

## **Jacksonville Symphony Presents *Fanfare! An Opening Night Celebration***

Jacksonville, FL (September 6, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will begin their 2017-2018 season with *Fanfare! An Opening Night Celebration* on Saturday, September 16. The announcement was made by Robert Massey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Symphony.

**WHO:** Music Director **Courtney Lewis** will lead the Jacksonville Symphony in *Fanfare! An Opening Night Celebration*. Joining Lewis on stage will be his Cambridge classmate and guest violinist, **Charlie Siem**.

Born to a Norwegian father and British mother, Siem says in an interview with *South China Morning Post* "I picked up the violin when I was three and never looked back." Siem has spent most of his life in Britain performing with some of the world's most well-known orchestras, including both the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Siem has worked to revive the age-old tradition of composing virtuosic variations of popular themes including works by jazz-pop artist Jamie Cullum, Bryan Adams and famous rock band, *The Who*. Siem has paired with iconic fashion brands such as Armani, Chanel and Hugo Boss to create violin-inspired collaborations aimed to introduce classical music to a wider audience.

Siem plays the 1735 Guarneri del Gesù violin, known as the 'D'Egville.'

**WHAT:** In order to kick-off the 2017-2018 "Season of Magic," the Jacksonville Symphony has created a one-night only event to truly celebrate the beginning of a new year of symphonic music. The event is being chaired by Symphony Board Member Chung-Hae Casler. Guests can dress to impress with a splash of color to brighten the concert hall on this momentous night.

The celebration will center around the first concert featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Adams. "The Chairman Dances," also dubbed "Foxtrot for Orchestra," was inspired by Adams' opera *Nixon in China*. The piece is bouncy and buoyant, highlighting the composer's idea of a Hollywood foxtrot from seventy years ago.

Sibelius' Violin Concerto, played by Charlie Siem, will enrapture the audience through its lyric beauty and symphonic grace. The concert will end with Tchaikovsky's grand Symphony No. 5.

**WHEN:** The one-night performance will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 8:00pm.

**WHERE:** Jacoby Symphony Hall, the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

**SPONSORS:** This concert is presented by Haskell.

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available at [JaxSymphony.org](http://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](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.