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Arapahoe Philharmonic and Avanti Music Academy Partner to Present Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic, in collaboration with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, presents **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* on Saturday, April 21, 2018, and Sunday, April 22, 2018**, at Fisher Auditorium on The Englewood Campus.

Mozart's prodigious composition ability was perhaps never more apparent than in his operas. He wrote 22 operas in his lifetime, ranging from the serious (*opera seria*) to the comic (*opera buffa*). *The Magic Flute*, or *Die Zauberflöte*, falls into the category of *Singspiel*, which connects overture and arias through spoken text. Considered one of his most popular operas, *The Magic Flute* never fails to charm audiences of all ages through its whimsical, fairy tale themes and recognizable melodies such as Papageno's "Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja" and his playful duet "Pa-Pagena! Pa-Pagena!" with Papagena, as well as the impressive "Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen" sung by the Queen of the Night.

Avanti Music Academy founder and co-owner Amra Tomsic brings his creativity and years of opera experience with International Lyrica Opera in Italy to this special semi-staged performance, which is a first of its kind for the Arapahoe Phil. Tomsic and co-owner Drew Bradley direct this production with a unique twist. Tomsic explained: "The nature of this story lends itself to the idea that this a dream young Mozart has as a child. He [Young Mozart] will lead the listener through the tale as narrator, helping to weave the opera's music and the traditionally spoken text for the audience."

Arapahoe Philharmonic Music Director and Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes adds, "It's a wild story with the incredible music you expect from Mozart. It's great fun to play, it's exciting to listen to... The orchestra will be on the auditorium floor, giving the audience a true opera experience as they watch the action on stage. And we're thrilled to have an incredible cast of professional opera singers joining us thanks to Avanti Music Academy."

There will be two performances of the opera:

When:

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.

Location:

Fisher Auditorium on the Englewood High School Campus, 3800 S. Logan St., Englewood 80113

Principal Singers

Tamino: Humberto Borboa

Pamina: Emily Morris

Papageno: Ryan Bradford

Papagena: Mary Hannah Keith

Queen of the Night: Neila Getz

Sarastro: Joshua South

Monostatos: Sean Stephenson

First Lady: Leah Podzimek

Second Lady: Rachel Eve Holmes

Third Lady: Sara Wise

First Spirit: Jennifer Burks

Second Spirit: Adrienne Fleming

Third Spirit: Kathryn Crandall

Iron Man/Slave/Priest: Arthur Beutel

Iron Man/Slave/Priest: Luke North

(Short biographies and headshots of the principal singers are available at <https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/event/ap-sinfonietta-mozarts-magic-flute/>.)

Thearin Pyeatte, Young Mozart

Production Team

Amra Tomsic, Co-Stage Director

Drew Bradley, Co-Stage Director

Angela Klemm, Props, Costumes, Lighting

Matthew Meyer, Stage Manager

Cody Garrison, Principal Accompanist

Karen Laine, Accompanist

Arapahoe Philharmonic Sinfonietta

Devin Patrick Hughes, Music Director and Conductor

Members of the Cherry Creek Chorale

Brian Patrick Leatherman, Chorus Master

Pre-concert talks with Maestro Hughes and Amra Tomsic will take place in the Black Box Theater (balcony level) 45 minutes prior to curtain. A Classic Children's Corner for kids of all ages will take place in the main level lobby 20 minutes prior to curtain.

Tickets are available online at www.arapahoe-phil.org or by calling 303-781-1892. Tickets will also be available at the door starting approximately one hour prior to concert start time.

The Arapahoe Philharmonic is grateful for its season sponsors: Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and Colorado Creative Industries. We also thank Avanti Music Academy for making these opera performances possible.

About Amra Tomsic

Amra Tomsic, M.M., 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 the importance of teaching. During his first year at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, he studied piano, education, voice, and sociology. He took his education to the next level by auditioning for the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver and was granted a full scholarship. Amra moved to the city and continued his studies in music immediately.

His focus was on classical voice, which afforded him multiple unique performance, directorial and international opportunities. Before obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Music in 2010, he had already performed as Don Jose in Bizet's *Carmen*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, and performed in Italy as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. During his graduate classes, he co-directed *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Into the Woods*. He traveled to Italy every year and worked with The International Lyrica Opera, focusing on Italian-English relations. Amra completed his Master's Degree in Music in 2012.

He continued his music career through Avanti Music Academy, LLC. With Avanti, he has been able to pass his education on to hundreds of students in all age ranges, employ dozens of teachers with an array of musical talents, and sustain a small business for years. His passion for music and professionalism have taken Avanti to the next level of continued growth and success.

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 musicals and operas. He also performs with many bands, and as a solo performer around Denver. He has been writing music for years and feels comfortable with styles ranging from folk to electronica. He has acted on stage and film, which has led him to discover his passion for film score composition. Drew has taught both children and adults to appreciate and love music as much as he does. As co-owner of Avanti Music Academy, Drew maintains much of the business momentum and has proven to be an absolutely integral part of growing Avanti Music Academy.

About the Arapahoe Philharmonic

Founded in 1953, the Arapahoe Philharmonic is among the longest established, continuously operating musical resources in Colorado. The organization is dedicated to engaging, enriching and inspiring our community through musical performance, education and outreach. 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, sponsoring a Play-In for high school students to work side-by-side with experienced Arapahoe Philharmonic players, coaching the Civic Youth Orchestra in partnership with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, 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 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. In 2010, Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy. He was recently selected from hundreds of his peers across the globe to compete in the 2017 Solti International Conducting Competition in Hungary. Hughes 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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