

## Symphony in 60 and “The Inextinguishable” Symphony

Jacksonville, FL (December 20, 2017) --- The first week of January brings the second Symphony in 60 of the season as well as the fifth Masterworks concert after a month-long hiatus for the holidays.

**WHO:** After being offstage for a month, **Courtney Lewis** returns after announcing a three-season contract extension through the 2020/21 season. In his first three seasons with the Jacksonville Symphony, Lewis was responsible for creating Symphony in 60 to appeal to a larger audience in Jacksonville. 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 Lewis’ past season included engagements with the Dallas Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

**SYMPHONY IN 60:** On January 4, the Symphony will present the second of three Symphony in 60 performances this season: “The Inextinguishable.” Symphony in 60 is an abbreviated Masterworks concert that also features a pre-concert happy hour and post-concert party on-stage with Symphony musicians! This concert will feature one of Lewis’ favorite works, Carl Nielsen’s Symphony No. 4 “The Inextinguishable.”

**RETHREADED:** At this Symphony in 60 concert the Jacksonville gifts-with-a-purpose company, Rethreaded, will host a pop-up shop! Rethreaded is a social enterprise restoring choice for survivors of human trafficking through business. Rethreaded started with a simple idea, and a strong passion from its founder, Kristin Keen. Beginning by forming relationships with women on the street and making prison visits, she knew the biggest need was for a safe, supportive work environment where these women could earn money while learning a skilled and experiencing continued healing through community. Recently, Rethreaded partnered with Southwest Airlines to recycle the airline’s seat leather in their products.

**WHAT:** This fifth Masterworks has an intensely dramatic program, beginning with Schumann’s passionate *Manfred* Overture followed by the energetic and radiant pianist Zhang Zuo playing the most well-known of Tchaikovsky’s piano concertos. After the intermission the Symphony will play Carl Nielsen’s incredible Fourth Symphony.

Lewis says this of Nielsen’s Symphony: “The Fourth Symphony, or “The Inextinguishable” as he titled it, was written between 1914 and 1916. The work was a response to the violence of the First World War, Nielsen’s marital strife and a preoccupation with what he described as “life force” in music. He said, ‘Music is life. As soon as even a single notes sounds in the air or through space, it’s the result of life and movement.’ That’s why music and the dance are the most immediate expressions of the will to live. The Symphony evokes the most primal sources of life – what you might think of as survivor instinct, or the will to live no matter what. That lies behind all human, animal and plant life as we perceive or live it. Because music exists in time, and only comes alive when people play it, Nielsen thought it was the

most life-like of the arts: he thought the other arts, like painting, only represent and paraphrase life. He wrote, “life is indomitable and inextinguishable; the struggle, the wrestling, the generation and the wasting away go on today is yesterday, tomorrow as today and everything returns. Music is life and like it, inextinguishable.”

**INSIGHT:** One hour before each Masterworks concert (January 5 & 6) join the program’s conductor, guest artists and other distinguished guests for an informal discussion about the program.

**GUEST ARTIST:** Joining Lewis on stage will be guest pianist **Zhang Zuo**. Described as “full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigor of youth” (*Chinese Gramophone*), Zhang Zuo (“Zee Zee”) is unique among the young generation of pianists. Her interpretations and communicative abilities have been praised as “taking us to another reality... bright, expressive and moving to the extreme” (*Belgischer Rundfunk*), while her creative maturity has been hailed as “a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry” (*Los Angeles Times*). Zhang Zuo will only appear in the full Masterworks performances.

**MASTERCLASS:** On Thursday, January 4 from 1:30-3:30pm, guest pianist Zhang Zuo will host a piano masterclass. This masterclass is free and open to the public and will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts’ Jacoby Symphony Hall.

**WHEN:** The **Symphony in 60** concert will take place on Thursday January 4 with happy hour starting at 5:30pm and the concert beginning at 6:30pm. The **Masterworks** concerts will take place on Friday, January 5 and Saturday, January 6 at 8:00pm.

**WHERE:** All concerts will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performance Arts in Jacoby Symphony Hall.

**SPONSORS:** “The Inextinguishable” in a part of the Regency Centers Symphony in 60 Series. This Masterworks concert is a part of the Florida Blue Masterworks Series.

**TICKETS:** Further information on concerts can be found at [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org) or by calling the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547.

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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.