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STEVE VAUGHN, Euphonium Soloist, Wins Arapahoe Philharmonic's 2015 T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) is pleased to announce Steve Vaughn as winner of the 2015 T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition. Named for the AP's founder, the concerto competition has awarded a talented college student from Colorado or its surrounding seven states with a cash award and opportunity to perform a solo work with full orchestra nearly every year since the mid-1960s.

Competition Coordinator Alan Harvey noted the "outstanding depth of talent presented in this year's event." Five semi-finalists were selected from 24 applicants to perform live for the competition panel. Steve Vaughn, a second-year Master's student at the University of Colorado-Boulder, was awarded first prize with his performance of Vladimir Cosma's Concerto for Euphonium. Tyler Flowers, a saxophonist from Arizona State University, was awarded second prize and tubist Justin Davis, from the University of Northern Colorado, won third.

The Concerto Competition panel was comprised of AP Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes and principal players Alan Harvey (coordinator, tuba), Jaime Askvig (clarinet), Bryan Gannon (trombone), Teresa Harvey (French horn), Evelyn Rutenberg (flute), Charlie Shoemaker (bassoon), Shel Stanfill (percussion) and Anthony Zator (trumpet). Universal Music Company, based in Thornton, sponsors the first prize winner each year.

Vaughn will perform Cosma's Concerto for Euphonium on the AP's March 20, 2015, program at Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. He will also join the ensemble for the second half of the concert in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 7 (*Song of the Night*).

The T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition began during the 1966-1967 season as an opportunity for all collegiate woodwind and brass students in the Rocky Mountain region. Percussion was added for the 34th year of the competition and strings were invited to apply during the 35th year. The competition

currently alternates annually between winds/brass/percussion and strings. Following Parks' death, the annual competition was named in his honor.

A large part of the AP's mission is to foster music education and a love of classical music in youth and young adults and provide an opportunity to showcase budding young talent from the region. The AP also hosts two other competitions, one for conducting and one for composition, named for its second music director, the late Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr.

About Steve Vaughn

Steve Vaughn, originally from Endicott, New York, is currently in his second year of University of Colorado-Boulder's Master's program for Tuba/Euphonium Performance under teacher Michael Dunn. He earned Bachelor degrees in Music Education and Euphonium Performance at Ithaca College studying with Dr. Aaron Tindall, and has taken additional studies with former New York Philharmonic Principal Tubist Warren Deck.

Vaughn has participated in numerous festivals and competitions. He was recently named a semi-finalist for the Bruce Ekstrand Graduate Competition at CU-Boulder and finalist in the Jefferson Symphony Young Artists' Concerto Competition. An avid supporter and enthusiast of British-style brass bands, Vaughn holds the position of Principal Euphonium with Denver's premier brass band, Rocky Mountain Brassworks.

About the Arapahoe Philharmonic

Founded in 1953, the Arapahoe Philharmonic is among the longest established, continuously operating musical resources in Colorado. After thriving under just two conductors between 1953 and 2012, T. Gordon Parks and Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr., we celebrated our 60th anniversary in 2013-2014 with an exciting new conductor, Devin Patrick Hughes. The orchestra's musicians are primarily volunteers playing for the love of music, with a core of compensated section principals who provide technical leadership and support the excellence of performance.

Concerts in our home of Mission Hills Church in Littleton feature repertoire spanning the centuries, from the great masters to composers of the current day. The Philharmonic is invested in future generations, presenting annual children's concerts, sponsoring masterclasses and outreach to schools, as well as our three collegiate-level competitions.

About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic in the summer of 2013. He had previously held conducting posts with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Denver Contemporary Chamber Players, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Denver Young Artists Orchestra and Lamont Symphony Orchestra. He is also currently Music Director of the Boulder Symphony. In 2010 Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy. More information may be found at www.devinpatrickhughes.com.

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