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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents All-American Concert February 7**

### ***Features Winner of Inaugural Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition***

Denver – Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes leads the Arapahoe Philharmonic in a program of American masters titled “Made in America” on **Friday, February 7, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.** in its performance home, Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive in Littleton. The evening consists of popular classics from George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein, as well as several special guest appearances. Audience members are encouraged to join the orchestra in wearing their finest country denim. Tickets are \$25 (adults), \$20 (seniors), and \$5 (students/children) and are available online at [www.arapahoe-phil.org](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org), by phone at 303-781-1892 or at the door.

Gershwin’s *An American in Paris* is one of his most popular compositions for orchestra. The music adds a touch of American jazz into the atmosphere of a bustling 1920s Paris – even calling for taxi horns. Originally composed as a ballet for chamber orchestra, Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* is probably most recognizable for its use of a Shaker melody known widely as “Simple Gifts.” The program opens with Leonard Bernstein’s lively Overture to *Candide*, an operetta based on a story by Voltaire. The required virtuosity and rhythmic intensity is an exciting staple of the orchestral repertoire.

Nathaniel Meyer, winner of the Inaugural Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition, will conduct the Bernstein. LaGuardia served as Music Director for the Arapahoe Philharmonic from 1993-2012, succeeding founder T. Gordon Parks. The Competition, the only one of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region, supports the Arapahoe Philharmonic’s continuing mission to give recognition to young talent in the classical music field. Meyer competed against fellow emerging conductors from across the country to take top honors for this new award. “His love of the music shines through brilliantly,” noted Maestro Hughes. Meyer received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and is currently studying at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music to earn his Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting.

In addition, the concert will include traditional folk selections with the Trailriders, an eclectic group of classically trained musicians who specialize in folk music of the American West, featuring Arapahoe Philharmonic Concertmaster Tracy LaGuardia. Demonstrations by the Mountaineers Square Dance Club will take place prior to the performance and during intermission. Each Arapahoe Philharmonic concert also provides a Classic Children's Corner at 7:15 offering a casual introduction of classical music to the next generation of arts advocates.

#### 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 celebrate our 60th anniversary season 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 outreach to elementary and middle schools, and presenting two collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Memorial Collegiate Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Collegiate Conducting Competition.

#### About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes was appointed Music Director of the Arapahoe Philharmonic in summer 2012. 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 the Lamont Symphony Orchestra. He is also currently Music Director of the Boulder Symphony. 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.arapahoe-phil.org](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org).

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