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Arapahoe Philharmonic Partners with Avanti Music Academy for new Civic Youth Orchestra

Littleton, CO – This fall, the Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) will partner with Highlands Ranch-based Avanti Music Academy to create the new Civic Youth Orchestra for student musicians age 6–21. The organization will feature two ensembles that rehearse on Sunday evenings: the more advanced Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra for younger musicians. Auditions for both ensembles will be held on Sunday, September 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Avanti Music Academy, 2030 E. County Line Road, #U, Highlands Ranch. Additional information and audition materials, requirements and registration may be found at <http://avantimusic.org/civic-youth-orchestra-south/>.

The Symphony Orchestra, for ages 13–21, is the more advanced of the ensembles and will perform 4 to 6 concerts each year, including a side-by-side concert opportunity with the Arapahoe Philharmonic. Repertoire will include movements from Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, Schubert’s “Great” Symphony No. 9, and Haydn’s “Miracle” Symphony No. 96, all taken from the Arapahoe Philharmonic’s 2016–2017 concert season programming.

The Philharmonic Orchestra is for musicians age 6–13 and is designed to give young instrumentalists an opportunity to play and experience orchestral music. This ensemble will perform 2 to 4 concerts each year that will correspond to the Symphony Orchestra performances and repertoire, as well as include arrangements of other genres such as pop, rock, jazz and video game music.

Participants in both ensembles will have the opportunity to be featured in the Figaro Opera Project, an exciting venture with the Italian American Opera Foundation (IAOF) to help foster a love and understanding of opera in America’s youth. Civic Youth Orchestra musicians will perform alongside professional vocalists and Arapahoe Philharmonic instrumentalists to create Mozart’s masterpiece, *The Magic Flute*.

The ensembles will be led by conductor Devin Patrick Hughes, Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic and Boulder Symphony. Guest conductor Stefano Vignati will travel from Italy once a month to also work with the orchestras.

“The Arapahoe Philharmonic has a long tradition of education and outreach in the community, and we are excited to be involved with starting this new organization,” stated Hughes. “The Civic Youth Orchestra will connect experienced musicians with student musicians, bringing players of varying levels together with the sole purpose of artistic excellence and building community through music-making. The concept of producing a fully staged operatic production in the spring with the Italian American Opera Foundation will be a unique and incredibly rewarding musical experience for all involved.”

Civic Youth Orchestra Auditions

Date and time: Sunday, September 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Avanti Music Academy, 2030 E. County Line Rd. #U, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

More information and registration: <http://avantimusic.org/civic-youth-orchestra-south/>

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 an annual children's concert, sponsoring outreach to schools, working with area student Honor Orchestras, coaching the new Civic Youth Orchestra in partnership with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, 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 Italian American Opera Foundation

The Italian American Opera Foundation (IAOF) was created with the aspiration to develop a cultural bridge between Italy and the United States. It unites the most talented young opera singers and musicians in an ensemble that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries – all in the common pursuit of musical excellence and the creation of a community for their families and the people that support their passion for music. The purpose of the Foundation is to rekindle a passion for opera by bringing large productions and master classes to the United States, and with them a taste of Italy, its culture, arts and style. The Foundation is also working to implement a variety of programs that will provide unprecedented opportunities for young local artists and disadvantaged children in the community to learn and appreciate opera with the help of internationally renowned artists.

About Devin Patrick Hughes

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. Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the 2010 Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy, 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.

About Stefano Vignati

Italian conductor Stefano Vignati was born in Rome, where he studied piano and composition under the guidance of noted Maestri C. Savelloni, C. Ricci and T. Procaccini. He also studied history and musical analysis at the University "La Sapienza" in Rome with Professor P. Luigi Petrobelli, obtaining the highest honors. Maestro Vignati has studied conducting and participated in international master classes with H. Baumann, A. Joo, N. Hansalik Samale, Lawrence Golan and V. Delman. In 1990, he began his professional career in earnest, conducting concerts in Italian theatres and enlarging his area of experience outside of Italy.

About Avanti Music Academy

Avanti Music Academy, located in Highlands Ranch, offers instrumental and vocal music instruction to students of all ages. All instructors hold a music degree from an accredited four-year university and participate in a variety of performances locally, nationally and internationally. Private lessons, group classes, a unique masterclass program, musical theater opportunities and a new youth orchestra program (Civic Youth Orchestra) provide enriching artistic engagement and development.

About Amra Tomsic

Amra Tomsic, co-owner and founder of Avanti Music Academy, found his passion for music through a single teacher in school. It was then that he realized the impact it would have on his life and began to appreciate the importance of teaching. Mr. Tomsic studied music and sociology at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison and was granted a full voice scholarship to The Lamont School of Music at The University of Denver. Through Avanti Music Academy, he is able to pass his education and love of music on to hundreds of students.

About Drew Bradley

Drew Bradley graduated from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. He has performed internationally in Milan, Italy, as well as locally around Colorado in musical theater and opera. His passion for music has led him to performing and writing music in many different styles and settings. Although he loves performing, Drew has found his true joy lies in teaching music as co-owner of Avanti Music Academy. He believes all people should have the opportunity to experience the joy of music.

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