

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Windborne and Brent Havens Perform Queen's Iconic Classics with the Jacksonville Symphony**

**Jacksonville, FL:** The Jacksonville Symphony concludes its *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series* for the 2021/22 season by welcoming the acclaimed musicians of Windborne and Brent Havens for two sensational performances of Queen's classics.

The Symphony's concerts will be on June 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m., at Jacoby Symphony Hall and will feature Queen's most popular hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Another One Bites the Dust," and "Somebody to Love."

MiG Ayesa, the lead vocalist of Windborne, first became immersed in the music of Queen by starring as Galileo Figaro in the West End musical *We Will Rock You*. For this production, Ayesa was handpicked by Brian May and Roger Taylor, two original members of Queen, and received firsthand musical instruction from the famous musicians. Ayesa also performed alongside May and Taylor for special performances like the 1000<sup>th</sup> show of *We Will Rock You*.

"I feel like I've had a masterclass in the music of Queen by getting to work with its members like Brian May and Roger Taylor," said Ayesa. "That is something that I will never take for granted, and I feel very fortunate to have that experience."

Joining Ayesa, the five other members of Windborne, and the Symphony on stage is Brent Havens, the arranger and guest conductor for all of Windborne's symphonic rock programs, who will conduct the two performances.

"The great thing about the music of Queen is it is so rich harmonically and melodically that I heard the orchestra in my head right away and knew how I wanted to arrange the music," said Havens. "Once I heard the music come alive, I didn't have to make any changes. The music speaks for itself."

Other Windborne members featured in the Symphony's performances include Steve Zukowsky on guitar, Bob Habib on drums, Justin Avery on keyboard/background vocals, Pete VanDeRiet on bass guitar, and Deana Dickershaid on background vocals.

"Even though many people have heard the music of Queen, having their songs performed live with full rock band and an orchestra like the Jacksonville Symphony elevates them to an

entirely different level," said Ayesa. "This is a celebration of Queen's iconic music and is an experience people will never forget."

### **About Brent Havens**

Havens has worked with prestigious orchestras across the globe including the Royal Philharmonic and the BBC Concert Orchestra in London, the CBSO in Birmingham, England, and many others.

Havens' other accolades include completing the score for the film "Quo Vadis," and working with the Baltimore Symphony and the NFL's Baltimore Ravens to produce the Thanksgiving Day halftime show's music in 2013. Havens also conducted the Doobie Brothers and the Milwaukee Symphony for Harley Davidson's 100th Anniversary Birthday Party Finale attended by over 150,000 fans.

### **About MiG Ayesa**

Ayesa began his career in Australia's theatre production of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. Since then, he has joined the London cast for a *Royal Variety Performance* for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, held title roles in several West End productions, and starred in numerous Broadway productions including *Burn the Floor* and *Rock of Ages*.

Ayesa has garnered many TV and film credits including *Queen of the Damned*, *Subterano*, and 'Joe King' in the TV series *The Ferals*. He has also made guest appearances in *People's Choice Awards* and *Good Morning Australia*.

### **About The Jacksonville Symphony**

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org), like them at [facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://facebook.com/JaxSymphony); follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.

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