

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY PERFORMS VERDI'S GRANDIOSE *REQUIEM*

Jacksonville, FL (March 6, 2019) --- On March 15 & 16, the Jacksonville Symphony will perform a piece by one of the most prolific opera composers in history: Verdi's *Requiem*.

Who: The performance will be led by Symphony **Music Director Courtney Lewis** and will feature the **Jacksonville Symphony Chorus**, members of the **University of North Florida Chorale** and four guest vocalists.

The all-volunteer **Jacksonville Symphony Chorus**, under the direction of Donald McCullough, has been accompanying performances by the Jacksonville Symphony for more than three decades and includes many professional musicians, skilled amateur performers and college students on its roster. Some of the most recent performances by the Chorus have included distinguished works such as *The Dream of Gerontius* and Handel's *Messiah*.

The **University of North Florida Chorale** has been entertaining audiences since the university first opened its doors. This choir draws singers across campus from every field of study and from the Jacksonville community. Most recent masterworks performed include Elgar's *The Dream Of Gerontius* with the Jacksonville Symphony and the Fauré *Requiem*. Upcoming works include Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* and Verdi's *Requiem* with the Jacksonville Symphony. Auditions are open to all UNF students and alums and take place the week prior to each semester. Chorale rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9:30pm.

American soprano **Amber Wagner** has been featured in *Opera News* as one of 25 artists poised to break out and become a major force in classical music in the coming decade. In a recent review of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Metropolitan Opera, the *New York Times* described her as possessing a "powerful, gleaming and richly expressive voice [which] was ideal for the music."

Opera News calls mezzo-soprano **Katharine Goeldner** "a natural actress...with thrilling, laser-like focus" and "luminous tone." *Opera* magazine praises her "stunningly rich mezzo." With a career that takes her throughout the U.S. and Europe, the "powerhouse" mezzo-soprano Katharine Goeldner is recognized as one of today's great singers.

One of the leading tenors of the younger generation, **Norman Reinhardt** continues to enjoy a growing reputation on both sides of the Atlantic in the lyric and bel canto repertoire. Current season highlights include Adolar in Christof Loy's new production of *Euryanthe* for Theater an der Wien, Lurcanio (*Ariodante*) for Opéra de Monte-Carlo and Flamand (*Capriccio*) for Teatro Real. He makes his role debut as Števa in Katie Mitchell's new production of *Jenůfa* for Dutch National Opera.

Praised by the *Washington Post* as having a voice of "unearthly power," *The Houston Press* as being a "blow away singer" and the *San Jose Mercury News* as a "natural comic actor," American bass, **Nathan Stark**, has performed on operatic, concert and recital stages throughout the United States, Europe and China.

What: Program annotator Laurie Shulman writes that any performance of Verdi's *Requiem* is a major artistic event. "This grand, moving and noble work constitutes a fully satisfying musical and spiritual experience." Known more for his operatic career, Verdi's *Requiem* is often referred to as an

opera in disguise. His *Requiem* has taken its place alongside those of Mozart, Berlioz, Brahms, Fauré and Britten as cornerstones of Western choral literature. Verdi focuses on grand and exaggerated gestures, weaving drama, beauty, loss, redemption and terror into the entire fabric of this epic piece.

When: The performances will take place on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16, both at 8 p.m.

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

Tickets: Tickets start at \$19 but the Symphony is offering a limited time offer (**\$25 best seat available**) to make this epic orchestral masterpiece more accessible to any patron of the arts looking to experience the Symphony. To redeem this offer, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547. For more information please visit JaxSymphony.org.

Sponsors: *Verdi's Requiem* is a part of 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 JacksonvilleSymphony.