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Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Sword of Fate”

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP) opens its 2016–2017 concert season with two performances of “Sword of Fate,” featuring Richard Strauss’s *Tod und Verklärung* (*Death and Transfiguration*), Op. 24, and Ludwig van Beethoven’s iconic Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67. The first performance takes place on **Friday, September 23, 2016, at South Suburban Christian Church**, 7275 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO 80122. The program is also presented on **Saturday, September 24, 2016, at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church**, 8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a talk with Maestro Devin Patrick Hughes at 6:45 p.m. “Sword of Fate” is sponsored in part by the Sound Relief Hearing Center.

Season ticket packages and single tickets may be purchased online at www.arapahoe-phil.org or by calling the Arapahoe Philharmonic office at 303-781-1892.

Strauss’s tone poem traverses the journey from dire illness and near death to reminiscing the celebrations, struggles and unrealized ambitions in life, and ultimately the ecstasy of transfiguration, transitioning from man into the eternal realm, as experienced through his protagonist.

The signature four-note opening motif of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony is one of the most recognizable in classical music. Permeating the entire work in various forms, this theme is often considered to be “fate knocking on the door.” The symphony offers a testament to Beethoven’s defiance of his own cruel fate – increasing deafness – moving from C minor to a heroic C major ending.

Both works on the program explore the familiar journey from darkness to light, anguish to triumph, through powerful displays of orchestral grandeur.

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 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. 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.

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