



**KNOXVILLE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

Aram Demirjian, Music Director

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PRESS RELEASE

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KNOXVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS BEETHOVEN'S "EROICA"

George Walker's "Lyric for Strings," Florence Price's Violin Concerto No. 1, and
Beethoven's "Eroica" featuring violinist Bella Hristova

Knoxville, TN – February 13, 2020 – In two weeks, the **Knoxville Symphony Orchestra** continues its Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series with Beethoven's "Eroica" featuring violinist **Bella Hristova**. Music Director **Aram Demirjian** leads the performance on **Thursday, February 20 and Friday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Theatre**. These performances are sponsored by The Trust Company of Tennessee and Jay and Marga McBride. [View ticket and general information here.](#)

Two underrepresented but essential American composers comprise the first half of the program. The evening begins with the searingly emotional elegy, *Lyric for Strings*, by George Walker, the first African American to have won the Pulitzer Prize for Music. This piece is followed by Florence Price's **Violin Concerto No. 1**. Violinist Bella Hristova, whom Knoxville audiences will remember from her 2017 Knoxville performance, will complete the evening with Beethoven's triumphant Symphony No. 3, "**Eroica**" ("Heroic").

Tickets may be purchased by calling 865-291-3310 or [visiting our website](#). Single tickets range from \$15.00 - \$85.00. Groups of ten or more can purchase tickets at a discounted rate by calling 865-521-2337.

About Bella Hristova

Internationally acclaimed violinist Bella Hristova is known for her passionate and powerful performances, beautiful sound, and compelling command of her instrument. Her numerous prizes include an Avery Fisher Career Grant, First Prize in the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and First Prize in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. "Bella Unaccompanied," Ms. Hristova's recording on A.W. Tonogold Records, features works by Corigliano, Kevin Puts, Piazzolla, Milstein, and Bach. A committed proponent of new music, she commissioned iconic American composer Joan Tower to write "Second String Force," which she premiered and performed in recitals throughout the United States and abroad. She further collaborated with her husband David Ludwig on a violin concerto written for her through a consortium of eight major orchestras across the country. Bella Hristova began violin studies at the age of six in her native Bulgaria. She then studied with Ida Kavafian at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and received her Artist Diploma with Jaime Laredo at

Indiana University. Ms. Hristova plays a 1655 Nicolò Amati violin, once owned by the violinist Louis Krasner.

[Full bio found here.](#)

About Aram Demirjian

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra is flourishing under the transformative leadership of Music Director Aram Demirjian. Aram has appeared with the nation's top orchestras and maintains a close relationship with The Philadelphia Orchestra, with which he appears three times in the 2019-20 season. He also makes subscription debuts with the Tucson Symphony, Portland Symphony and the Orlando Philharmonic. Other recent engagements include the Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Omaha, San Antonio and St. Louis symphonies, the Minnesota and Sarasota orchestras, and the Louisiana Philharmonic. A gifted public speaker, he is a passionate and vocal advocate for the arts, and he regularly addresses community and business organizations advocating for arts non-profits and arts education in our society. Aram is the winner of the 2019 Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S. and the 2011 Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize from the Aspen Music Festival, and he has appeared in masterclasses with renowned conductors Bernard Haitink and Kurt Masur. Aram holds a joint Bachelor of Arts in Music and Government from Harvard University and a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from New England Conservatory.

About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Led by Music Director Aram Demirjian, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre, and Civic Auditorium, as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks, and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit www.knoxvillesymphony.com or call 865-291-3310.

Social Media Posts:

Twitter: @Knoxsymphony performs George Walker's "Lyric for Strings," Florence Price's Violin Concerto No. 1, and Beethoven's "Eroica" featuring violinist Bella Hristova. Feb. 20-21, 7:30 p.m., @tntheatre. Tickets start at \$15, [online here](#) or by calling 865-291-3310.