

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus Performs February 18

Jacksonville, FL (February 7, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Chorus will perform their spring concert on Sunday, February 18 with works by Dvořák and Haydn.

WHO: Hailed by the *Washington Post* for his “dazzling expertise” on the podium, **Donald McCullough** is considered one of America’s pre-eminent choral conductors. He became the director of the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus in 2012 and in November 2014, he led the Chorus on its first appearance in Carnegie Hall.

Previously, he was the director of the Master Chorale of Washington in the John F. Kennedy Center Concert Hall for more than a decade, developing a reputation for creating choruses that sang “with an innate sense of lyricism and musical poise” and “sensitive, scrupulous and heartfelt” (*Washington Post*).

McCullough is also a composer whose works have been critically acclaimed throughout North America and Europe. Routinely sought after for commissions, his works have been described as “powerful and heart-wrenching,” “mystically beautiful” and “remarkably inspirational.”

WHAT: Performed on this concert are Antonín Dvořák’s *Te Deum* and Franz Joseph Haydn’s Mass in D minor, the *Lord Nelson Mass*.

Upon being appointed the director of the National Conservatory in New York in 1891, Dvořák was commissioned to write a cantata celebrating the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus and Dvořák’s arrival in New York. He was promised a text to base the work, but when it never showed Dvořák took the initiative and chose the text of the Latin hymn, *Te Deum Laudamus*.

Franz Joseph Haydn’s *Nelson Mass* was finished in 1978 and has been described as “arguably Haydn’s greatest single composition.” By the time of its premiere, Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy, Haydn’s employer, had dismissed nearly all of the wind players in his orchestra due to economic reasons. This gives the mass a distinct sound that is not found in any other mass.

WHEN: The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus will perform on Sunday, February 18 at 3 p.m.

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

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 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.