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Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Destiny Fulfilled” Concert of Works by Brahms and Richard Strauss

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Devin Patrick Hughes, will present its **opening concert of the 2017–2018 season on Saturday, September 16, 2017**, at Aspen Academy, 5859 S. University Blvd., Greenwood Village (corner of Orchard Road). The program, titled “Destiny Fulfilled,” includes Johannes Brahms’s Symphony No. 1 and Richard Strauss’s *Four Last Songs*, featuring local soprano Lauren Sawyer. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Maestro Hughes will lead a pre-concert talk starting at 6:45 p.m.

(Note: This performance was originally scheduled to take place in Fisher Auditorium on The Englewood High School Campus, 3800 S. Logan St., Englewood. Due to a scheduling conflict with the school, the concert has been moved to Aspen Academy.)

Brahms’s journey into symphonic music was a journey as long and arduous as that of any adventurer. Though he spent much of his life studying, idolizing and indeed writing such music, his first true symphonic piece, Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68, was not completed and published until he was over forty years old. By his own admission, this piece in particular took him 21 years to complete. He always feared he was in the shadow of Beethoven and felt the pressure of creating a work on par with the monumental greatness of Beethoven’s symphonies. Brahms’s Symphony No. 1 stands not only as a masterwork of symphonic craftsmanship, but also as a testament to the perseverance required to create such a work.

Inspired by the poems of Hermann Hesse, the overarching theme in Strauss’s *Four Last Songs* is death. But rather than being tinged by dread or melancholy, these tunes are permeated by a sense of acceptance and completeness. The listener may recognize a quotation from Strauss’s tone poem *Death and Transfiguration*, written much earlier in his career: a seven-note phrase written to symbolize the fulfillment of the soul through death.

This performance opens the new concert season, which includes performances of *The Planets* by Holst, the complete *Nutcracker* by Tchaikovsky and *The Rite of Spring* by Stravinsky. 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/. 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/1OtzZ_q1WPo

The Arapahoe Philharmonic is grateful for its season sponsors: Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and Colorado Creative Industries.

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

About Lauren Sawyer

Lauren Sawyer is a dramatic soprano who has performed grand opera all over the world in cities such as Berlin, Germany, New York and Los Angeles, and recently with members of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. An accomplished vocal technician, Lauren is the founder of the Boulder Music Institute in Boulder, Colorado, and New York City, where her students are attending some of the top conservatories in the country, including Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Berklee School of Music. Her students are finalists in international competitions, such as The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Classical Singer Competition and Schmidt Youth Competition, and are singing with major opera houses and symphonies that include Washington National Opera, Central City Opera, Virginia Opera, Sarasota Opera, Anchorage Opera, Fairbanks Opera, New York Lyric Opera, Anchorage Symphony, Colorado Symphony and Boulder Symphony. Her passion is helping singers develop a strong vocal technique so that they can be creatively expressive with their instrument. Her relationships with talent agencies, symphonies and opera houses in the United States and Europe have helped many singers launch their careers.

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.

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