

# GREENSBORO SYMPHONY

PRESS RELEASE

**EMBARGO UNTIL JUNE 18th, 2024 AT 10:00 AM**

## Greensboro Symphony Orchestra Announces New Music Director and Principal Guest Conductor

**Greensboro, NC – June 18th, 2024** – The Greensboro Symphony Orchestra (GSO) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Christopher Dragon as its new Music Director, starting with the 2024-2025 season. This momentous decision comes after a comprehensive two-year search process, which included extensive interviews, auditions, and valuable feedback from GSO musicians, board members, staff, subscribers, and audience members.

Christopher Dragon, currently the Resident Conductor of the Colorado Symphony and Music Director of the Wyoming Symphony, will bring his exceptional talent and dynamic leadership



to Greensboro. He will be the first new Music Director of the GSO in over 20 years. His role will extend beyond planning and conducting the Masterworks Series; this year, Dragon will also lead several GSO POPS concerts and the annual GSO Education Concert Series, which provides approximately 50,000 music education experiences to children in the Triad area each year. This is fitting, considering Dragon cites Leonard Bernstein, one of the 20th century's greatest music educators and conductors, as a major influence. Bernstein's revolutionary approach to classical music education, particularly through his Young People's Concerts in the 1950s-70s, stands out as a significant inspiration.

Hailing from Perth, Australia, with parents originating in Singapore, Christopher Dragon has rapidly emerged as one of the most exciting conductors of his generation. His career began with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, where his flair and dedication quickly earned him recognition. In 2015, Dragon joined the Colorado Symphony, captivating audiences with his vibrant and engaging performances. Simultaneously, his leadership of the Wyoming Symphony has garnered widespread acclaim. Dragon is also highly sought after as a guest conductor and

has worked with many major orchestras all over the world including the San Francisco Symphony, San Diego Symphony, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the WDR Funkhausorchester. He has also collaborated with a wide range of artists from Renee Fleming, Joshua Bell and Cynthia Erivo to groups like the Wu-Tang Clan and Cypress Hill to name just a few.

"I am thrilled to begin this journey with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra as its new Music Director." Says Dragon. "I look forward to working with the talented musicians of the GSO, board and administration to create unforgettable symphonic experiences to inspire the next generation of music lovers. My wife, Ariadna and I absolutely loved our time in Greensboro and look forward to immersing ourselves into the vibrant Greensboro community (along with our pup Churro)."

In another exciting development, the GSO is delighted to announce Chelsea Tipton as its new Principal Guest Conductor. His impressive skill and experience, coupled with his deep roots in Greensboro, make him a perfect fit for this role. Tipton will conduct several POPS and Masterworks concerts, providing Dragon with the flexibility needed to fulfill his commitments with the GSO, Colorado Symphony, and Wyoming Symphony.



Tipton, a Greensboro native, has enjoyed a distinguished career as a conductor. He currently holds the esteemed position of Music Director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and serves as the Principal Pops Conductor with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Tipton has had the honor of performing with prominent orchestras across the United States, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In 2011, Tipton was chosen to conduct for musical icon Sting's international tour. Tipton's connection to Greensboro and his passion for making high-quality music make him an invaluable addition to the GSO team.

"Returning to my hometown in this capacity is a dream come true," said Chelsea Tipton. "I am excited to collaborate with Christopher Dragon and the talented musicians of the Greensboro Symphony to bring extraordinary performances to our community."

Because the upcoming GSO concert season was planned long in advance of hiring a new Music Director, several of the scheduled 2024-2025 concerts conflict with Dragon's existing schedule. As a result, more concerts than usual will be led by a guest conductor for the upcoming season (see schedule below).

Saturday, September 14, 2024 – POPS Concert 1: Australian Bee Gees  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Saturday, September 28, 2024 – Masterworks Concert 1: Gabriela Martinez, Piano

**Conducted by Guest François López-Ferrer**

Saturday, November 2, 2024 – Masterworks Concert 2: Chris Thile, Mandolin  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Friday, November 22, 2024 – POPS Concert 2: The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension  
**Conducted by Tipton**

Saturday, January 18, 2025 - POPS Concert 3: Aretha Franklin Tribute  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Saturday, February 1, 2025 – Masterworks Concert 3: Hina Huong-Huu, Violin  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Friday, February 14, 2025 - POPS Concert 4: Daniel Emmet  
**Conducted by Guest Evan Roider**

Saturday, March 1, 2025 – Masterworks Concert 4: Bryan Cheng, Cello  
**Conducted by Tipton**

March 18-21, 2025 – GSO Education Concert Series  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Saturday, March 22, 2025 – POPS Concert 5: Cirque de la Symphonie  
**Conducted by Dragon**

Friday, April 11, 2025 – Masterworks Concert 5: D. J. Sparr, Thomas Flippin, Guitar  
**Conducted by Guest Robert Moody**

Saturday, May 17, 2025 – Masterworks Concert 6: Mozart Requiem  
**Conducted by Tipton**

Experience a new era of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra with Christopher Dragon and Chelsea Tipton!

**For Tickets:** Go to [greensborosymphony.org](https://greensborosymphony.org) / [TangerCenter.com](https://TangerCenter.com) / [ticketmaster.com](https://ticketmaster.com) /  
or call the GSO Box Office at (336) 335-5456 x224 or email at  
[boxoffice@greensborosymphony.org](mailto:boxoffice@greensborosymphony.org)

### **About the Greensboro Symphony:**

*Founded in 1959, the [Greensboro Symphony Orchestra](https://greensborosymphony.org) strives to enrich the cultural life of Greensboro and surrounding areas with the highest quality music and music education programs. This nonprofit organization impacts tens of thousands of lives annually by presenting concerts,*

*special events, and targeted educational opportunities for students in four North Carolina counties  
- one of the largest suites of music education programs among Southeastern orchestras.*

Discover the GSO on social media:



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