

Contact:

Sara Albertelli
Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra
904.358.1479
SAlbertelli@jaxsymphony.org

Grammy and Emmy-nominated Vocalist N’Kenge Joins the Jacksonville Symphony to Perform the Hits of Whitney Houston

Jacksonville, FL: The Jacksonville Symphony will perform the classics of Whitney Houston with renowned Broadway, Pop and Opera star N’Kenge.

Most recently, N’Kenge starred as "The Moon" in the Broadway revival of the Tony Award-nominated and Olivier Award-winning musical *Caroline, or Change*. She also performed the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden and has sung for several dignitaries around the globe, including President Obama for his historical Commander-in-Chief Inaugural Ball. Famous venues she has performed at include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, and Kennedy Center.

She has headlined concerts with numerous orchestras like the Seattle Symphony, Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra. On March 18 and 19, she will be performing two Pops concerts with the Jacksonville Symphony, singing Whitney Houston classics such as "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," "Saving All My Love for You," and "I Will Always Love You."

"I’m so extremely excited for my upcoming return performance with the magnificent Jacksonville Symphony. I look forward to getting the audience on their feet and joining me as I sing and dance to Whitney Houston’s Mega Hit List," said N’Kenge.

Trained at both The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, N’Kenge’s vocal and musical range spans five octaves and 11 languages.

N’Kenge made her Broadway debut in the production *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Since then, she has been heralded as "electrifying" by the *NY Post* for her performance as Mary Wells in *3 Mo’ Divas*, "a classically trained diva that can stretch from Broadway to Pop, Soul and Opera" by the *New York Times*, and "the most versatile artist I know" by Motown Founder Berry Gordy.

N’Kenge is currently involved in several upcoming productions. Starring in the title role of the Broadway-bound musical *Dorothy Dandridge—The Musical*, she will also be performing the role of Jazz in the Broadway-bound musical *DANGEROUS*.

She is the writer and creator of *Forever Summer: a Tribute to Donna Summer* that will debut at Carnegie Hall. She is also developing a new TV musical series/dramedy alongside TV producer Gina Goff titled *BLACK BUTTERFLY* that she created as well as co-wrote with award-winning writer Mary McCallum.

Offstage, N'Kenge holds Board positions at both Amas Musical Theatre and CAAPA (Coalition for African-Americans in the performing arts). N'Kenge is the founding chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee at The Players in NYC. The committee is the first of its kind at the 133-year-old artists club with its initiatives to advance artistic, social, and economic justice. Embracing wide-ranging measures of diversity such as culture, nationality, faith, race, ethnicity, gender, identity, sexual orientation, and generational difference, the committee is dedicated to uplifting artistic communities.

The Jacksonville Symphony is honored to welcome back N'Kenge to Jacoby Symphony Hall for its performances and present her esteemed talent to the Jacksonville community.

###

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](https://instagram.com/jaxsymphony), on Instagram at [JaxSymphony](https://instagram.com/jaxsymphony) and on YouTube at [JacksonvilleSymphony](https://youtube.com/JacksonvilleSymphony).