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Jacksonville Symphony presents its first Florida Blue Classical Concert of the 75th Season with Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto

Jacksonville, Fla. (September 12, 2024) — The Jacksonville Symphony launches its Florida Blue Classical Series with a thrilling program featuring Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 on September 27 and 28 at Jacoby Symphony Hall. The concert will highlight internationally acclaimed pianist Joyce Yang, the world premiere of Brittany J. Green's *TESTIFY!* and Richard Strauss' *A Hero's Life*, featuring Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva in several violin solos.

Grammy-nominated pianist Joyce Yang returns to Jacoby Symphony Hall for her third performance, bringing her artistry to one of Rachmaninoff's most beloved works. Renowned for her technical mastery and emotional depth, Yang will showcase the famous concerto's intricate passages and lush harmonies. This performance marks a major highlight as the Symphony celebrates its 75th Anniversary Season, with Yang as one of its first featured guest artists.

In addition to Rachmaninoff's masterpiece, the program will feature the world premiere of *TESTIFY!* composed by North Carolina-based artist Brittany J. Green. Presented in partnership with the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program, *TESTIFY!* draws inspiration from Green's childhood memories of her mother playing the tambourine, weaving together a vibrant soundscape that promises to engage and captivate the audience.

The evening will conclude with Richard Strauss' *A Hero's Life (Ein Heldenleben)*, a dynamic tone poem that follows the journey of a hero, complete with powerful brass sections, sweeping romantic themes and beautiful violin solos by Concertmaster Nartadjieva. This powerful and evocative work offers a fitting conclusion to an evening brimming with musical excitement and variety, perfectly aligning with the spirit of the Symphony's milestone season.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the Box Office at 904-354-5547. This concert is sponsored by Florida Blue and is part of the David M. Hicks Piano Series and the Greta Challen Berg Artist Series.

About the Jacksonville Symphony

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading nonprofit performing 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 Libman and Music Director Courtney Lewis, the Jacksonville Symphony reaches over 165,500 individuals through over 95 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.

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