

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY JOINED BY RISING STAR CONDUCTOR, GEMMA NEW

Jacksonville, FL (November 20, 2018) --- On November 30 and December 1 & 2, the Jacksonville Symphony will be joined by conductor Gemma New, a young, brilliant talent in the world of classical music for *A French Fantasy*. The program is full of familiar classics for even the novice ear, including Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and Ravel's famous *Boléro*.

Gemma New: Sought after for her insightful interpretations and dynamic presence, New Zealand-born conductor Gemma New is currently music director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra in Ontario, Canada and resident conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Starting in the 2019-2020 season, New has been appointed as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's principal guest conductor.

In the 2018-2019 season, New enjoys guest engagements with Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, CMI Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio, and Santa Fe Pro Musica, as well as the Philharmonic Orchestras of Calgary, Louisiana, New York and Rochester, the Symphony Orchestras of Charlotte, Detroit, Drummondville, Jacksonville, San Diego, Toronto, Tucson, and Winnipeg, the Florida Orchestra and the Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester in Germany.

New is a conducting fellow at Tanglewood Music Center in the summer of 2018. Previously, she has been Dudamel Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a Conducting Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, an Ansbacher Fellow at the Salzburger Festspiele, and a Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Fellow with the Leipziger Symphonieorchester.

The Program: Classical programs, much like movie scores or songs, often tell a story woven to sound by a composer. This particular program contains multiple works that tell a story; whether it's the interpretation of poetry and art (Debussy's *Nocturnes*) or a young apprentice who tries on a magical hat without permission (Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*), this music will take you on a journey. The program will also feature the Symphony's own principal harpist, Kayo Ishimaru-Fleisher in Camille Saint-Saëns' entrancing *Marceau de concert*. Kayo has been with the Jacksonville Symphony since 1987.

When: The performances will take place on Friday, November 30 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 1 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 2 at 3 p.m.

Wine Tasting: For *A French Fantasy*, the Jacksonville Symphony is partnering with Riverside Liquors to host a wine tasting before each performance. The tasting will be held during *Insight*, the Symphony's pre-concert discussion series. Each of the five pieces on the program has been paired with a different wine. The event will begin no later than one hour before each concert, but please refer to JaxSymphony.org for updated times and location of the pre-concert wine tasting.

Where: The concert will be held in Jacoby Symphony Hall at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

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

Sponsors: *A French Fantasy* is a part of the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* and is presented by Vicar's Landing.

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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.