

All Classical

P O R T L A N D

presents

Mark O'Connor's *An Appalachian Christmas*

featuring the Grammy Award-winning O'Connor Band
with special guests Allen & Laura Vizzutti, and Nancy Ives

"His band of exceptional musicians delivered... with grace and style, each of the six members a precision instrument performing at their highest level... the resulting dynamic is irresistible." - EDGE Media Network on last year's Portland show

PORTLAND, OR., November 8, 2017 — For a fifth and final year, All Classical Portland presents multi Grammy and CMA Award-winning violinist Mark O'Connor, performing with the Grammy Award-winning O'Connor Band, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Friday, December 22nd 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 is hailed by critics from the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* as a top 10 album of the holiday season. According to *The New York Times*, O'Connor's prolific career as a classical music composer and legendary bluegrass fiddler is "one of the most spectacular journeys in recent American music," having brought about collaborations with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis, Alison Krauss, Vince Gill, Earl Scruggs, and James Taylor.

Fresh off their **Grammy win for the 2017 Best Bluegrass Album**, the O'Connor Band delivers stunning vocal harmonies and sophisticated instrumentals that has won over fans of every musical style. Combining elements from classical, folk, and bluegrass, the band creates a fresh "Americana" sound that feels both modern and nostalgic. In the O'Connor Band, Mark is joined by his wife Maggie (MA, Peabody Institute of Music) on violin and harmony vocals, his son Forrest (former Tennessee State Mandolin Champion) on mandolin and lead vocals, and Forrest's fiancée, Kate Lee (frequent performer on the CMA Awards) on violin and lead vocals. National flatpick champion Joe Smart on guitar and bassist/banjoist extraordinaire Geoff Saunders (DMA, University of Miami) round out the ensemble.

Virtuosic, Seattle-based trumpeter Allen Vizzutti will perform an opening set accompanied by his wife, pianist Laura Vizzutti. Returning to share the stage with Mark and the band this year, Nancy Ives (principal cellist with the Oregon Symphony) makes a special guest appearance performing cello parts originally crafted by Yo-Yo Ma. *An Appalachian Christmas* will be a festive and joyous celebration from start to finish!

This will be the fifth and final year that All Classical Portland has partnered with Mark O'Connor to bring his holiday tour to Portland. "With all the hustle and bustle associated with this time of year, it's a real joy to find something so simple and pure as this holiday offering from Mark O'Connor." (*The Daily Local News, PA*) **So don't miss your last chance to experience the magic, LIVE, at the beloved Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall!** 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.

Tune in to All Classical Portland on Friday, November 24th at 7pm for a very special broadcast: an hour-long, fully produced program featuring “best-of” selections from last year’s Portland performance of *An Appalachian Christmas*. This teaser is sure to whet your appetite for the fifth and final show in Portland, this season!

Watch the O’Connor Band perform live at the Grammys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je77nmYVDWs>

Check out this Appalachian Christmas tour backstage warmup: <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 showcases local, regional and national American talent, 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. 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
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