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Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Dances of Love”

Includes works of Richard Strauss, Ravel, Falla and Bernstein

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) begins 2015 with an orchestral tribute to dance on **Friday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m.** in Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. “Dances of Love” traverses traditional, exotic and contemporary jazz forms in an evening of music for movement.

Richard Strauss’s comic opera *Der Rosenkavalier* was his most popular, composed in a more traditional style than his other works of the time that were pushing boundaries of dissonance and modernism. The “First Waltz Sequence,” heard on this concert, is the only compilation of selections from the opera actually created by Strauss. The virtuosity in his orchestral writing makes Strauss a favorite of audiences and performers alike.

The Three-Cornered Hat is a ballet commissioned by the famous Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev with music by Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. Falla incorporates Andalusian folk music in the work featuring three traditional Spanish dances: the Sequivilla, Farruca and Jota.

Originally written as a ballet, Maurice Ravel’s most famous composition is based on the Spanish music and dance style bolero, known for its 3/4 time and triplets. *Bolero* begins with a simple melody and gradually adds instruments of the orchestra throughout the piece, all playing a more insistent version of the melody over a driving, percussive rhythm.

West Side Story is the modern “Romeo and Juliet” tale with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and choreography by Jerome Robbins. Set in 1950s New York, the popular musical follows a forbidden love that fuels tension between rival gangs on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The “Symphonic Dances” is a suite of orchestral music from the show, compiled by Bernstein himself.

Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes will explore the program in a pre-concert talk beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the Mission Hills Lobby.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors (65 and over) and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased online at www.arapahoe-phil.org, by phone at 303-781-1892 and at the door the night of the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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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