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Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Fate’s Celebration”

Program features 2016 Winner of the T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Devin Patrick Hughes, presents “Fate’s Celebration” on Friday, March 18, 2016, at Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. The program includes Tchaikovsky’s exhilarating Symphony No. 4 and Ginastera’s intriguing Harp Concerto featuring Rachel Knight, winner of the 2016 T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition. Maestro Hughes and Ms. Knight will give a pre-concert talk at 6:45 p.m. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. All concert attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the concert for Orchestras Feeding America month. Items will be donated to the Mission Hills Church Food Bank.

When composing his Fourth Symphony, Tchaikovsky was at a point in his life where the cruel hand of fate had struck him one too many times. His tendencies towards depression and self-doubt are annihilated by the joy and excitement with which the Fourth Symphony ends. Of course, it does not begin this way. Tchaikovsky borrowed Beethoven’s technique of presenting fate in a short musical motif that opens the work, which in contrast to Beethoven’s ending, would assert itself more loudly and insistently before giving in to a heroic and jubilant end.

Alberto Ginastera’s Harp Concerto bucked the trend of the lush harp concerti made famous by French composers in the 19th century. Ginastera incorporated the rhythmic and percussive music of his Argentinian heritage into this work, even going so far as to ask the soloist to utilize features of the instrument itself within the piece such as knocking on the wood and nail glissandos.

The concerto will be performed by Rachel Knight, a student from the University of Arizona. Knight was awarded First Prize in the 2016 T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition, named for the Arapahoe Philharmonic’s founding music director. The AP thanks Universal Music Company, and owners Jim and Millie Patterson, for their annual sponsorship of the concerto competition.

For more information and tickets, visit www.arapahoe-phil.org or call the Arapahoe Philharmonic office at 303-781-1892.

About Rachel Knight

Rachel Knight received her Masters of Music Degree from the University of Arizona with Dr. Carrol McLaughlin in 2014, and is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of Arizona. Rachel graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 2013 with an undergraduate degree in Harp Performance and Piano Performance. During her senior year, she won both the UNC Concerto Competition and the Angie Southard Competition. Since then, she has also won first place in the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, the Golden Era of Romantic Music International Competition, and the American Fine Arts Festival Russian Music Competition, and she tied for the top prize given out at the Fourth International Harp Competition in Mexico. Rachel has toured and recorded with University of Arizona's HarpFusion, including being featured in a solo recital in Brazil. Last summer she performed as first harpist for the Summer Opera Program at the International Lyric Academy in Italy and gave the opening solo recital in Hong Kong for Arizona Harp Experience Hong Kong Spectacular. Rachel has been featured in recital for the American Musicological Society, Arizona Harp Experience in Utah, and in recitals throughout Virginia, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. She has been the concerto soloist with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra and University of Northern Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Her academic achievements include maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout all of her schooling, being a National Merit Scholar, and being selected as UNC's 2013 Presser Scholar. Last fall, she received the Fred Fox School of Music 2015 Creative Achievement Award as well as the Music Advisory Board Distinguished Graduate Student Award.

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 annual children's concerts, sponsoring outreach to schools, 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 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 2010 Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy. More information may be found at www.devinpatrickhughes.com.

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