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Arapahoe Philharmonic Announces 2014-2015 Concert Season

September 26: Opening performance features Sibelius's Second Symphony and Violin Concerto

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) is pleased to announce its 2014-2015 season entitled *Quest for Freedom*. The new concert season begins **Friday, September 26, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.** with music by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). His haunting Violin Concerto begins the program with guest soloist Andrew Sords. The Violin Concerto, Sibelius's only concerto, demands a high level of technical virtuosity and is a showcase for the soloist and orchestra alike.

The monumental Second Symphony was composed during a tumultuous time for Finland and is considered by some to be his "Symphony of Independence," though it is unclear whether the nationalistic undertones were purposeful. AP Music Director and Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes believes the theme of independence is strong in the work, calling the piece "the greatest battle cry one could imagine composed at a time when most other composers were taking a more avant-garde approach to music."

A special addition to the evening will be the AP strings and solo oboist Dawn McGonagle performing Ennio Morricone's *Gabriel's Oboe*, from the motion picture *The Mission*, in memory of long-time principal oboist, Kerry Brunner.

Maestro Hughes will lead a pre-concert talk on the program beginning at 6:30 p.m.

All performances take place at **Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive in Littleton**. Tickets are \$25 (adults), \$20 (seniors), and \$5 (students/children) and are available online at www.arapahoe-phil.org, by phone at 303-781-1892 or at the door.

Each Arapahoe Philharmonic concert also provides a Classic Children's Corner at 7:10 p.m. in the lobby offering a casual introduction of classical music to the next generation of arts advocates.

THE FULL 2014-2015 SEASON:

All concerts at 7:30 p.m. at Mission Hills Church.

Friday, September 26, 2014 | Freedom Reigns

Ennio Morricone: *Gabriel's Oboe*, from the Motion Picture *The Mission*

Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

Jean Sibelius: Violin Concerto

Andrew Sords, violin

Friday, November 7, 2014 | Les Ballets Russes

Igor Stravinsky: *Petrushka*

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Swan Lake Suite*

Edgar Girtain: *Isolation Day 253*

Winner of the inaugural Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition

Friday, December 12, 2014 | Let It Snow!

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 1 (*Winter Dreams*)

Holiday Favorites

Friday, February 13, 2015 | Dances of Love

Richard Strauss: Waltzes from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Maurice Ravel: *Bolero*

Manuel de Falla: Dances from *The Three-Cornered Hat*

Leonard Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Friday, March 20, 2015 | Song of the Night

Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 7 (*Song of the Night*)

T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition Winner

Friday, May 15, 2015 | Beethoven's Message

Ludwig Van Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 (*Choral*)

Tiffany Blake, soprano

Sarah Barber, mezzo-soprano

Jason Baldwin, tenor

Steven Taylor, baritone

Cherry Creek Chorale; Brian Leatherman, Director

About Andrew Sords

American violinist Andrew Sords has received effusive critical acclaim for his performances combining ravishing tone and dazzling virtuosity. He has appeared as soloist with nearly 150 orchestras across four continents; his 2014-2015 season will showcase works of Sibelius, Brahms, Beethoven, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Bruch with orchestras in Windsor (Ontario), Chattanooga, Atlanta, Palm Springs, Colorado, and Pittsburgh, among others. Sords is currently planning tours of the Shostakovich, Joachim and Elgar concerti in 2016, as well as the Bach and Ysaÿe sonata cycles. More information may be found at www.andrewsords.com.

Sords will lead a masterclass for area high school students at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24. Students interested in playing for the master class should submit an mp3 recording to office@arapahoe-phil.org by September 8. The class, open to the public, will be held at South Suburban Christian Church, 7275 S. Broadway, Littleton.

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 outreach to schools, and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Memorial Collegiate Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Collegiate 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. 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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