



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO RELEASE FULL RECORDING OF
ASO BASSIST AND COMPOSER MICHAEL KURTH'S WORK ON MARCH 29**

ATLANTA – The Grammy® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will release the ASO Media recording of ASO bassist and composer Michael Kurth's original works on CD and digital platforms on March 29. The recording features the ASO and Chamber Chorus, Music Director Robert Spano and mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor.

The album includes four original works premiered by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra between 2010 and 2018, including *Everything Lasts Forever*, a phrase Kurth saw on a faded and peeling sign above Atlanta's Krog Street Tunnel. The irony and truth of this statement spoke to Kurth as both a composer and performer. *A Thousand Words* transports the listener to meaningful destinations on some of Kurth's many adventures. From a sunrise on Tybee Island to the basalt cliffs in Reynisfjara, Iceland, the music conveys the moment in the absence of images or words. *May Cause Dizziness* marked Kurth's first composition for large orchestra and was commissioned in celebration of Maestro Spano's 10th season as Music Director. The incomparable mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor joins the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus (Norman Mackenzie, Director of Choruses) for *Miserere*, a story of betrayal that is written in a style that Kurth describes as "modern-primitive-sacred-spooky."

Kurth, a member of the ASO for nearly 25 years, said, "I feel like the luckiest composer alive. To have a genius like Robert support me, and to have such a magnificent orchestra bring my music to life is exhilarating. I'm so fortunate to count these phenomenal musicians as my colleagues and friends."

"Michael is such an amazing talent, and his music is an astonishing amalgam of styles and influences," said ASO Music Director Robert Spano. "His is an exhilarating and fresh voice."

There will be a CD signing with Kurth and Spano at the March 28 & 29 ASO performances in Symphony Hall. [More information and tickets](#)

North Avenue Presbyterian Church will host a Composer Conversation with Michael Kurth and librettist Jesse Breite on Sunday, March 31. In addition to a *Miserere* listening session, Kurth and Breite will discuss the creative process, deep faith and what it is like to present these to the public. [More information](#)

***Everything Lasts Forever* Track Listing**

***Everything Lasts Forever* (2012)**

1 *Toes*

2 *Bird Sing Love*

3 *We Have All the Time in the World*

***A Thousand Words* (2015)**

4 I. *Above: Radiance*

5 II. *Beneath: My Sinister Groove Machine*

6 III. *Within*

7 IV. *Beyond: We Will Puncture the Canopy of Night*

8 *May Cause Dizziness* (2010)

***Miserere* (2017)**

9 I. *Miserere I*

10 II. *By the Rivers of Babylon*

11 III. *Quoniam iniquitatem*

12 IV. *How Deserted Lies the City*

13 V. *You Must First Look Past*

14 VI. *Miserere II*

15 VII. *Gimme the Broke Skin*

16 VIII. *Miserere III*

About ASO Media

The ASO released its first recording on its own label, ASO Media, during the 2011/12 season. Since then, seven additional recordings have been released, including the three most recent: the April 2016 release of Robert Shaw's final performance in Atlanta as Music Director; Beethoven Symphony No. 9 on May 21, 1988, and Jonathan Leshnoff's *Zohar* & Symphony No. 2 "Innerspace" in November 2016; and the April 2017 release of Robert Spano: *Hölderlin-Lieder/Four Elements*, a disc of songs and piano music written and performed by Maestro Spano with soprano Jessica Rivera.

During the 2018/19 season, the Orchestra will record a CD of ASO commissions, including Richard Prior's orchestral tone poem *...of shadow and light...*, the James Oliverio Double Timpani Concerto with Mark and Paul Yancich, and Michael Gandolfi's *Imaginary Numbers* with the powerhouse quartet of Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Andrew Brady, Laura Ardan and Brice Andrus.

The ASO Media label is one of the many hallmarks of Robert Spano's 18-year tenure with the Orchestra, and the production team includes longtime Atlanta Symphony Orchestra collaborators Elaine Martone and Michael Bishop. The physical and digital recordings are distributed by Naxos of America, Inc. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and its recordings have won 27 Grammy® Awards. Visit [ASOMedia](#) for more information.

About Michael Kurth

Michael Kurth (b. 1971), *Atlanta Magazine's* 2017 "Best New Composer", has been a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra bass section since 1994. The Orchestra has given world premieres of many of his orchestral works, including *May Cause Dizziness* in 2011, *Everything Lasts Forever* in 2013, *Prometheus Unhinged* in 2015, *A Thousand Words* in 2016 and *Miserere* in 2018. [More](#)

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Celebrating its 74th season, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra continues to affirm its position as one of America's leading orchestras with excellent live performances, renowned guest artist features and engaging education initiatives. As a cornerstone for artistic development in the Southeast, the Atlanta

Symphony Orchestra performs a full schedule of more than 150 concerts, including educational and community concerts, each year for a combined audience of more than a quarter million people.

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