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

The American Song Book with Grammy-nominated Helen Welch!

Helen Welch puts a fresh twist on America's
best loved classics.



"Helen's sophisticated vocals and humor
leave the audiences breezily enchanted."
- Broadway World