



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION & INTERVIEWS:

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James Buckey, Director of Marketing

Akron Symphony Orchestra Releases World Premiere Recording of Julia Perry's "Three Spirituals" and Announces Worldwide Distribution of All Perry's Unpublished Works

Akron, OH – The Akron Symphony Orchestra (ASO) proudly announces the world premiere recording of *Three Spirituals*, a work by Akron native Julia Perry, as part of an ambitious initiative to distribute Perry's previously unpublished music globally. This groundbreaking project highlights Perry's unique contributions to 20th-century classical music, blending African American musical traditions with modernist techniques.

The recording is now available on major streaming platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music. Visit akronsymphony.org/juliaperry for more information.

Julia Perry's Unpublished Works to Receive Global Distribution

In collaboration with Videmus Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting underrepresented composers, and Boosey & Hawkes, one of the world's premier classical music publishers, ASO celebrates the planned international release of Perry's entire unpublished catalog. Videmus, led by Dr. Louise Toppin, acquired copyrights to Perry's works in September of 2024. ASO Music Director Christopher Wilkins serves as a principal editor on the Videmus team. Boosey & Hawkes will distribute these works, making them available to musicians and scholars worldwide. Today the Videmus-Boosey partnership has released six Perry works. Dozens more will be released over the next several years.

Julia Perry's hometown of Akron has played key role in the resurrection of her music. Since 2021, Wilkins has led multiple reading and recording sessions and performed many of Perry's unpublished works with the Akron Symphony. Akron-born Composer and Conductor Roger Zahab has worked for decades to edit Perry's works and support performances of her music. And key to solving the copyright challenges related to Julia Perry's estate, Akron attorneys Dave Lieberth and Kevin Davis, together with Summit County Probate Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer, have created a legal path forward.

Music Director Christopher Wilkins expressed his pride in ASO's pivotal role:

"I celebrate this thrilling milestone with our musicians, board, and staff—including audio engineer Steve Savanyu—with tremendous pride. This partnership helps correct a historical wrong, giving Julia Perry the worldwide recognition she deserves."

Julia Perry: Akron's Trailblazing Composer

Born in Lexington, KY, and raised in Akron, OH, Julia Perry (1924–1979) gained acclaim in her early career with performances by the New York Philharmonic and studied under luminaries such as Nadia Boulanger. Despite her achievements, her music largely fell into obscurity after her untimely death. With this project, her extensive body of work, including orchestral, choral, and chamber music, will finally reach the wider audiences it merits.

The ASO, under Wilkins' leadership, has actively championed Perry's legacy, performing and recording her works as part of the Julia Perry Project. This initiative culminated in the recording of *Three Spirituals*, a piece that reimagines traditional sacred music through a contemporary lens.

About Akron Symphony Orchestra

The Akron Symphony Orchestra has enriched Northeast Ohio's cultural landscape for over 70 years. Committed to artistic excellence and community engagement, ASO offers diverse programming that inspires and connects audiences.

About Videmus Inc.

Videmus Inc., directed by Dr. Louise Toppin, promotes concert works by African American, women, and underrepresented composers. It specializes in research, publication, and performances to advance the legacy of marginalized musicians.

About Boosey & Hawkes

Boosey & Hawkes is a global leader in classical music publishing, representing legendary composers and fostering contemporary talent.

For media inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact James Buckey at buckey@akronsymphony.org or Christina Jensen at christina@jensenartists.com.

The Akron Symphony Orchestra has been an integral part of Northeast Ohio's cultural landscape for over 70 years. Committed to fostering artistic excellence and community engagement, the ASO presents diverse and beloved programming that inspires, entertains, and connects. With a passion for education and collaboration, the ASO continues to be a driving force in bringing world-class performances and regional pride to Akron.

For more information about the premiere of Three Spirituals or to purchase tickets, visit www.akronsymphony.org or contact buckey@akronsymphony.org.

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