



For Immediate Release: March 9, 2015

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Arapahoe Philharmonic Performs Mahler and Cosma in “Song of the Night”

Featuring Steven Vaughn, Winner of the 2015 T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) will perform Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 7 and Vladimir Cosma’s Concerto for Euphonium on **Friday, March 20, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.** in Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120.

Mahler completed his Seventh Symphony in 1905, but the work was not premiered until 1908. During those three years, he left his conducting post with the Vienna State Opera over differences with the musical community, lost his first daughter to scarlet fever and was himself diagnosed with an irreparable heart condition. These traumatic life events resulted in darker revisions to the work. The themes of night and darkness are evident throughout the first four movements, but the subtitle of “Song of the Night” was not given by Mahler.

Romanian conductor and composer Vladimir Cosma (b. 1940) was awarded prizes in violin and composition at the Bucharest Conservatory of Music. He moved to France and studied with Nadia Boulanger, developing a passion for jazz, film music and popular music in addition to the classical repertoire. Cosma has composed concerti, symphonies and music for opera and ballet, but his greatest contribution has been to film music, composing over 300 scores for movies and television. His Concerto for Euphonium is a virtuosic showpiece for both soloist and orchestra alike. LAM Larghetto Music B.V. is the publisher.

Steven Vaughn is the featured euphonium soloist and winner of the AP’s 2015 T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition. Held annually, the competition alternates between winds/brass/percussion and string applicants. Following his performance of the concerto, he will be presented with the first prize cash award sponsored by Universal Music Company (Thornton, Colorado), owned by James and Millie Patterson (a 62 year AP member). Vaughn will also join the AP to play the tenor horn part in the Mahler during the second half of the concert.

Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes will explore the program in a pre-concert talk beginning at 6:45 p.m. in room M12 off of the Mission Hills lobby.

The AP is participating in Orchestras Feeding America Month, through the League of American Orchestras, as a way to support and give back to the community. All concert attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the performance for the benefit of the Mission Hills Church Food Bank.

Concert 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 Steven Vaughn, Euphonium Soloist

Steven Vaughn (b. 1990) is a second-year Masters of Music student and teaching assistant at the University of Colorado-Boulder, studying Tuba/Euphonium Performance with Professor Michael Dunn. He earned Bachelor degrees in Music Education and Euphonium Performance at Ithaca College, New York, studying under Dr. Aaron Tindall. Vaughn takes additional studies with Warren Deck, former principal tubist of the New York Philharmonic. In the past several years, he has participated in many festivals and competitions; most recently he was a Finalist for the CU-Boulder Honors Concerto Competition and Semi-Finalist for the Bruce Ekstrand Graduate Competition. Other notable accomplishments include being a Finalist in the Jefferson Symphony International Young Artists' Concerto Competition, performing Jukka Linkola's *Euphonium Concerto*. In the summer of 2014, Vaughn performed Holst's *The Planets* with the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge. An avid supporter and enthusiast of British-style brass bands, he holds the position of Principal/Solo Euphonium with Denver's premier brass band, Rocky Mountain Brassworks.

An active teacher in the marching band world, Vaughn has taught and performed with numerous world class drum and bugle corps. He currently serves as brass instructor for the two-time world champion Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps from Rockford, Illinois, and the Visual Caption Head for the Monarch High School Marching Band in Louisville, Colorado.

Vaughn will pursue a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Tuba Performance next year, aspiring to teach collegiately and maintain a solo career increasing recognition of the tuba and euphonium as solo instruments.

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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