

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY CIVIC ORCHESTRA PERFORMS UPLIFTING SPRING PROGRAM

Jacksonville, FL (February 28, 2018) --- Twice a year, individuals from all walks of life come together with the musicians of the Jacksonville Symphony to participate in a presentation of Jacksonville's musically community - the Jacksonville Symphony Civic Orchestra. The talented community members will perform a concert featuring the Eighth symphonies of both Antonín Dvořák and Franz Schubert on Sunday, March 11.

WHO: The Jacksonville Symphony Civic Orchestra had its first season in 2015 and brought together musicians throughout Jacksonville to perform for friends, family and the community once a year. Now in its third season, the Symphony Civic Orchestra performs twice a year under the baton of Associate Conductor Nathan Aspinall.

WHAT: The concert will open with Richard Wagner's **Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg***. *Die Meistersinger* is one of the longest operas to be commonly performed. Out of all the mature operas written by Wagner, *Die Meistersinger* is the only comedy and this is reflected in the undeniable optimism of the Prelude.

Franz Schubert's **Symphony No. 8** is often referred to as the "Unfinished" Symphony for just that reason; Schubert failed to complete the last two movements. Although many musicologists have many theories on why Schubert left the symphony unfinished (he lived for six years after completing the first two movements), there is no proof backing any of the speculation. The Symphony Civic Orchestra will perform the two movements that Schubert did complete.

Vltava, or *The Moldau*, is one of six symphonic poems written by Bedrich Smetana for his larger work, *Má vlast*. *Vltava* paints the picture of one of Bohemia's great rivers. Smetana says this of his symphonic depiction:

"The composition describes the course of the Vltava, starting from the two small springs, the Cold and Warm Vltava, to the unification of both streams into a single current, the course of the Vltava through woods and meadows, through landscapes where a farmer's wedding is celebrated, the round dance of the mermaids in the night's moonshine: on the nearby rocks loom proud castles, palaces and ruins aloft. The Vltava swirls into the St John's Rapids; then it widens and flows toward Prague, past the Vyšehrad, and then majestically vanishes into the distance, ending at the Labe."

The concert ends with Antonín Dvořák's optimistic **Symphony No. 8**. The work was written for the composer's election to the Bohemian Academy of Science, Literature and Arts in 1889. Dvořák's Eighth carries a greater air of positivity and cheerfulness than his other symphonies. Throughout the piece you can hear hints of the Bohemian folk music Dvořák loved so much.

WHEN: The concert will take place on Sunday, March 11 at 5 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.