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## World-Renowned Soprano Renée Fleming to Make Jacksonville Debut at the Symphony Gala on Saturday, January 20, 2018

Jacksonville, FL (January 9, 2018) --- The incomparable soprano, Renée Fleming, will make her Jacksonville debut at the Jacksonville Symphony's 2018 Gala on Saturday, January 20. According to *The Telegraph* Fleming is the "possessor of the most sheerly beautiful soprano voice on the planet." Fleming will perform a combination of famed classical works including Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" from *Gianna Schicchi* and Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*. The program will also feature works from the beloved musical *My Fair Lady* and Gershwin's well-known *Porgy and Bess*.

"I'm delighted that Renée Fleming is joining us for our 2018 Gala for her first appearance in Jacksonville," said Music Director Courtney Lewis. "Her talent is unparalleled and I know her performance will enrapture all those in attendance."

**Event Details and Tickets:** The 2018 "Evening of Grandeur" Gala will feature a VIP Reception, concert, VIP dinner with Music Director Courtney Lewis and Renée Fleming, and After Glow Party. Chairing the event is Martha Barrett from Bank of America and Jacksonville Symphony Board member. There are a *limited* number of VIP tickets available for this concert and they can be purchased by calling Kyle Enriquez at 904.354.4092. Concert-only tickets start at \$75 and can be purchased at [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org) or by calling the Symphony Ticket Office at 904.354.5547.

**Renée Fleming** is one of the most beloved and celebrated singers of our time. She was the first classical artist ever to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl. *USA Today* said that Fleming's "rendition brought the down the house."

As a musical statesman, Fleming has been sought after on numerous distinguished occasions, from the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to performances in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games. In 2014, she sang in the televised concert at the Brandenburg Gate to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 2012, in an historic first, she sang on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee Concert for HM Queen Elizabeth II. A ground-breaking distinction came in 2008 when Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to solo headline an opening night gala.

In 2018, Fleming will make her Broadway musical debut in a major revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. Her 2017-2018 recital and concert schedule spans the globe, including Budapest, Vienna, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, London, Madrid, Helsinki, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Beijing, Seoul, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.

In spring 2017, Fleming's 2009 album *Signatures* was selected by the U.S. Library of Congress for the National Recording Registry, as an "aural treasure worthy of preservation as part of America's patrimony." A four-time Grammy winner, Fleming won the 2013 Best Classical

Vocal Solo Grammy Award for *Poèmes*. Her first-ever holiday album, *Christmas in New York*, was released in 2014, and was the inspiration for a special on PBS.

“She arrives and bestows magic.” ~ *The Telegraph*

**When:** Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 7:00pm

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

**Sponsors:** Presented by Bank of America, Merrill Lynch

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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.