

Schoenberg, Mozart and Beethoven: Join the Symphony for a Concert of German Giants

Jacksonville, FL (November 21, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will present a concert with three of the largest names in classical music, Schoenberg, Mendelssohn and Beethoven, on December 1, 2 & 3.

WHO: Music Director **Courtney Lewis** will lead the orchestra through this dynamic program. With clear artistic vision, subtle musicality, and innovative programming, Lewis has established himself as one of his generation's most talented conductors. The 2017/18 season will mark his third season as Music Director of the Jacksonville Symphony. Highlights of the past season included engagements with the Dallas Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

As a young conductor, Courtney Lewis has served as assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, associate conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra and Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Joining Lewis onstage will be guest violinist **Tai Murray**. An inspiring talent with a silky and sweet tone from even the highest registers of her instrument, impeccable intonation, dexterity, subtlety yet always vigorous and dramatic, the well-schooled and hugely musical Tai Murray has become an essential personality in today's classical musical world.

A former BBC young generation artist, member of the Marlboro Festival and of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society, she gave her London Proms Debut during the summer of 2016 with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Living between New York and Berlin, Murray has been heard on stages such as the Barbican, Queen Elisabeth and London Royal Albert Hall, aside orchestras such as Chicago Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

WHAT: This concert is book-ended by two pieces that were considered to be modern for their time period: Schoenberg's *Five Pieces for Orchestra* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3.

The Schoenberg is presented in five movements and will be paired with visual projections of artwork by Egon Schiele, an Austrian 20th century painter.

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto will provide a haven of repose between the two iconic pieces it is paired with. Featuring guest artist Tai Murray, Mendelssohn's concert is incredibly beautiful and will stir the audience.

At the time of its creation, Beethoven's Third Symphony was the largest to date! It is more commonly known by the name "Eroica" and is widely considered to have ushered in the Romantic era. Originally to be dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte, the piece was to be called "Bonaparte." When Napoleon

decided to declare himself emperor, Beethoven was so disappointed in the supposed hero that he was said to have ripped up the first page and scribed “Sinfonia eroica” on the front.

“This fourth Masterworks concert, German Giants, is one I’m especially looking forward to,” said Lewis. “We begin with Schoenberg’s *Five Orchestral Pieces* – the most extreme and vivid musical depiction of the psyche we have. We’ll be projecting images of paintings by Schoenberg’s contemporary, Egon Schiele, to heighten the emotional tension. Mendelssohn’s sunny violin concerto acts as a palate cleanser before Beethoven’s “Eroica”. The “Eroica” is probably my favorite piece of symphonic music – it contains all of life. I can’t wait to share it with our audiences in Jacksonville.”

CONCERTMASTER SEARCH: During the extensive search for a new concertmaster the Jacksonville Symphony will be bringing in seven candidates to perform with the Symphony during the season. For this concert, **Vivek Jayaraman** will take the stage with Courtney and the Symphony. Previously, Jayaraman performed with the Symphony on November 25 for *Home Alone* in Concert.

Jayaraman is a member of The Florida Orchestra in St. Petersburg, FL and has played with several major orchestras in the United States including The Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Jayaraman was concertmaster of the Canton Symphony Orchestra (OH) from 2015-2017 and has performed as concertmaster with the New World Symphony.

Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Jayaraman received a Bachelor’s degree from the Eastman School of Music studying with Charles Castleman and a Master’s degree in Orchestral Performance from Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Glenn Dicterow, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic.

WHEN: The German Giants concert will be performed Friday December 1 at 8:00pm, Saturday December 2 at 8:00pm and Sunday, December 3 at 3:00pm.

WHERE: The concert will take place at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

INSIGHT: Arrive early for Insight, a pre-concert conversation beginning **one hour prior** to Masterworks concerts on-stage in Jacoby Hall. Using an informal half-hour format, Courtney Lewis, and occasionally, other guest conductors/artists discuss the music to be presented that evening, complete with audio examples and questions from the audience.

SPONSORS: This Masterworks concert is sponsored by Florida Blue.

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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

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