



COURTNEY LEWIS
MUSIC DIRECTOR
HASKELL ENDOWED CHAIR

DAVID M. STRICKLAND
CHAIR

ROBERT MASSEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Ring in the New Year with the Jacksonville Symphony!

Jacksonville, FL (December 20, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony celebrates the New Year with a concert of *Orchestral Lunacy* and after-party with the Chris Thomas Band on December 31 at 9:00pm.

WHO: The Jacksonville Symphony is joined by showman **Tomáš Kubínek** for a New Year's Eve Celebration: *Orchestral Lunacy*. With a childhood start in show-business, Kubínek's performing adventures over the years have included elephant kidnappings, serpent-handling and descending from tall buildings dangling by a rope. Working with 80 classically trained musicians – though no small feat – is par for the course. With his solo vaudevillian performances Kubínek has appeared in over 30 countries in theaters, opera houses, international festivals of theatre and humor, in television specials and on Broadway. "A collision of theatre and music-hall, his exuberant one-man show is equal parts comic brilliance, virtuosic vaudeville and irresistible charm."

Timothy Hankewich will conduct the orchestra on stage for the evening. The 2016/17 season marks Hankewich's twelfth year as the music director of Orchestra Iowa. His recent guest appearances have included performances in Canada with the Victoria Symphony and throughout the Czech Republic and Slovakia with the Moravian Philharmonic and the Slovak State Orchestra. This season, Maestro Hankewich makes his debut leading the Hamilton Philharmonic (Canada), and the Jacksonville Symphony. In September of 2014, Orchestra Iowa under Hankewich's direction released its first ever commercial recording featuring composer Michael Daugherty's *American Gothic*.

WHA T: Perhaps one of Kubínek's most illustrious collaborations to date is the one you will witness on New Year's Eve. *ORCHESTRAL LUNACY* was commissioned by The University of Iowa's Hancher Auditorium and had its premiere tour with Orchestra Iowa and Maestro Timothy Hankewich. The program has since played with other orchestras throughout North America and recently had a boisterous 5-night run in Italy with the Orchestra of Messina.

The show will feature excerpts from well-known works from Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances* to Rossini's Overture to *William Tell*.

AFTER-PARTY: Tickets to the After-Party with the Chris Thomas Band are *separate* from the concert-ticket purchase. The After-Party includes champagne, dessert, dancing and a great view of the fireworks. VIP party tickets are currently sold out, but a new ticket level, Premium, is still available and features premier seating, upgraded food options and access to the VIP lounge with guest artists.

WHEN: New Year's Eve Celebration: *Orchestral Lunacy* will take place on Sunday, December 31 at 9:00pm.

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

SPONSOR: This concert is a part of the Fidelity Financial Pops Series. This concert is sponsored in part by Arcus Capital Partners.

TICKETS: To purchase tickets for the concert and/or the After-Party, please visit JaxSymphony.org or call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547.

###

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.