

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY HONORS MEMORIAL DAY WITH *PATRIOTIC POPS*

Jacksonville, FL (May 14, 2019) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will honor Memorial Day with *Patriotic Pops*, a concert dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. There are three opportunities to hear the program: Friday, May 24 at 11 a.m., Friday, May 24 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 25 at 8 p.m.

WHO: To help commemorate this day, the Jacksonville Symphony has partnered with local organizations such as **K-9's for Warriors**, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Before the Saturday evening concert, patrons can meet one of the organization's puppy "warriors" in training.

The Symphony, and food service provider SAVOR, have worked together to bring food trucks to the Times-Union Center for the Saturday evening concert. The trucks will park on the river side of the Performing Arts Center off of West Coastline Drive and will serve food from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Symphony will supply lawn games to help give this event a true "picnic and pops" feel in honor of Memorial Day. Patrons are welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets to set out on the grassy patio before the concert begins.

The Symphony will also be joined by the Sandlewood High School JROTC Color Guard for the presentation of the colors and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Pipes & Drum Band will perform "Amazing Grace."

The concerts will be led by Symphony Associate Conductor **Nathan Aspinall**. The *Patriotic Pops* weekend will be Aspinall's last Pops concert performance as associate conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony.

Recent performances of Aspinall's have included Handel's *Messiah*, Prokofiev's *Cinderella* and a *Masterworks Series* concert with organist Cameron Carpenter. Formerly, he held the position of young conductor with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra where he assisted Chief Conductor Johannes Fritzsich and visiting guest conductors and conducted concerts for the education series. Aspinall studied French horn and Conducting at the University of Queensland and upon graduation was awarded the Hugh Brandon Prize. 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.

WHAT: The program for these concerts features American favorites from Sousa's "Semper Fidelis" to "God Bless America." In addition, John Williams' *Hymn to the Fallen* will make an appearance. With many more patriotic classics in between, the program will come to a rousing conclusion with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

WHEN: The first performance will be held on Friday, May 24 at 11 a.m. as a part of the *Raymond James Coffee Concert Series*. The concert will feature an abbreviated program and complimentary coffee and cookies will be available in the lobby before the start of the concert. The second performance will take place Friday, May 24 at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a performance on Saturday, May 25 at 8 p.m., both a part of the *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series*. Saturday evening's concert will have food trucks parked on the river side of the building off of West Coastline Drive starting at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: All performances will take place in Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. For the Saturday evening performance, the pre-concert picnic will be held on the back riverside patio of the Times-Union Center.

TICKETS: For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or visit JaxSymphony.org. You can also visit the Ticket Office Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4p.m. Military personnel are able to purchase best-available tickets at their local ITT/ITR offices at a reduced price.

SPONSORS: These concerts are a part of the *Raymond James Coffee Series* and the *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series*, presented with Black Knight.

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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.