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JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY BEGINS MASTERWORKS SERIES SEASON WITH GERMAN GIANTS BEETHOVEN AND STRAUSS

Jacksonville, FL (September 19, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Symphony and Music Director Courtney Lewis will begin the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* with *A Hero's Life*, featuring works by two well-known German composers, Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Strauss.

The weekend of German giants will begin with an abbreviated performance on Thursday, September 27 for the Symphony's first *Regency Centers Symphony in 60* concert of the season. The concert will feature Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and patrons are welcome to come early at 5:30 p.m. to take part in happy hour in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts' lobby. Following the concert, the traditional *Symphony in 60* after-party goes on the road to Cowford Chophouse. Patrons can join staff and musicians on the Cowford rooftop. In celebration of the season, Cowford Chophouse has created a Stir Your Soul cocktail and a portion of the proceeds will go towards supporting the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras.

The 2018-2019 Symphony *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* will begin on Friday and Saturday, September 28 & 29. During the Masterworks performances, Beethoven's Fourth will be followed by Richard Strauss' epic tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*, "A Hero's Life." At the age of 34, Strauss decided to follow in the footsteps of Beethoven's Third Symphony, *Eroica*, and write a piece of music about a particularly heroic individual. For Beethoven, it was Napoleon Bonaparte. In the case of Strauss, he humbly wrote a symphonic story about himself. In a thrilling musical tale featuring his loving wife and battle against music critics, *Ein Heldenleben* is a perfect close to the first Masterworks Series weekend.

As a thank you to all of Jacksonville's local heroes, the Symphony is offering a discount to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department, active and retired military, and teachers. With a valid ID, members of these organizations can visit the Symphony Ticket Office for a \$10 ticket.

WHEN: The *Regency Centers Symphony in 60* performance will take place on Thursday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. The two *Florida Blue Masterworks* performances will take place on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29 at 8 p.m.

WHERE: The concerts will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in the 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: These concerts are a part of the *Regency Centers Symphony in 60 Series* and the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series*.

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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 Jacksonville Symphony.