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**The Jacksonville Symphony Presents *The Lark Ascending***

*Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva to take center stage for Ralph Vaughan Williams' soaring, musical work this May*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — May 6, 2024** — The [Jacksonville Symphony](http://JacksonvilleSymphony.com) presents two performances of Edward Elgar's *In the South*, Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* and William Walton's First Symphony at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, Jacoby Symphony Hall. The performances will take place on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Elgar's *In the South*, described as bright, sunny and brimming with Mediterranean-inspired themes, opens the program. In a powerful conclusion, the innovative use of orchestral color in Walton's First Symphony draws this dynamic program to a thrilling close.

The centerpiece of the performances, Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, features dynamic Concertmaster of the Jacksonville Symphony, Adelya Nartadjieva. The masterpiece is famous for its vivid musical soundscapes and expressive playing from the soloist.

"[*The Lark Ascending*] is extremely beautiful and transcends you to a place of your choosing. I have this picture in my head where you wake up early in the morning when the sun is about to rise, and it's dead quiet. But, when you step outside and listen very carefully, there are so many sounds in nature, and the birds are singing," said Nartadjieva. "...The other picture I have in my head is when you go on a flight early in the morning, and you see the earth from a bird's-eye view. You realize that life is so expansive, and you're a part of it, and it's just so beautiful."

A native of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Nartadjieva started playing the violin at the age of six. She performed her first solo concert with the Chamber Orchestra of Uzbekistan, just nine months

after she started playing. She went on to graduate from the Yale School of Music with a Master's Degree, and upon graduation, Nartadjieva was awarded a First-Class Honors Degree and a Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal as the best graduate throughout the course of study. Nartadjieva is also the winner of several international competitions in Greece, Singapore, United States, Russia and Uzbekistan. She recently won first prize at the Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition at Yale and Gershwin International Competition, an education grant from the Rachel Barton Pine Foundation and the Broadus Erle prize from the Yale School of Music. In 2021, she was a guest associate concertmaster for Experiential Orchestra's recording of Dame Ethel Smyth's "The Prison," winning a GRAMMY® Award. In 2022, following the Jacksonville Symphony's five-year search for a Concertmaster, Nartadjieva joined the organization.

"Adelya is one of the finest concertmasters I've worked with. Not only is she a world-class violinist, she's also a brilliant leader. Her colleagues respect and trust her, and she is a terrific advocate for the Symphony off the stage too," said Courtney Lewis, Music Director of the Jacksonville Symphony. "The sound of the first violins in the Jacksonville Symphony has been transformed since she arrived, as has the strength of rhythmical ensemble in the whole orchestra."

For more information and to reserve your seats, tickets are on sale now only at [JaxSymphony.org](https://www.jaxsymphony.org).

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### **About the Jacksonville Symphony**

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit 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 Libman and Music Director Courtney Lewis, the Jacksonville Symphony reaches over 113,000 individuals through over 125 performances each season. 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](https://www.jaxsymphony.org).