

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 SEASON

**“A season full of music you know and love, with some spirited adventures along the way.” –
Music Director Courtney Lewis**

Jacksonville, FL (March 13, 2019) --- Wednesday, March 13, Jacksonville Symphony Music Director Courtney Lewis announced the highlights for the Symphony’s upcoming 2019-2020 season.

The 2019-2020 season will be the Symphony’s 70th and is built around one of the most famous composers: Ludwig van Beethoven. Born in 1770, Beethoven is known for paving the way for the future of the musical art form. December 2020 will mark his 250th birthday, the perfect occasion for the Jacksonville Symphony to celebrate this composer’s legacy. Featured on the season will be Beethoven’s Mass in C, “Emperor” Piano Concerto and Violin Concerto. The Symphony will end the season with a performance of one of the most recognized symphonies of all time: Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony featuring the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and the University of North Florida Chorale.

In addition to Beethoven’s masterpieces, the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series* will include several classical favorites such as Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 2 and Second Symphony, Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8 and Edward Elgar’s magnificent Violin Concerto. Nathan Aspinall will return to the Jacoby Symphony Hall podium for a program featuring Rachmaninoff’s *Symphonic Dances* and guest conductor Anu Tali makes her first Jacksonville appearance with Tchaikovsky’s “Pathétique” Symphony.

“We’re also excited to take you on some adventures with captivating music you may not have heard before,” says Music Director Courtney Lewis. “You will hear Franz Schreker’s music, full of resplendent color much like Richard Strauss. Music by Henri Dutilleux is virtuosic for every instrument in the orchestra and we’ll also perform masterpieces by Lutosławski and Thomas Adès.”

One of the most exciting highlights for the Symphony’s 2019-2020 season is the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. The Symphony was accepted into the prestigious *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras* as one of four ensembles from across the country. The Symphony performs a program including Copland’s Clarinet Concert (with New York Philharmonic Principal Clarinetist Anthony McGill) and two works written specifically for the city of Jacksonville: Courtney Bryan’s *Bridges* (to be premiered in April 2019) and Duke Ellington’s *Celebration*.

The Symphony’s third *Fanfare! Opening Night* features Jacksonville native Marcus Roberts and his jazz trio performing Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* to celebrate the beginning of another season. Soprano Susan Graham headlines the Symphony’s *2020 Gala* taking place on March 7 and violinist James Ehnes returns to Jacoby Symphony Hall in November. Pianist Natasha Paremski joins the Symphony for Brahms in October and pianist Daniel Hsu, Cliburn Competition medalist, performs Beethoven’s “Emperor” Concerto in May.

The *Symphonic Night at the Movies Series* returns with *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, *Jurassic Park* and Disney Pixar’s *Up*.

Hooray for Hollywood will open the *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series* in October with Michael Krajewski conducting some of your favorite movie music. Michael Cavanaugh joins the Symphony for a program celebrating “Piano Man” Billy Joel. Cavanaugh was handpicked by Billy Joel to star in the Broadway Musical *Movin’ Out*. The Doo Wop Project returns with an all new program and the Symphony honors the legacy of Aretha Franklin. In March, Steven Reineke, music director of the New

York Pops, conducts a program of Broadway favorites. A Jacksonville Symphony season would not be complete without the annual traditions of *Holiday Pops* and *Patriotic Pops*. Two season favorites that have continued to grow over the past few seasons will bring holiday cheer (and snow!) to your December and enliven your patriotic spirit in time for Memorial Day.

Beethoven's epic Fifth Symphony can be found on the 2019-2020 *Raymond James Coffee Series* along with Camille Saint-Saëns' truly inspiring Organ Symphony performed on the Bryan Concert Organ, an instrument we see every week, but only have the privilege of hearing on special occasions. The music of Aretha Franklin joins the Coffee Concert schedule and the Symphony performs a program of romantic favorites on February 14 & 15.

For the full 2019-2020 season, please visit JaxSymphony.org. Subscriptions for the 2019-2020 season are currently being sold and single tickets will go on sale in August 2019. For additional information, please call the Symphony Ticket Office at 904.354.5547.

"I know you'll be as excited as I am for another season of breathtaking artistry from the Jacksonville Symphony." – Music Director Courtney Lewis

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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.

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