

Jacksonville Symphony Performs First Masterworks Concert on September 29 and 30 with Pianist Jonathan Biss

Jacksonville, FL (September 20, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will perform the first Florida Blue Masterworks Series concert of the season on September 29 and 30 with guest pianist, Jonathan Biss. The concert will feature the iconic fifth symphonies of both Schubert and Sibelius, in addition to Beethoven's second piano concerto and a work composed for Biss by Timo Andres.

WHO: Music Director **Courtney Lewis** will be joined on stage with virtuosic pianist **Jonathan Biss**. Lewis and Biss performed two of the selected works together in New York last season. This concert will mark Biss' Jacksonville Symphony debut. He will be playing two works with the Jacksonville Symphony: Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 and *The Blind Banister*, a piece written specifically for him.

WHAT: After the incredible impact of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, composers after him were inspired to create grandiose compositions for their fifth symphonies. Two of these mighty works are featured on this concert: Schubert's Fifth Symphony and Sibelius' Fifth Symphony.

Accompanying the two symphonies is a piano work named *The Blind Banister*. It was written by Timo Andres specifically for Jonathan Biss as a companion to the Beethoven Piano Concerto No.2 which it accompanies. The work is a part of a series being created for Biss' *Beethoven/5* project that was started with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in 2015. Andres' piece is the first of the five to be composed.

"In 2015 I asked five very different composers to address this question. The project, called Beethoven/5, takes five different compositional voices — from different parts of the world and different musical traditions — and asks each of them to write a work which, in whatever way they see fit, responds to one of the Beethoven piano concerti." ~ Jonathan Biss

CONCERTMASTER SEARCH: During the extensive search for a new concertmaster the Jacksonville Symphony will be bringing in eight candidates to perform with the Symphony during the season. For this concert, **Nigel Armstrong** will take the stage with Courtney and the Symphony. Before the Masterworks premiere, Armstrong will perform in the Jacksonville Symphony's first Fidelity National Financial Pops Series concert, *Mambo Kings* on September 22, 23 & 24. Armstrong is an up-and-coming solo violinist who has previously served as concertmaster for the Santa Cruz Symphony.

WHEN: Performances will take place on September 29 & 30 at 8:00pm.

WHERE: Performance will be held in Jacoby Symphony Hall located in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

SPONSORS: This concert is a part of the Florida Blue Masterworks Series. It is presented by BRASS.

TICKETS: Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org, by calling the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or by visiting the Times-Union Center Ticket Office Monday thru Friday between 10am and 4pm.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby 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 Orchestra. For more information about the Symphony, visit JaxSymphony.org, like them at facebook.com/JaxSymphony, follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.