

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY PERFORMS MOZART'S FINAL SYMPHONY, "JUPITER"

Jacksonville, FL (April 15, 2019) --- On April 26, 27 & 28, the Jacksonville Symphony will perform a program centered around Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 41st and final symphony, "Jupiter." Also on the program will be Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* and Elgar's magnificent *Enigma Variations*. This concert will also be Nathan Aspinall's last *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* concert as associate conductor.

WHAT: Although named after its majestic first movement, the "Jupiter" Symphony is most known for its finale. The conclusion interweaves five principal themes into a dramatic ending that has immortalized the piece as one of the greatest classical symphonies. The concert is joined by Ravel's tribute to François Couperin (*Le Tombeau de Couperin*) and Elgar's tribute to those who have impacted him (*Enigma Variations, Op. 36*). Each movement of Elgar's *Variations* is a musical sketch of one of his close friends, including his wife Alice and dear friend Augustus Jaeger. Elgar himself said this of the piece:

"This work, commenced in a spirit of humor & continued in deep seriousness, contains sketches of the composer's friends. It may be understood that these personages comment or reflect on the original theme & each one attempts a solution of the Enigma, for so the theme is called. The sketches are not 'portraits' but each variation contains a distinct idea founded on some particular personality or perhaps on some incident known only to two people. This is the basis of the composition, but the work may be listened to as a 'piece of music' apart from any extraneous consideration."

WHO: Nathan Aspinall has been associate conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony for three seasons. Recent performances in this position have included Handel's *Messiah*, Prokofiev's complete ballet *Cinderella*, and a highly-acclaimed masterworks subscription week and tour featuring pianist Bezhod Abduraminov performing Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto along with Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Kevin Wilt of the *Palm Beach Daily News* noted, "In recent years, the Kravis Center has heard performances by the Chicago Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and more. This one was just as polished as any of those."

Formerly, Aspinall held the position of young conductor with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra where he assisted chief conductor Johannes Fritsch and visiting guest conductors, and conducted concerts for the education series. He studied French horn and Conducting at the University of Queensland and upon graduation was awarded the Hugh Brandon Prize. In 2012 he attended the Aspen Music Festival studying with Robert Spano and Hugh Wolff. He was awarded the Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize, inviting him to return to Aspen in 2013.

Aspinall has conducted the Atlanta, Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, the Queensland Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra and has acted as Assistant Conductor for Opera Queensland. Festival master classes and appearances have included the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Oregon Bach Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Seminar. In summer 2019, Aspinall will attend Tanglewood as one of two conducting fellows.

During the 2018-2019 season, Aspinall led the Jacksonville Symphony in his third masterworks subscription appearance and return with the orchestra and organist Cameron Carpenter to the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Aspinall studied Orchestral Conducting with Hugh Wolff at New England Conservatory in Boston.

WHEN: The performances will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27, both at 8 p.m., and Sunday April 28 at 3 p.m. *Insight*, the Symphony's pre-concert talk with the conductor, will take place an hour before each performance: Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

WHERE: The performances will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts' 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: *Mozart's Jupiter* is a part of the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* and is presented by the Florida State College at Jacksonville and Jax Black Car Transportation.

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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.