

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2020/21 SEASON

Jacksonville, FL (April 16, 2020) --- In the spirit of optimism and a brighter future on the horizon, the Jacksonville Symphony and Music Director Courtney Lewis announce another season of breathtaking symphonic music. The 2020/21 season will be Lewis' sixth on the Jacksonville Symphony podium. The season reflects Lewis' commitment to expanding and diversifying the Symphony's programming and increasing the accessibility of symphonic music to the community.

For the fourth season, the Symphony will kick off in dynamic fashion with *Fanfare! Opening Night* on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Previous *Fanfare* artists have included violinist Charlie Siem, saxophonist Branford Marsalis, and Jacksonville's own Marcus Roberts. This season, percussionist Colin Currie joins the Symphony for a percussive flare appropriate for a season opening celebration.

At the heart of the Symphony season lies the *Florida Blue Masterworks Series*. The 2020/21 season features an increase in Masterworks concerts from 12 to 13. Last season celebrated the legacy of Ludwig van Beethoven, and 2020/21 will bring the master composer back with performances of his Seventh Symphony. Beethoven will be joined by Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Mozart and Berlioz. Symphony-goers will also have the chance to experience Carl Orff's epic *Carmina Burana*, complete with the orchestra and the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus. Familiar faces will return to Jacoby Symphony Hall with performances by pianist Natasha Paremski, conductors Matthew Halls and Thomas Wilkins, cellist Joshua Roman, and the Symphony's own principal bassoonist Conrad Cornelison.

The highlight of the 2020/21 Masterworks season will be the return of opera to Jacoby Symphony Hall. The Symphony brought opera back two seasons ago with Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. The 2020/21 production will be just as grandiose with three 30-foot projection screens and a world-class cast performing Giacomo Puccini's tragic love story, *La Bohème*. The opera will be sung in Italian with projected English translations.

"Our outstanding orchestra has so much to offer to the Jacksonville community," says Steven Libman, President & CEO. "I know the entire organization is ready and waiting to welcome everyone back to Jacoby Symphony Hall in the fall for another season of fabulous music."

The largest fundraising event of the season, the *Symphony Gala*, will take place on Saturday, March 6, 2021. Music Director Courtney Lewis and the Symphony will welcome international pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Thibaudet will bring his rock-star panache to Jacksonville performing Ravel's G major Concerto, a piece with roots in America's greatest musical gift to the world: jazz.

Symphony Specials feature the holiday traditions of *First Coast Nutcracker* and *Handel's Messiah*, while the Symphony rings in 2021 on the right note with a New Year's Eve concert featuring the unmistakable sounds of the Rat Pack.

The *Symphonic Night at the Movies Series* returns with *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*, and Disney Pixar's *Toy Story* and *Coco*. *Coco* will serve as the Symphony's musical celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. While the orchestra plays the entire soundtrack from the stage, the full film is projected live on a screen hanging from the ceiling of Jacoby Symphony Hall. These concerts present a cinematic experience unlike any other.

The Symphony's multi-faceted *Pops Series* grows from 8 to 10 productions in the 2020/21 season. Singers Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare return for two separate performances featuring Gershwin, Sinatra and more selections from the Great American Songbook. Cirque de la Symphonie also makes a return to Jacoby Symphony Hall for a gravity-defying performance paired with symphonic favorites. The Symphony pays tribute to the Beatles' *Abbey Road*, and performs music by John Williams. Annual favorites remain with *Patriotic Pops* and a reimagined *Holiday Pops*.

"I am delighted to introduce another season of musical adventures filled with both familiar paths, and corners yet to be explored," says Music Director Courtney Lewis. "Now more than ever it is important to look forward and find new experiences to enliven our spirits and stir our souls. We hope our 2020/21 season will bring excitement and joy to this time of uncertainty."

For the full 2020/21 season, please visit JaxSymphony.org. Subscriptions for the 2020/21 season are currently being sold. For additional information, please call the Symphony Box Office at 904.354.5547.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading orchestra 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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