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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Tales from the North”**

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Devin Patrick Hughes, presents the second of six subscription concerts on Friday, November 6, 2015, at Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. The concert program, “Tales from the North,” will include music of Edvard Grieg, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Jean Sibelius. A silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues through intermission; the performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

Grieg’s incidental music to *Peer Gynt*, based on the play by Henrik Ibsen, takes a profoundly revealing and inspired look backwards to Norwegian folk takes and anti-heroes. The original score contained 26 movements of music, but was later distilled into two sets of suites with four movements each. The AP will be performing Suite No. 1, which features the recognizable melodies *Morning Mood* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*.

The suite will be conducted by Nico Olarte-Hayes, winner of the 2015 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition. The competition, in memory of the AP’s former music director, seeks to provide student conductors an opportunity to work with an orchestra in a real world setting. Olarte-Hayes will be mentored by AP Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes and will lead rehearsals of the Grieg the week of the performance. In addition to the conducting opportunity, Olarte-Hayes will be presented with a cash award.

Best known for its explosive mixture of cannon fire, ringing chimes, and brass fanfare, Tchaikovsky’s “1812” Overture, or Festival Overture in E-flat Major, Op. 49, brings to life Russia’s triumphant defeat of Napoleon. Considered by many to be his most popular work, the overture is often used in celebrations recognizing America’s independence.

The patriotic fervor of Sibelius’ music inspired Finland and the world to take a stand against injustice. His Fifth Symphony, commissioned by the Finnish government to commemorate his own 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, is one of the more “unknown” great symphonies in the orchestral repertoire. Originally completed and performed in 1915, Sibelius returned to the piece several years later. He considered his revised version “triumphal,” a feeling exuded in the brass “swan theme” of the final movement.

### About Nico Olarte-Hayes

Nico Olarte-Hayes is establishing himself as a promising musical talent. As a cellist, he has given solo recitals at Lincoln Center and the Neue Galerie in New York City, in Memphis' Artists Ascending Series and New York's Young Musician's Forum, and throughout the Netherlands and Japan. He has collaborated with violinist Itzhak Perlman, a longtime mentor, soprano Denyce Graves, and pianist Christopher O'Riley. As a conductor, Olarte-Hayes served as Music Director of New York's IconoClassic Opera this past season, leading its inaugural production of Massenet's *Werther*, and Music Director of New York's East End Youth Orchestra. He was one of six conductors invited last summer to the Tanglewood Festival's Conducting Seminar, where he studied with Stefan Asbury. He has also led the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, Salzburg Chamber Soloists, and Harvard's Dunster House Opera Society.

Mr. Olarte-Hayes completed his pre-college studies "with distinction" at The Juilliard School and studied for eight years at the Perlman Music Program, Itzhak Perlman's private music school. He graduated with honors from the Harvard/NEC Joint Program, simultaneously earning an A.B. in Physics from Harvard College and his M.M. from the New England Conservatory. He currently maintains a large private studio in New York City.

### 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 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 schools, and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Memorial Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting and Composition Competitions.

### About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic in 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 Orchestra. 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](http://www.devinpatrickhughes.com).

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