

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY PRESENTS WORKS BY MOZART, TCHAIKOVSKY AND DEBUSSY

Jacksonville, FL (March 7, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Symphony presents a concert of classical favorites by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Debussy on March 16 & 17.

WHO: The concert will be conducted by **Music Director Courtney Lewis**. With clear artistic vision, subtle musicality, and innovative programming, Lewis has established himself as one of his generation's most talented conductors. The 2017/18 season will mark his third season as Music Director of the Jacksonville Symphony. Highlights of the past season included engagements with the Dallas Symphony, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

As a young conductor, Courtney Lewis has served as assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, associate conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra and Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

WHAT: This concert features works by Classical master Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart paired with two composers who were greatly inspired by his works: Piotr Tchaikovsky and Claude Debussy. The program opens with the Ballet Music from Mozart's first mature opera, *Idomeneo*. Considered one of his greatest choral operas, *Idomeneo* tells the story of the King of Crete filled with twisted love stories. The Ballet Music performed on this concert is some of the most recognizable from the opera.

Piotr Tchaikovsky's **Serenade in C major for Strings** is one of his most well-known works. Tchaikovsky himself viewed the Serenade as one of his finest compositions. The influence of Mozart is easy to hear throughout the work and Tchaikovsky himself admitted "the first movement is my homage to Mozart."

Prelude to the Afternoon of the Faun is a symphonic poem that invokes the images presented in a poem written by Stephane Mallarmé. At first, Mallarmé did not like the idea of Debussy putting his poem to music, but after hearing the performance of Debussy's piece, he changed his mind:

"I have just come out of the concert, deeply moved. The marvel! Your illustration of the Afternoon of a Faun, which presents a dissonance with my text only by going much further, really, into nostalgia and into light, with finesse, with sensuality, with richness. I press your hand admiringly, Debussy. Yours, Mallarmé."

The concert ends with Mozart's **Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major**. Symphony No. 39 is one of the last three symphonies he wrote. This symphony, which has become part of standard orchestral repertoire, has a majestic opening that flows into rich musical ideas throughout the piece.

WHEN: Mozart and Friends will take place on Friday, March 16 and Saturday March 17.

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

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

SPONSORS: Mozart and Friends in a part of the Florida Blue Masterworks Series.

###

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.