

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY GIVES WORLD PREMIERE OF PIECE INSPIRED BY JACKSONVILLE: *BRIDGES*

Jacksonville, FL (March 26, 2019) --- In perhaps the most exciting weekend on the 2018-2019 season, the Jacksonville Symphony will present a robust series of performances featuring international guest violinist Jennifer Koh, Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony and the World Premiere of *Bridges*, a brand new piece of music written by Mary Carr Patton Composer-in-Residence Courtney Bryan. The premiere weekend will start with a *Symphony in 60* performance on April 4 and include both *Florida Blue Masterworks* performances on April 5 & 6.

WHAT: Courtney Bryan joined the Symphony's roster as Mary Carr Patton Composer-in-Residence for the 2018-2019 season. Her residency will culminate in the World Premiere of a brand new piece of music inspired by the city of Jacksonville entitled *Bridges*. During her residency, Courtney has been to a variety of schools, museums, popular local locations, etc. that helped give her an idea of Jacksonville's culture. *Bridges* is written from those experiences she had throughout Jacksonville.

"*Bridges* is a tribute to the city of Jacksonville, its diverse communities, and the bridges that bring them together. As Mary Carr Patton Composer-in-Residence with the Jacksonville Symphony, I have had the opportunity to learn about Jacksonville (and St. Augustine) by visiting museums and galleries, historic landmarks, educational institutions, and by meeting with contemporary artists, arts supporters and residents. A central inspiration for the music comes from my visits to several schools in different neighborhoods of Jacksonville where the young students improvised sounds of their neighborhoods, particularly sounds of water, weather and traffic.

Bridges begins with an acknowledgement of the early cultural encounters of Northeast Florida along the St. Johns River from the time of Ossachite to Cowford to Jacksonville, including the Timucua (Satiriwa), French, Spanish, West African, British, Seminole and Americans. Following this are musical responses to my experiences while visiting Jacksonville. While bridges may separate the city, this piece celebrates how through people's intentions and actions, they can bring the city together." – Courtney Bryan

WHO: The Jacksonville Symphony is thrilled to not only feature Courtney Bryan as Mary Carr Patton Composer-in-Residence on this program, but also to welcome virtuoso violinist **Jennifer Koh** to perform Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto.

Recognized for intense, commanding performances, delivered with dazzling virtuosity and technical assurance, violinist Jennifer Koh is a forward-thinking artist dedicated to exploring a broad and eclectic repertoire. She has expanded the contemporary violin repertoire through a wide range of commissioning projects, and has premiered more than 70 works written especially for her. Her quest for the new and unusual, sense of endless curiosity, and ability to lead and inspire a host of multidisciplinary collaborators, truly set her apart.

Born in Chicago of Korean parents, Koh began playing the violin by chance, choosing the instrument in a Suzuki-method program only because spaces for cello and piano had been filled. At the young age of 11, she made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has gone on to have a career that encompasses so much more than playing the violin; from promoting diversity and inclusivity in the industry to teaching and inspiring young musicians, Jennifer Koh has truly made an impact on classical music.

Koh has multiple critically acclaimed music series that have grown and expanded over the past seasons, including *The New American Concerto* project. Through this project, Koh brings together composers of diverse

backgrounds to write violin concertos. She challenges these composers to do two things: write about the cultural richness found throughout our diverse country, and to re-examine the traditional concerto through a 21st century lens. By reflecting on each of their experiences, these composers are creating truly personal works of art through which a unique story is told. “There is space in our world for all of us and for all of our stories,” says Koh.

Although very active in the concert hall, Koh is also a lecturer, teacher and recording artist. She is in residence at Cornell and Tulane Universities, during which she will perform, give master classes, and speak on topics from diversity to contemporary composition. She has recorded 12 albums and is also the artistic director of *arco collaborative*, an artist-driven nonprofit that fosters a better understanding of our world through a musical dialogue inspired by ideas and the communities around us.

SYMPHONY IN 60: The first performance of Courtney Bryan’s new work, *Bridges*, will take place on Thursday, April 4 on the *Symphony in 60* program. *Symphony in 60* is a “happy-hour” style program designed to capture downtown professionals and those who may be new to the Symphony. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a happy-hour. Each patron will receive a complimentary drink ticket to kick-off the evening. The abbreviated, one-hour concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature *Bridges* as well as Jennifer Koh performing Prokofiev. Following the concert, patrons can meet and greet musicians and Music Director Courtney Lewis at Bellweather.

WHEN: The *Symphony in 60* performance will take place on Thursday, April 4 with happy-hour starting at 5:30 p.m. and the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. The *Florida Blue Masterworks* performances, entitled *Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2*, will take place on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, both at 8 p.m. There is an additional *Raymond James Coffee Series* concert that will occur on Friday, April 5 at 11 a.m. where the Symphony will perform Rachmaninoff’s Second Symphony.

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

TICKETS: For more information on the or to purchase tickets for the *World Premiere* or *Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2*, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or visit JaxSymphony.org.

SPONSORS: The commission for *Bridges* is made possible through the support from Mary Carr Patton and The National Endowment for the Art.

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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 Twitter @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.