

## **West Coast Premiere: Tania León's *Pasajes***

**Auburn, WA:** Auburn Symphony Orchestra is proud to perform the West Coast Premiere of Tania León's new work *Pasajes*. The concert, ***American Voices*, is on Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 2:30 PM at Auburn Performing Arts Center.** Tickets and information can be found at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org) or by calling the ASO office at 253-887-7777. Ticket prices are \$40 general, \$32 seniors, and \$12 students.

Auburn Symphony Orchestra co-commissioned this new work from Tania León with Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as part of NewMusic USA's Amplifying Voices program. This premiere highlights ASO's ongoing commitment to expand the performance repertoire to be more inclusive and relevant to the local community. Since the beginning of Music Director Wesley Schulz's tenure in Auburn, the orchestra has expanded its programming to promote lesser heard and marginalized voices in orchestral music. *Amplifying Voices is a NewMusic USA initiative which is powered by the Sphinx Ventures Fund, with additional support from ASCAP and the Sorel Organization.*

**Tania León's new work *Pasajes*** ("Passages") recalls scenes from her life growing up, including a song reminiscent of the melodies of Latin American cultures, rhythms indicating the pulse of Caribbean culture, and the dances of carnival. First performed in April 2022 by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra conducted by Akiko Fujimoto, this work will next be performed by co-commissioner Auburn Symphony Orchestra on October 9, 2022.

This exciting premiere is not the only piece at this don't-miss concert. In this remarkable exploration of ***American Voices*** in orchestral music, you are invited to saunter, skip or dance your way down the streets with George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, treat yourself to the west coast premiere of a new work by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Tania León, and feel invigorated by the romantic, British-inspired work of Amy Beach.

### **Program**

TANIA LEÓN – *Pasajes*

GEORGE GERSHWIN – *An American in Paris*

AMY BEACH – *Symphony No. 2*

*Concert Length: approximately 2 hours including one intermission*

## **About Tania León**

Tania León (b. Havana, Cuba) is highly regarded as a composer, conductor, educator and advisor to arts organizations. Her orchestral work *Stride*, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, was awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Music. In 2022, the John F. Kennedy Center selected her as one of the 45th Honorees for lifetime artistic achievements.

Recent premieres include works for Los Angeles Philharmonic, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, NDR Symphony Orchestra, Grossman Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, and Jennifer Koh's project, *Alone Together*. Appearances as guest conductor include Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille, Gewandhausorchester, Orquesta Sinfónica de Guanajuato, and Orquesta Sinfónica de Cuba, among others.

Upcoming commissions feature works for the NewMusic USA Amplifying Voices Program, the League of American Orchestras, The Musical Fund Society in Philadelphia to celebrate their 200th anniversary, and Claire Chase, flute, and The Crossing Choir with text by Rita Dove. A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, León instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, co-founded the American Composers Orchestra's *Sonidos de las Américas* Festivals, was New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic, and is the founder/Artistic Director of Composers Now, a presenting, commissioning and advocacy organization for living composers.

Honors include the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement, inductions into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and fellowship awards from ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and The Koussevitzky Music and Guggenheim Foundations, among others. She also received a proclamation for Composers Now by New York City Mayor, and the MadWoman Festival Award in Music (Spain).

León has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin, SUNY Purchase College, and The Curtis Institute of Music, and served as U.S. Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A CUNY Professor Emerita, she was awarded a 2018 United States Artists Fellowship, and Chamber Music America's 2022 National Service Award.

[www.tanialeon.com](http://www.tanialeon.com)

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Auburn Symphony Orchestra changes lives and our South Puget Sound community through the shared experience of live orchestral music performances and by nurturing the relationship between our audience and our artists. Learn more at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org) and social media pages [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).

Auburn Symphony Orchestra is a registered nonprofit organization: 91-1719873  
PO Box 2186, Auburn, WA 98071 | [info@auburnsymphony.org](mailto:info@auburnsymphony.org)