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JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY PERFORMS PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING SCORE *BECOME OCEAN*

Join the Symphony in Celebration of Earth Day 2018

Jacksonville, FL (April 11, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will perform John Luther Adams' Pulitzer Prize-winning score, *Become Ocean* on **Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m.** The performance of *Become Ocean* will be book-ended by a presentation by Dr. Quinton White from Jacksonville University and a panel featuring Dr. Jim Gelsleichter (Coastal Biology Program Director - UNF), Lisa Rinaman (The St. Johns Riverkeeper), The Honorable Nancy Shaver, Mayor of St. Augustine and Jacksonville Symphony Music Director Courtney Lewis.

In support of the educational opportunities presented in this program, all **students** who present a valid student ID will receive **FREE** admission to the concert.

Become Ocean was written by American composer John Luther Adams. The work was commissioned by the Seattle Symphony and premiered in Benaroya Hall in 2013. A year later, *Become Ocean* won the Pulitzer Prize for Music as well as the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition.

Even though *Become Ocean* was inspired by the oceans of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, Adams actually wrote the piece while completely surrounded by desert. He took inspiration from composer John Cage: "Life on this earth first emerged from the sea. As the polar ice melts and sea levels rises, we humans find ourselves facing the prospect that once again we may quite literally become ocean."

Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. will start the program with a presentation that examines Jacksonville's waterways and how they impact not only our community but the world. Dr. White is executive director of the Marine Science Research Institute and Professor of Biology and Marine Science at Jacksonville University. The Marine Science Research Institute building opened in 2010 and is the first LEED certified Gold building on the JU campus. The MSRI recently became home to OCEARCH which is the world's largest shark tagging and ocean research program of its kind. Dr. White joined the faculty at Jacksonville University in 1976, having completed his Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina at the Baruch Institute for Marine Biology and Coastal Research.

Dr. White has written numerous research and technical papers or reports and received grants and contracts to support marine research at JU. Currently he is conducting research on the history of human impact on the Florida environment and especially on the St. Johns River with a focus on manatees and water quality issues. Dr. White has been active in the Jacksonville community and writes a monthly column in the *Florida Times-Union* called "River Life." He is president-elect of the Southern Association of Marine Labs and past-board chair of the Southeastern Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association. He was honored by Leadership Jacksonville in 2011 as a Community Trustee. In 2010 he received the City of Jacksonville Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award. He was recognized as a 2016 Veteran of Influence by the Jacksonville Business Journal. Dr. White served in the U.S. Army prior to starting graduate school at the University of Virginia where he earned a MS in 1972.

For the **post-concert panel discussion**, Dr. White will be joined by Jacksonville Symphony Music Director Courtney Lewis, Dr. Jim Gelsleichter who serves as the program director for the University of North Florida's Coastal Biology program, St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman and The Honorable Nancy Shaver, Mayor of St. Augustine.

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

Tickets: For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or visit JaxSymphony.org.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony 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 Orchestras. 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.