

## JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY WELCOMES BACK ROCK-STAR CELLIST JOSHUA ROMAN

*“A cellist of extraordinary technical and musical gifts.”*

*—San Francisco Chronicle*

Jacksonville, FL (May 6, 2019) --- On May 17, 18 & 19, cellist Joshua Roman will return to Jacksonville to perform Lutosławski's Cello Concerto with the Jacksonville Symphony. Roman previously performed with the Symphony during the 2016-2017 season with Elgar's Cello Concerto. Book-ending the cello concerto on the program is Schumann's *Genoveva* Overture and Brahms' First Symphony.

**Who:** The performance will be led by Symphony **Music Director Courtney Lewis** and will feature classical rock-star, cellist Joshua Roman.

**Joshua Roman** has earned an international reputation for his wide-ranging repertoire, a commitment to communicating the essence of music in visionary ways, artistic leadership and versatility. As well as being a celebrated performer, he is recognized as an accomplished composer and curator, and was named a TED Senior Fellow in 2015.

During the 2017-2018 season, Roman made his Detroit Symphony Orchestra debut, and performed his own Cello Concerto, *Awakening*, with the Princeton Symphony in collaboration with conductor Teddy Abrams. In Europe, Roman performed one of his favorite 20<sup>th</sup> century Cello Concertos, that of Polish composer Witold Lutosławski, with the Szczecin Philharmonic of Poland. Other season highlights included performances with San Francisco Performances of *Tornado* with the JACK Quartet, Town Hall Seattle, Interlochen and numerous presenters throughout the country.

Before embarking on a solo career, Roman spent two seasons as principal cellist of the Seattle Symphony, a position he won in 2006 at the age of 22. Since that time he has appeared as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Moscow State Symphony and Mariinsky Orchestra, among many others. An active chamber musician, Roman has collaborated with Cho-Liang Lin, Assad Brothers, Christian Zacharias, Yo-Yo Ma, the JACK Quartet, the Enso String Quartet and Talea Ensemble. His YouTube series, “Everyday Bach,” features Roman performing Bach's cello suites from beautiful settings around the world. He was the only guest artist invited to play an unaccompanied solo during the YouTube Symphony Orchestra's 2009 debut concert at Carnegie Hall, and has given a solo performance on the TED2015 main stage. Roman is grateful for the loan of an 1899 cello by Giulio Degani of Venice.

**What:** Through mentorship, endorsement and friendship, Robert Schumann had the single most significant impact on the career of the younger Johannes Brahms. In homage, Brahms' Symphony No. 1 contains clear references to the musical style of the man who so influenced him. But, Brahms' First Symphony also takes influences from another well-known composer: Ludwig van Beethoven. It was Robert Schumann who dubbed a young Brahms as “Beethoven's successor” and Brahms took this comparison to heart. It took him almost 20 years to complete his First Symphony, saying “You do not know what it is like hearing his [Beethoven] footsteps constantly behind one.”

Joshua Roman returns to Jacksonville to perform a virtuosic tapestry of sound in Lutosławski's Cello Concerto. Written in his biography, Roman tells us that Lutosławski's Cello Concerto is his favorite 20<sup>th</sup> century concerto for the instrument. The piece is written in a single movement lasting approximately 24 minutes. It opens with an extended solo passage for the cello with a repeated note that appears continually throughout the piece. Lutosławski's piece will take

audience members through a wide range of moods as the orchestra and the soloist partake in a dramatic dialogue.

**When:** The performances will take place on Friday, May 17 at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m. *Insight*, the Symphony's pre-concert talk, will take place an hour before each performance.

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

**Tickets:** Tickets start at \$19. For more information, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or visit [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org).

**Sponsors:** *Brahms Symphony No. 1* is a part of the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* and is presented by BRASS, Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony.

###

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](http://JaxSymphony.org), like them at [facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://facebook.com/JaxSymphony); follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.