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**The Jacksonville Symphony Closes 74<sup>th</sup> Season with *Symphonie Fantastique***

*A Jacksonville favorite to take place on June 7 and June 8*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — May 23, 2024 —** For a grand season finale, the [Jacksonville Symphony](http://JacksonvilleSymphony.com) presents *Symphonie Fantastique* on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, Jacoby Symphony Hall.

Music Director Courtney Lewis and the Symphony take the stage to perform Hector Berlioz's wildly imaginative *Symphonie fantastique*. A bedrock of the Romantic Era, this saga uses music to paint a love-stricken artist's journey from a serene countryside to a whirling dervish conclusion. Famous for its melodies that forever revolutionized classical music, this work would come to influence Sergei Rachmaninoff and other composers.

"As we approach our 75<sup>th</sup> Season next year, there is so much to look forward to, but first, we end this season with one of my favorite symphonies," said Courtney Lewis, Music Director of the Jacksonville Symphony. "The artistic leap that Berlioz took in imagining the *Symphonie fantastique* is enormous. The sheer originality of the concept is staggering, as is the power, terror and beauty of the music. Throughout the symphony, Berlioz's passion and vigor make the music fizz with life and excitement, resulting in a thrilling, orchestral journey."

The program opens with another storytelling work – gripping orchestral music from Thomas Adès' masterpiece opera, *The Exterminating Angel*, based on the 1962 film of the same name by Luis Buñuel. The surrealist masterpiece depicts guests at an upper-class dinner party who find themselves inexplicably unable to leave and in the throes of survival. Lewis refers to it as "one of the most exciting pieces to be written within the last decade."

In early May, the Jacksonville Symphony announced its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, filled with exceptional programming and special events. In conjunction with its upcoming season, the Symphony unveiled new, vibrant branding that depicts Jacksonville's sunrises and rivers, reflecting the Symphony's deep connection to the city and its surroundings. Season subscriptions are on sale now to current subscribers looking to renew. Single tickets and new subscriptions are available beginning July 8.

To view the 75<sup>th</sup> Season and learn more about the new brand, visit [JaxSymphony.org](https://www.jaxsymphony.org) or call the Box Office at (904) 354-5547. For more information on *Symphonie Fantastique* and to reserve your seats, tickets are on sale only at [JaxSymphony.org](https://www.jaxsymphony.org).

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### **About the Jacksonville Symphony**

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading nonprofit arts organization offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. Led by President and CEO Steven B. Libman and Music Director Courtney Lewis, the Jacksonville Symphony reaches over 113,000 individuals through over 125 performances each season. In addition, the Symphony's music education programs reach 70,000 students each year and operate the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit [JaxSymphony.org](https://www.jaxsymphony.org).