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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Premieres Newly Commissioned Orchestral Work by Composer-in-Residence Jonathan Bingham**

### **World Premiere Opens Concert Featuring Holst's *Planets***

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Devin Patrick Hughes, will premiere a new orchestral work by Composer-in-Residence Jonathan Bingham, *Dichotomy*, alongside Holst's masterpiece *The Planets*. This exciting program titled "Of Gods and Men" will be presented on **Saturday, October 21, 2017**, at Fisher Auditorium on the Englewood High School Campus, 3800 S. Logan St., Englewood 80113. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and is preceded by a silent auction fundraiser starting at 6:30 p.m., a pre-concert talk with Maestro Hughes and composer Jonathan Bingham at 6:45 p.m. and a Classic Children's Corner for kids of all ages at 7:10 p.m.

Jonathan Bingham is in his second year of residency with the Arapahoe Philharmonic after winning the 2016–2017 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition with his work *Episode for Orchestra*, which was premiered on the AP's May 2017 concert. As part of the competition award, the orchestra commissioned a full orchestral work to be premiered in the second and final residency year. Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes describes Bingham's music as "bold in ways that parallel the music-making of Gustav Holst."

Jonathan Bingham on *Dichotomy*:

*"Sometime between the summers of 2010 and 2011, I conceptualized a two movement piece for string orchestra. Though I had the means to begin writing what would then have been my largest work to date, I chose to forgo it as I hadn't reached the skill level I thought necessary to express myself through orchestration to an audience. For the next six years I continued writing other works and experienced new influences from the world until I was commissioned by the Arapahoe Philharmonic. I knew the opportunity of being commissioned to compose an orchestral piece was rare and might not present itself again for years. I questioned whether my compositional voice had developed in such a way that I could present this two movement string orchestra work. I looked at this as potentially being my last large scale work for years to come and started composing the piece that would be a turning point in my compositional aesthetic."*

*As with most musical works, my final product never sounds as it did in its inception. In this case, the string orchestral piece was now a three movement symphony for full orchestra, with each movement named after the influences Music, Love, and Light. I began writing Love first and drew inspiration from my undergraduate teacher's piano work Song of Solomon and Alexander Pushkin's poem I Loved You. When it was finished, it became clear that I wouldn't have time to compose both Music and Light, thus I decided to take the sketches from Music and combine it with the Love theme, along with a new motif. Some sketches were composed from an octatonic scale (C, C#, D, E, F#, G, A, and B) and the others were constructed from a hexachord (G#, C#, F#, B, E, and A). I couldn't select one note grouping over the other. As a result, both were used, which created the harmonic structures in the second movement. The final product is a two movement symphony stripped of its names. With a nod to my recent composition teacher's work for cello and piano, Due Per Due (Italian for Two For Two), I named the symphony Dichotomy."*

Holst's seven-movement orchestral suite, *The Planets*, has been an audience favorite since its premiere. The work does not focus on astronomy, but on the astrology of the planets which are reflected in the names of the movements, such as *Mars, the Bringer of War*, and *Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity*. The work was originally written for two pianos – except for *Neptune*, which was written for solo organ – before Holst orchestrated the work. Holst, however, did not believe *The Planets* to be one of his best compositions and felt its popularity overshadowed his other works. The rich sonorities and vibrant orchestration – influenced by the works of Stravinsky, Schoenberg and Russian romantic composers – paved the way for what we hear today in film scores. Listen for similarities between *Mars* and John Williams' music from *Star Wars*!

The "Of Gods and Men" program," Hughes states, "analyses the symphonic bridges that can be created across many generations and cultures, and the bridge that connects us to divine sources of inspiration."

Season ticket packages offer discounted pricing and a number of additional benefits. Details are outlined on our website at [www.arapahoe-phil.org/events/buy-tickets/](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org/events/buy-tickets/). Single tickets are also available online or by calling the AP office at 303-781-1892.

A new ticket package is available for young adults age 18 to 35 this season. This "**Pay Your Age**" package includes four tickets to be used at any of our concerts for the cost of the purchaser's age. It's priced to entice and give maximum flexibility to young professional classical music lovers in the region. Some restrictions, which are outlined on our website, do apply.

Hear Maestro Hughes speak about the season in our video introduction: <https://youtu.be/s1i9oOPEJyg>

*The Arapahoe Philharmonic is grateful for its season sponsors: Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and Colorado Creative Industries. The orchestra also thanks the Collage Giving Fund for supporting the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition and our winning composers.*

**Download the 2017–2018 Season Brochure:** <https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/17-18-Season-Brochure.pdf>

#### About Jonathan Bingham

Composer Jonathan Bingham is a native of Southamptton, New Jersey. He began his composition studies in 2009 under Anthony Randolph at Howard University and received a Master's degree from New York University's Steinhardt School under the tutelage of Justin Dello Joio. Since then, his work has been

performed throughout the United States and abroad including New York's DiMenna Center for Classical Music and the Siena Summer Music Festival in Italy.

During his time in New York, Bingham composed several works including his String Quartet No. 1 for the JACK Quartet and his *Episode for Orchestra*, which went on to win the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition. He's been commissioned by the Arapahoe Philharmonic and the Boulder Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his contributions to the concert hall, Bingham composed the scores to several independent films and has orchestrated and arranged for recording artists in New York. He currently holds a residency with the Arapahoe Philharmonic and continues to reside 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. The organization is dedicated to providing the highest degree of musical excellence and cultural enrichment to the region and engaging area youth in educational opportunities promoting an interest in classical music. 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, sponsoring outreach to schools, working with area student honor orchestras, sponsoring a Play-In for high school students to work side-by-side with experienced Arapahoe Philharmonic players, coaching the Civic Youth Orchestra in partnership with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. 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. In 2010, Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy. He was recently selected from hundreds of his peers across the globe to compete in the 2017 Solti International Conducting Competition in Hungary. Hughes 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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