



For Immediate Release: March 13, 2017

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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Mystery of the Enigma”**

### ***Program features Winner of 2017 T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition***

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic presents “Mystery of the Enigma,” an exciting and unusual program showcasing the music of Edward Elgar and Pierre Max Dubois. The performance takes place on **Friday, March 31, 2017, at South Suburban Christian Church, 7275 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO 80122.** The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a talk with Maestro Devin Patrick Hughes and guest soloist Nicholas May at 6:45 p.m. Tickets and information may be found at [www.arapahoe-phil.org](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org) or by calling 303-781-1892.

AP Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes speaks about the program in this video message:

<https://youtu.be/HzGFoeZ3j1w>.

Elgar’s *Variations on an Original Theme, Op 36*, otherwise known as the *Enigma Variations*, includes 14 variations of Elgar’s melody, each one musically representing the character of members from his inner circle. Clues offered by Elgar as to the “enigma” in the work have seemingly brought about more questions than answers and the mystery remains unknown to date. The *Variations* solidified Elgar’s standing amid the classical music world.

The concert will open with one of Elgar’s other best known works, *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*. The most performed from the set of six marches under the name, the *First March* contains the musical theme “Land of Hope and Glory,” known well to American audiences simple as “Pomp and Circumstance.” It is regularly heard at graduation ceremonies across the country.

Not often featured in orchestral literature, the saxophone takes center stage in Pierre Max Dubois’s Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Strings. A student of Darius Milhaud, a member of Les Six, Dubois did not achieve the popularity of his teacher, but was respected in compositional circles. He wrote primarily for woodwinds, often utilizing interesting melodies and harmonic textures. Nicholas May, winner of the 2017 T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition, is featured soloist in the concerto.

#### About Nicholas May

Saxophonist Nicholas May has been recognized as an outstanding musician from a young age. A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, he has won or been a finalist in numerous state, national and international

competitions, including the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, Nebraska Music Teachers Association Young Artist Competition-Woodwind Division, Singapore Woodwind Festival - Saxophone Division, University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Undergraduate Concerto Competition and MTNA Young Artist and Chamber Music Competitions. In the spring of 2015, Nicholas was a featured soloist with the UNL Wind Ensemble. He has appeared as a guest artist and soloist with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra and Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, and performs frequently in regional theatre productions as a woodwind artist.

Currently a first year masters student at the University of Kansas where he is a Graduate Teaching Assistant and student of Vince Gnojek, Nicholas is an active member in the Saxophone Quartet I, Jazz Ensemble I, Symphony Orchestra and University's Wind Ensemble. Nicholas is a member and founder of the Heartland Duo, which promotes new and under-performed music for two saxophones.

Nicholas earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, studying with Dr. Paul Haar, Associate Professor of Saxophone/Jazz Studies at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He has also studied privately with saxophonists Harvey Pittel and Matt Otto, and Rebecca Fischer, violinist in the Chiara String Quartet. Nicholas is a Silverstein Works Pro Team Artist.

#### About the T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition

The Arapahoe Philharmonic, in support of its ongoing mission to recognize emerging talent in the classical music field, hosts the annual T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition for emerging classical soloists. The 2017 competition was for Orchestral Wind, Brass and Percussion players. The competition is sponsored by Universal Music Company in Thornton, Colorado.

#### 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 welcomed the exciting new conductor Devin Patrick Hughes to the podium in the 2013–2014 season. 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 feature repertoire spanning the centuries, from the great masters to composers of the current day. The Philharmonic is invested in future generations, presenting an annual children's concert, providing outreach to schools, working with area student Honor Orchestras, coaching the new Civic Youth Orchestra in partnership with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Collegiate Conducting and Composition Competitions.

#### About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes is highly regarded for his exhilarating score interpretations, advocacy for music accessibility and promotion of music of our time. He is concurrently serving as Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic and Boulder Symphony, and has established himself as a musical leader in the region through previous positions with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra and Denver Contemporary Chamber Players. Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the 2010 Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy, was a conducting fellow at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, and has conducted ensembles across North America and Europe, including the Winnipeg Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Green Bay Symphony and Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini. More information may be found at [www.devinpatrickhughes.com](http://www.devinpatrickhughes.com).

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