

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY BRINGS TOGETHER BRAHMS AND BRUCKNER

Jacksonville, FL (March 28, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Symphony and Music Director Courtney Lewis will perform **four** concerts featuring symphonies by Johannes Brahms and Anton Bruckner on April 5-7. At the time these two masters were writing the symphonies performed on this concert, those who loved their music were at odds over the different styles found in their compositions. It was unimaginable to pair Brahms and Bruckner together on a single concert. A century and a half later, we do not hesitate to present two of their greatest, most powerful and moving works on one program. These two incredible masterpieces create a remarkable program when paired together.

Symphony in 60: The Regency Centers Symphony in 60 Series returns for the last time in the 2017-2018 symphony season on **Thursday, April 5 at 6:30pm**. This last concert will feature **Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 3**. Brahms completed his third symphony in 1883 in four months; a remarkably short time considering the composer took almost 21 years to compose his very first symphony. Although Brahms and his symphonies may now hold a firm spot in classical repertoire, the composer was originally intimidated by the genre. He was following in the footsteps of Beethoven's grandiose symphonies and Brahms was nearly 43 by the time he overcame the fear.

"Many music lovers will prefer the titanic force of the First Symphony; others, the untroubled charm of the Second, **but the Third strikes me as being artistically the most nearly perfect.**" ~ Eduard Hanslick

Masterworks: The Florida Blue Masterworks concerts will take place on **Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, both at 8pm**. The Masterworks concerts will feature not only Brahms' Symphony No. 3, but also **Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 7**. Bruckner was an Austrian composer known for his great admiration of Wagner's music. With the composition of the Seventh Symphony, Bruckner's career as a composer was turned around for the better and he was propelled onto the international stage. The Symphony No. 7 is perhaps Bruckner's most popular in the genre and features a tribute to Wagner in the second movement. The composer was so enthralled with the music of Wagner, he even wrote for an instrument designed specifically for Wagner's famed *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. The *Wagner tuba*, as the unique instrument is known, is an infrequently-used brass instrument that combines the tonal elements of both a French horn and a trombone.

Coffee Concert: This Raymond James Coffee Concert will be held on **Friday, April 6 at 11am** and will feature Bruckner's Seventh Symphony. Coffee concerts present an abbreviated Masterworks program and offer complimentary coffee and cookies in the lobby before the concert begins.

Concertmaster Search: Canadian violinist **Jeffrey Dyrda** will join Lewis and the Symphony on stage for all four performances. You will also see Dyrda on April 13 & 14 when the Symphony presents *Windborne's Music of David Bowie*. Dyrda has performed across the Americas, Europe and Asia in a variety of musical roles. He has had extensive experience as concertmaster, leading international ensembles such as the Verbier Festival Orchestra, the Lucerne Academy Orchestra and the New World Symphony. Dyrda has also appeared as guest concertmaster for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

Devoted to social projects and music education, Dyrda has mentored at the Academia Filarmonica de Medellin in Colombia and served in South Korea as concertmaster for a World Peace Orchestra comprised of musicians from a multitude of UN countries. He holds degrees from Rice University, New

England Conservatory and McGill University, and Fellowships from the New World Symphony and Yale University.

Where: All concerts will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacoby Symphony Hall.

When: Symphony in 60 - Thursday, April 5 at 6:30pm
Coffee Concert - Friday, April 6 at 11am
Masterworks - Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7 - 8pm

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.