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Arapahoe Philharmonic Sinfonietta Takes You on an “Italian Sojourn”

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic Sinfonietta, a chamber orchestra comprising members from the full orchestra, will take the audience on an “Italian Sojourn” with music of Mozart and Mendelssohn. The first performance takes place on **Friday, January 27, 2017, at Bethany Lutheran Church**, 4500 E. Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113. The program is also presented on **Saturday, January 28, 2017, 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. These Arapahoe Philharmonic Sinfonietta performances are made possible in part from support from the Arapahoe County Cultural Council of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

Arapahoe Philharmonic Concertmaster Tracy LaGuardia and Principal Violist Heidi Snyder are featured in the opening work, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major, K. 364. This grand work is a mixture of symphony and concerto, unifying the sonority and depth of the orchestra with the beautiful partnership of double soloists into this early masterpiece.

Felix Mendelssohn’s *Italian Symphony*, or Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90, captured the vitality of his travels in Italy leading him to exclaim in a letter to his sister that this would be the happiest piece he had ever written. The dramatic work incorporates Italian folk dances, the *saltarello* and *tarantella*, in addition to imagery of the country’s religion, art and sunny countryside to create a vivid composition that would become one of his most popular.

About Tracy LaGuardia

Tracy LaGuardia is a native of Colorado Springs and has been a professional musician for over 35 years. A former private teacher and public school music teacher, Ms. LaGuardia received her Bachelor’s Degree in music education from the University of Denver in 1985. Tracy has played the violin and viola for over 45 years and is also a vocalist, both as a soloist and in many different performing groups. She has performed with countless national acts such as Michael Bubl , Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Led Zeppelin, Peter Gabriel, Richard Marx, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Little River Band, Natalie Cole, Lyle Lovett, Sarah Brightman, Linda Ronstadt, Kenny Rogers, Bob Hope, Doc Severinsen, John Tesh, Sandi Patti, Kristen Chenoweth and Earth Wind and Fire, among others.

Ms. LaGuardia has been concertmaster of the Littleton Symphony, Rocky Mountain Chamber Orchestra, and is currently the concertmaster of the Arapahoe Philharmonic. She has also performed with the Denver Symphony, Colorado Springs Symphony, Cheyenne Symphony, Longmont Symphony, and many other orchestras. She performs with several classical ensembles, country bands, jazz groups, rock groups (electric violin and vocals), and manages one of Colorado's most respected entertainment agencies, A Touch of Class Music, which specializes in providing world-class musicians for weddings and private events. Tracy lives in Broomfield with her husband Pat, and has two grown children, Brian and Deanna, as well as seven stepchildren.

About Heidi Snyder

Heidi Snyder joined the Arapahoe Philharmonic as principal violist in 2012. She also serves as principal violist of Status Chamber Orchestra. Before moving back to the metro area, she was a member of the Grand Junction Symphony for five years and performed with many other Western Slope music groups. She found her love for playing in ensembles as a teen in the Denver area upon joining such groups as the Denver Young Artists Orchestra and Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Vince LaGuardia. Heidi graduated from the University of Colorado – Boulder with a music performance degree in viola. In addition to her performance career, Heidi is also the Middle School Strings Specialist for Littleton Public Schools, which gives her the opportunity to work with young teens as they explore their own love for music and to support fine local music teachers in their classrooms.

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, providing 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 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.