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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Sacred Structures”**

***Featuring World Premiere Commission by Composer-in-Residence Edgar Girtain***

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Devin Patrick Hughes, presents “Sacred Structures” on Friday, May 13, 2016, at Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. The program includes Anton Bruckner’s majestic Symphony No. 4 (*Romantic*) and Symphony No. 2: An American Pastoral, a world premiere commission from the Arapahoe Philharmonic’s first composer-in-residence, Edgar Girtain. Maestro Hughes and Mr. Girtain will give a pre-concert talk at 6:45 p.m. in Room M12 off the lobby. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Bruckner was a simple man who wrote complex music—an example of life that did not imitate the art. The man Gustav Mahler considered his “forerunner” wrote symphonies large in scope, though not in instrumentation. Haunting melodies, profound harmonies and bombastic brass fanfares combine in his *Romantic Symphony* in a way critics consider both conservative and radical. The work is arguably the composer’s most successful foray into the symphonic literature, with an underlying program that involves a medieval city, horns announcing the day from the towers, hunters in the woods, and bird sounds to help complete the romantic picture for the listener.

Symphony No. 2: An American Pastoral is the second composition commissioned by the Arapahoe Philharmonic from Girtain, winner of the inaugural Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition and the orchestra’s first composer-in-residence.

The work is a frame of two connected movements. The first is a picturesque depiction of the American West, and the second is a meditation on the passage of time based on a poem titled *The River of Life* by Thomas Campbell. Written in a tonal and consciously nationalistic style that also draws heavily on the canon of western classical music, the work can be heard as a philosophical affirmation of life by the composer.

For more information and tickets, visit [www.arapahoe-phil.org](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org) or call the Arapahoe Philharmonic office at 303-781-1892.

### About Edgar Girtain

Edgar Girtain is an emerging American composer whose music is frequently performed at universities and concert halls around the world. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “immediately captivating,” his work has earned praise for its lyricism, versatility of style, and command of color. He has been commissioned by the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra, Arapahoe Philharmonic, Sinfonietta NOVA, Voorhees Chapel Choir, and John Rojak of the American Brass Quintet. He holds a B.M. in Music Education and an M.A. in Composition from Rutgers University. Learn more at [www.edgarfgirtainiv.co](http://www.edgarfgirtainiv.co)

### 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](http://www.devinpatrickhughes.com).

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