

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR NEW CONCERTMASTER

Jacksonville, FL (September 25, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony has begun a year-long process to retain a new concertmaster for the orchestra following the retirement of longtime concertmaster Philip Pan. Seven candidates have been identified through a committee process and recommendations from Music Director Courtney Lewis. Each of the candidates will rehearse and perform with the orchestra for one Masterworks week and one Pops/Special Presentation week. The announcement was made by Robert Massey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Symphony.

Descriptions and dates of appearance will be announced as they are scheduled. The current schedule is as follows:

- **Nigel Armstrong**
 - A graduate of the Colburn School, Armstrong has performed as concertmaster for ensembles such as the New York String Orchestra and LA's American Youth Symphony. He currently serves as the concertmaster for the Santa Cruz Symphony.
 - **Mambo Kings** – September 22, 23 & 24
 - **Beethoven and the Blind Banister** – September 29 & 30

- **Julia Noone**
 - Native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Noone currently serves as the assistant concertmaster for the Louisville Orchestra. Noone has recently performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and as a guest Associate Principal with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.
 - **Czechmate** – October 20 & 21
 - **Symphonic Strings** at UNF – October 27

- **Vivek Jayaraman**
 - Jayaraman is a member of the Florida Orchestra in St. Petersburg, FL and has previously served as concertmaster for the Canton Symphony Orchestra. Jayaraman has also performed as concertmaster with the New World Symphony.
 - **Home Alone: Film With Orchestra** – November 25
 - **German Giants** – December 1, 2 & 3

- **Emma McGrath**
 - Currently the concertmaster as the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, McGrath was previously the associate concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra as well as the assistant concertmaster of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.
 - **New Year's Eve: Orchestral Lunacy** – December 31
 - **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto** – January 5 & 6

The concertmaster is responsible for tuning the orchestra, leading the string section and performing solo violin passages. Just as important, the concertmaster also serves as a

representative of the Jacksonville Symphony to the public. The concertmaster is often present at post-concert receptions and other special events hosted by the Jacksonville Symphony.

The position of concertmaster is “the second most important artistic position in the Symphony [after the music director],” says Massey. “They’ll have an internal audition, performing solo, chamber music and orchestral excerpts with the orchestra. Candidates will also perform at least one Masterworks performance.”

When all seven candidates have completed their extensive audition procedure the audition committee will name the new concertmaster for the Jacksonville Symphony. This committee is comprised of multiple musicians, senior Symphony leadership, Symphony board members and Music Director Courtney Lewis.

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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.