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Contact:

Erin Acheson, Executive Director

303-781-1892 | erin@arapahoe-phil.org

2015-2016 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition to Open in July

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), in support of its ongoing mission to recognize young talent in the classical music field, announces the opening of its 2015-2016 **Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition** beginning Wednesday, July 1, 2015.

This competition is for conductors between the ages of 18 and 28 who are residents of the United States and not yet regularly employed in the conducting field. The winner will conduct **Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46** in concert with the Arapahoe Philharmonic on November 6, 2015, and be presented with a cash prize of \$500 at the performance. Devin Patrick Hughes, Music Director and Conductor of the AP, will mentor the competition winner during his or her week with the orchestra.

The inaugural Conducting Competition was held during the 2013-2014 season. Nathaniel Meyer, from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, won the first competition and led the Arapahoe Philharmonic in Bernstein's *Overture to Candide* in February 2014. The Conducting Competition alternates annually with the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition.

Eligibility and application requirements are available on our website at <http://www.arapahoe-phil.org/competitions/conducting-competition/>. All applications must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015.

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, and offering three collegiate-level competitions.

About Devin Patrick Hughes

Devin Patrick Hughes begins his third season as Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic. 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 currently also 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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Arapahoe Philharmonic, 2100 West Littleton Blvd, #250, Littleton CO 80120
(303) 781-1892 phone; www.arapahoe-phil.org