

Checkmate at Czechmate! Symphony in 60 Returns October 19; Masterworks and Coffee Concert on October 20 & 21

Jacksonville, FL (October 11, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony will perform the first Regency Centers Symphony in 60 Series concert, *Czechmate*, of the season featuring works by Mahler, Dvořák and Janáček on October 19. The concert will also be featured on the Raymond James Coffee Series and the Florida Blue Masterworks Series on October 20 and 21. The concert will also feature mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnston.

WHO: Jacksonville Symphony Music Director **Courtney Lewis** will conduct the second Masterworks concert of the season with guest artist and mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Johnston**. Lewis and Johnston first met last summer and have a University of Cambridge education in common. Johnston will perform in Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*.

Called **Czechmate**, this concert features composers that share a similar background: they all have a heritage starting in Bohemia or what is now the Czech Republic.

WHAT: The program begins with **Janáček's *Taras Bulba***, a work that tells the gruesome story of Cossack warriors in the 15th century. The work is in three movements and tells the story of Taras Bulba and his two sons as they lay siege on Poland. This piece also features **The Bryan Concert Organ**.

Mahler's *Rückert Lieder* is a collection of songs for voice and orchestra. Mahler wrote the five individual pieces in a way that they do not always have to be performed together or in any particular order. Though, you will hear all five presented on this concert.

Dvořák's *Sixth Symphony*, although not his most popular, is thought to be "one of his greatest" according to of Music Director Courtney Lewis. The influence from Czech folk music can be heard throughout the work.

PRE-CONCERT ACTIVITIES: The students of the **Jacksonville Chess Club** will be setting up before the concert and during intermission to play chess with those coming to hear the Symphony perform on Friday and Saturday night. Chess will start at 7:00pm and continue during intermission. Are you skilled enough to best them and get a checkmate at Czechmate?

CONCERTMASTER SEARCH: During the extensive search for a new concertmaster the Jacksonville Symphony will be bringing in seven candidates to perform with the Symphony during the season. For this concert, **Julia Noone** will take the stage with Courtney and the Symphony. Following this performance, Noone will also appear with the Symphony for the Symphonic Strings performance at Lazzara Performance Hall at the University of North Florida on Friday, October 27.

A native of Worchester, MA, violinist Julia Noone is currently the assistant concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra. Before moving to Louisville, Noone served as a fellow at the New World

Symphony where she was regularly concertmaster. Noone also served as concertmaster for Discovery Ensemble, a chamber orchestra in Boston formerly led by Courtney Lewis.

WHEN: This concert is a part of the **Regency Centers Symphony in 60 Series**. Happy Hour and networking starts at 5:30pm and the concert at 6:30pm includes presentations by Music Director Courtney Lewis. The concert is followed by complimentary drinks with Symphony musicians on stage at 7:30pm. Ticket includes a pre-concert complimentary beverage and symphony tumbler, hors d'oeuvres, concert admission and complimentary post-concert drinks.

The two **Florida Blue Masterworks Series** concerts will be held on Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21 at 8:00pm.

This concert will also be presented as a part of the **Raymond James Coffee Concert Series** on Friday, October 20 at 11:00am.

WHERE: All concerts will take place in Jacoby Symphony Hall located inside the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

TICKETS: Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org, by calling the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or by visiting the Times-Union Center Ticket Office Monday thru Friday between 10am and 4pm.

SPONSORS: These concerts are presented as a part of the **Florida Blue Masterworks Series** and the **Raymond James Coffee Concert Series**. These concerts are also sponsored in part by **VyStar Credit Union**. This concert is dedicated by The Vanguard Charitable-Kessler Fund in honor of the 15th annual Daniel Pearl World Music Days, a global initiative which used the power of music to bridge cultural differences.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby 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 Orchestra. 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.