



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PADUCAH SYMPHONY TO HOST KICKOFF EVENT FOR RETURN OF LOWER TOWN ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**PADUCAH, KY** – The Paducah Symphony Orchestra (PSO), in partnership with the Lower Town Arts & Music Festival and the Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau, will launch the festival’s highly anticipated return this spring with a one-of-a-kind crossover concert celebrating the region’s creative spirit.

The symphony will collaborate with multiple artist groups and a local composer to present an event unlike anything previously seen in the area. Titled ***Crossroads of Sound***, the concert brings together classical and bluegrass traditions in a dynamic musical experience designed to appeal to symphony audiences and folk music fans alike.

PSO will team up with local artists **The Wheelhouse Rousters**, **Bawn in the Mash**, and acclaimed singer-songwriter **SG Goodman** for the performance, featuring original arrangements by Emmy Award-winning composer **Mark Evitts**, a Paducah native.

“The Paducah Symphony is thrilled to collaborate with The Wheelhouse Rousters and SG Goodman for an evening of bold, new musical arrangements as we kick off the return of the Lower Town Arts & Music Festival,” said PSO CEO **Reece King**. “This event reflects the spirit of collaboration and creativity that defines both the festival and our community.”

***Crossroads of Sound*** will begin at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7**, at the newly renovated **Williams Family Symphony Hall**, formerly Walter Jetton Jr. High School. The Paducah Symphony has called the building home since 2025, following a multi-year renovation project that transformed the historic structure into a premier performance venue.

***Crossroads of Sound*** serves as an official kickoff event for the return of the Lower Town Arts & Music Festival, uniting Paducah’s vibrant arts community for an evening that sets the tone for a creative weekend ahead.

Tickets for ***Crossroads of Sound*** go on sale **February 6 at 10:00 a.m.** at [paducahsymphony.org](http://paducahsymphony.org).

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## **ABOUT THE LOWER TOWN ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Lower Town Arts & Music Festival is a free, two-day celebration of creativity and community rooted in the neighborhood's rich history of artist relocation and preservation. Festival attendees can explore a curated selection of fine art and handcrafted works from artists across the region, watch live art demonstrations, and enjoy live music across multiple stages featuring both regional favorites and nationally touring acts.

The festival is organized and operated by Friends of the Lower Town Arts & Music Festival, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating and sustaining the creative spirit of the city.

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## **ABOUT THE PADUCAH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Paducah Symphony Orchestra (PSO) was founded in 1979 and serves as the orchestra-in-residence at the Carson Center for the Performing Arts. The PSO encompasses a wide range of ensembles, including a professional orchestra, auditioned adult, youth & children choruses and other music education programs and services. The orchestra members, all paid professional musicians, are drawn from over 30 communities in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Alabama. The audience is even more diverse, representing over 60 communities in a five state area.

Raffaele Ponti has served as its Artistic Director & Conductor since 2010.

The PSO expanded and founded the PSO Academy in 2024. The PSO Academy provides affordable music instruction to children and adults in a community music school setting. The PSO Academy at 401 Walter Jetton Blvd. includes eight teaching studios for individual lessons, one teaching room for group rehearsals, and a performance hall that seats about 700.

***The mission of the PSO is to bring the rewards of great music to a growing and diverse regional audience.***

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## **ABOUT THE PADUCAH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

The Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official destination marketing organization for Paducah, Kentucky. Our mission is to generate economic impact for the community through tourism marketing, destination management, and strategic development.

Paducah holds the distinction of being Kentucky's only UNESCO Creative City, designated in the category of Crafts and Folk Art. The CVB works to share this story and welcome visitors from around the world to experience our creative community.

The Paducah CVB is accredited through the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of Destinations International, a recognition held by fewer than 200 destination

organizations worldwide. The CVB is funded by the Transient Room Tax, collected from hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and short-term rental accommodations.

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## **ABOUT THE WHEELHOUSE ROUSTERS**

Rooted in the river culture of West Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley, The Wheelhouse Rousters channel the working-class rhythms, stories, and ebb-and-flow energy of American roots music. Formed in 2013 by members of Bawn in the Mash, Eddie Coffey, Logan Oakley, Nathan Lynn, Josh Coffey, and Jake Siener have built a national and international reputation through evocative songwriting, traditional river folk songs, and dynamic live performances. Their four studio albums, including *Steamboatin'*, *Times of Uncertainty*, *River Folk*, and 2023's *The Adventure Never Ends*, trace a musical journey from historic Paducah recording spaces to festival stages around the world. The Rousters have represented the United States at the World Folk Biennale in South Korea, collaborated on UNESCO projects, placed third in the Telluride Bluegrass Festival Band Competition, and showcased at AMERICANAFEST. Known for performances aboard iconic riverboats and appearances at major festivals, The Wheelhouse Rousters continue to carry river folk traditions forward with authenticity, momentum, and modern relevance.

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## **ABOUT SG GOODMAN**

Kentucky born-and-raised indie rocker S.G. Goodman, “like Fugazi doing Woody Guthrie” (MTV) catapulted onto the scene in 2020 with her debut album *Old Time Feeling* – possibly the worst time to emerge, and yet, her talent was undeniable. She immediately garnered attention from NPR, Rolling Stone, and more, and took her show on the road across the world, gaining fans and followers, even landing a fan in Tyler Childers, who covered her song “Space And Time” from her debut. “Space And Time” was also covered by Mereba and Dev Hynes/Blood Orange for the Paul Schrader film *Master Gardener*. In 2022, she released *Teeth Marks*, a critical darling that leveled her up, gaining praise from the New York Times, who praised her “sharp eye for character and arresting voice”, landing her an NPR Tiny Desk, landing on Pitchfork and NPR’s Best Of lists, and earning her the Best Emerging Artist Award at the 2023 Americana Awards. She clocked over 150 performances in 2023 alone, including headlining sold out tours and opening for the likes of Tyler Childers and Jason Isbell from Red Rocks to the Grand Ole’ Opry.

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## **ABOUT MARK EVITTS**

Mark Evitts is an Emmy® award-winning composer, songwriter, musician, and producer working across the television, film and music industries. Mark served as composer and songwriter for the Apple TV+ series, *Frog and Toad*, based on the best-selling children’s book which won for Best

Music Direction and Composition for an Animated Program at the 3rd Annual Children's and Family Emmy® Awards.

Following his early career work as a road musician playing with country music artists, Mark has established himself as a versatile songwriter and composer. His songwriting credits include co-writing Nas' single "Brunch on Sundays" from the Grammy-nominated album "King's Disease II" and The Game's single "Violence".

In addition to his songwriting and composing work, Mark has served as an arranger and musician on several hit television shows such as NBC's *SMASH*, notably on Emmy® nominated song "Voice In A Dream." Other projects he has contributed to creatively include ABC's *The Bachelor*, *Blood and Oil*, and *Nashville*. He has also contributed string arrangements for the Grammy winning album, "Hymns That Are Important To Us" by Joey + Rory, as well as on albums for Blues Traveler and Rodney Atkins.

Mark has also performed on prestigious stages worldwide, including The Grand Ole Opry and Carnegie Hall, as well as being a featured panelist at Comic-Con. Mark graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Composition for Film, Television, and Gaming from Berklee College of Music. He has also studied character development and comedy at The Groundlings, a comedy theater in Los Angeles.