

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY PERFORMS WITH ROCK STAR ORGANIST CAMERON CARPENTER

Jacksonville, FL (October 31, 2018) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will perform with international, GRAMMY®-nominated organist Cameron Carpenter for the performance of *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

WHO: Cameron Carpenter is having a ball smashing the stereotypes of organists and organ music, and all the while generating international acclaim and controversy unprecedented in his field. Carpenter's repertoire – from the complete works of J. S. Bach to film scores, his original compositions and hundreds of transcriptions and arrangements – is probably the largest and most diverse of any organist.

A former child prodigy, Carpenter trained at the American Boychoir School, the North Carolina School of the Arts and has two degrees from The Juilliard School. He holds the 2012 Leonard Bernstein Award, is the first solo organist ever nominated for a GRAMMY® Award for a solo album and has appeared with many of the great orchestras around the world.

In 2014, Carpenter launched his International Touring Organ in extensive tours in Europe and the USA. His Sony Music debut album *If You Could Read My Mind* entered Billboard's Traditional Classical chart at No. 1 on its US release.

WHAT: Jacksonville Symphony Associate Conductor Nathan Aspinall will conduct this titanic program featuring Cameron Carpenter. Currently the biggest name in the organ world, Carpenter brings poetry and power to the mighty **Bryan Concert Organ** in Poulenc's Organ Concerto and Wagner's Venusberg Music from *Tannhäuser*. Aspinall will conclude the program with Mussorgsky's monumental ***Pictures at an Exhibition***. Mussorgsky's work, originally written for piano and then arranged for orchestra by Maurice Ravel, is a self-portrait of the composer himself. Mussorgsky casts himself as a visitor wandering through an exhibition. The work was inspired when Russian artist, and close friend of Mussorgsky's, Victor Hartmann died in 1873. Mussorgsky set to creating a piece of music that would pay tribute to his dear friend and the resulting composition was *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The trumpet solo that opens *Pictures at an Exhibition* is one of the most recognizable melodies in all classical music.

INSIGHT: *Insight*, an informal, pre-concert talk with guest artists and conductors, will take place an hour before each *Florida Blue Masterworks* performance. Nathan Aspinall and Cameron Carpenter will take the audience through each piece presented on the program. Unique to *Pictures at an Exhibition*, representatives from the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will join Aspinall and Carpenter to discuss the connection between the music and the artwork it interprets.

WHEN: The performances will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 9 & 10, both at 8 p.m. *Insight* will take place at 7 p.m. on each night.

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: *Pictures at an Exhibition* is a part of the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* and is presented by BRASS, Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony.

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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.