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THROUGH SPACE & TIME

Orchestra Concert

Connor Bogart O'Brien, vocalist

Colonel Greg Johnson, narrator

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WELCOME



Hello everyone and welcome to the fifth full-orchestra subscription concert of 2024-25, *Through Space and Time*.

We thank you for you taking time out of your busy schedules to share some out-of-this-world programming this evening. If this is your first time experiencing the FSO,

we certainly hope that you would consider coming again.

Spring is a busy time of year for everyone, including the FSO! Plans for the 2025-26 are shaping up and it looks to be an exciting season for the orchestra and chorale. The Summer Concert Series is also developing with two full orchestra concerts and our Around Town Tour with our small ensembles. Watch for the announcement for this summer!

In addition, after an absence of six years, we are planning our annual May Gala Fundraising Event! This year's event is called *Symphony in Bloom* and will be a garden party in and around the beautiful spring setting at the McBride Arboretum and Cedar Point Building at BGSU Firelands. We'll also be joined by some of the musicians of the FSO, who will entertain during the cocktail hour and socialize with us at dinner! Details can be found at www.firelandssymphony.com/bloom.

While traditionally April is the end of our season, we have one more concert for this season and it will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2025 with the amazingly talented violinist Andrés Cárdenes. We certainly hope you can join us.

Again, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoy this evening's program.

Ron Brooker
Ron Brooker, FSO Executive Director

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PODIUM NOTES



The Firelands Symphony is proud to welcome astronaut Gregory H. Johnson to participate in our salute to NASA entitled "Through Space and Time."

A former NASA astronaut and a retired colonel in the United States Air Force, Johnson is a veteran of two space flights, STS-123 and STS-134. He served as pilot on his first mission, which delivered the Kibo logistics module and the Dextre robot arm to the International Space Station. For our concert, he will serve as narrator for Peter Nero's *Voyage into Space* and also relate his personal experiences in space.

Included in our performance will be stunning videos taken from outer space supplied by NASA Glenn to accompany several of our musical selections.

Keeping with our theme, Firelands Symphony favorite Connor Bogart O'Brien will be singing *Bring Him Home* and *Stars* from *Les Miserables*, *The Impossible Dream* from *Man of La Mancha*, and *Into the Fire* from *The Scarlett Pimpernel*.

We'll also be performing *The Flintstones Meet the Jetsons*, *Themes from Star Trek*, and I'll play *Stardust* on my blue clarinet.

So fasten your seatbelts and prepare for an "out of this world" performance by the Firelands Symphony Orchestra!

Carl Topilow, Music Director and Conductor

CARL TOPILOW



During Carl Topilow's tenure as the Firelands Symphony Orchestra's Music Director and Conductor, the orchestra has seen a dramatic improvement in the orchestra's quality, a significant rise in subscriptions and the appearance of world class soloists to our stage.

In addition to his work with the FSO, Topilow is Founding Conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Conductor Laureate of the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer festival in Breckenridge, Colorado, and was named Faculty Emeritus at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has served as principal pops conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra.

Topilow has performed as guest conductor with 132 different orchestras in 37 states and 12 foreign countries. This year, he will be hosting his fourth conducting workshop in Cleveland.

Topilow's wife Shirley is President and CEO of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra. Their daughter Emily is a marketing associate with the Cleveland Clinic, and their daughter Jenny is a violinist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Carl's book, *The Orchestral Conductor's Career Handbook* published by Rowman and Littlefield, is now available through www.carltopilow.com and www.rowman.com.



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GUEST ARTISTS



GREGORY H. JOHNSON GUEST NARRATOR

Gregory H. Johnson (Colonel, USAF, Ret.) served as a NASA Astronaut (1998-2013). He logged over 34 days in space piloting two space shuttle missions supporting construction and operations of the International Space

Station. A 1994 graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School, Johnson has flown over 5,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft including 61 combat missions over two deployments in the Middle East.

Col. Johnson was born in South Ruislip, Middlesex, United Kingdom, but considers Fairborn, Ohio, and Traverse City, Michigan, his hometowns. In 1980, Johnson graduated from Park Hills High School in Fairborn, Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1984 and his Masters in Science in Flight Structures Engineering from Columbia University in 1985. In 2005, Johnson received his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Texas (Austin). After retiring from the Air Force and NASA he served as Executive Director, CASIS (Center for the Advancement of Science in Space). Johnson currently serves as a test pilot for the Lockheed Martin Corporation in Fort Worth, TX.

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GUEST ARTISTS



CONNOR BOGART O'BRIEN GUEST VOCALIST

Connor grew up as a classical violinist before ultimately studying vocal performance/opera at the Eastman School of Music in New York. During his time at Eastman, he was also accepted into the nationally ranked male acappella

group, The University of Rochester Yellowjackets, (as seen on NBC's "The Sing Off") as a featured soloist.

In the years since, Connor has been a soloist with the National Repertory Orchestra, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Southeast Texas Symphony, The New Haven Symphony, The Firelands Symphony, The Rochester Philharmonic, The Akron Symphony, The Cleveland Pops, The Charlotte Symphony, The Fort Worth Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra. He also starred on The History Channel's *Shifting Gears*, and has served as executive music supervisor and composer to The Discovery Channel for their series, *The Kustomizer*. As a songwriter, several of his original songs have been featured on national television, including ABC's "Days of Our Lives" and MTV's, "The Hills", and the WB's "Roswell".

"Inside Out", the lead single from his self-titled first album, vaulted to the number one radio position in France, and held the position for several weeks. Two full-length albums followed, which led to performing as the opening act on over 20 national tours. Including Jim Brickman, Ashlee Simpson, Huey Lewis and The News, Edwin McCain, Richard Marx, Rick Springfield, Hall & Oates, and Mariah Carey.

Connor can currently be heard behind the scenes as Artistic Director of "Shining Star CLE" at Playhouse Square, former Director of the Akron Civic All City Musical, as well as singing and recording jingles for companies such as Hasbro Toys and American Greetings. He has also been seen in over 32 countries worldwide as a headlining act on Princess, Holland America, Celebrity and Royal Caribbean cruise lines with his headlining vocal show available in both English and Mandarin Chinese. Learn more at www.connorbogart.com

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CONCERT PROGRAM

Through Space & Time | April 12, 2025

The Firelands Symphony Orchestra
Carl Topilow, Music Director & Conductor
Dean Buck, Conducting Assistant

Guest Artists: Connor Bogart O'Brien, vocalist | Colonel Greg Johnson, narrator

Also sprach Zarathustra: Introduction.....Richard Strauss
"O Fortuna" from *Carmina Burana*.....Carl Orff
The Mission Theme.....John Williams
"Into the Fire" from *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.....Frank Wildhorn
Connor Bogart O'Brien, vocalist
The Flintstones Meet the Jetsons.....arr. Robert Wendel
"Stars" from *Les Misérables*.....Claude-Michel Schönberg
Voyage Into Space.....Peter Nero
Colonel Greg Johnson, narrator

INTERMISSION

Adventures on Earth from *E.T.*.....John Williams
Music from *Apollo 13*.....James Horner, arr. John Moss
"Across the Stars" from *Attack of the Clones*.....John Williams
Introduction by Colonel Greg Johnson
"The Impossible Dream" from *The Man of La Mancha*.....Mitch Leigh
Connor Bogart O'Brien, vocalist
Stardust.....Hoagy Carmichael, arr. Paul Ferguson
Carl Topilow, clarinet
"Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables*.....Claude-Michel Schönberg
Connor Bogart O'Brien, vocalist
***Star Trek* Through the Years**.....arr. Calvin Custer
"The Imperial March" from *The Empire Strikes Back*.....John Williams
Theme from *Superman*.....John Williams



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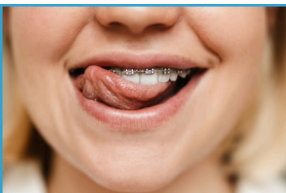
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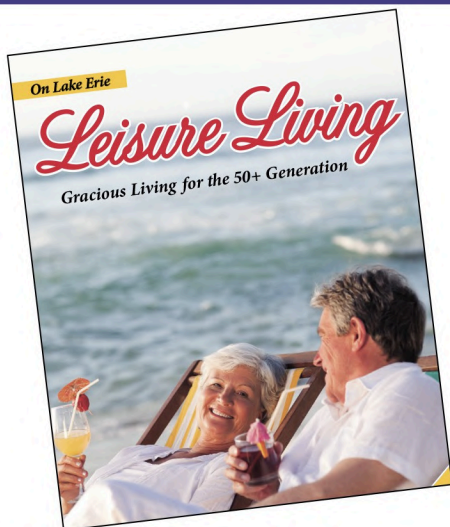
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