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## **Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Order and Chaos” Featuring Music of Brahms and Stravinsky**

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic presents its final orchestral concert of the 2017–2018 “Dramatic Convergences” concert season on **Saturday, May 19, 2018**, with music on two ends of the style spectrum. The concert begins with Johannes Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 performed by guest soloist Jamie Shaak. We dive into chaos after intermission with Igor Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and takes place at Fisher Auditorium on the Englewood High School Campus, 3800 S. Logan St., Englewood, CO 80113.

Brahms was an accomplished pianist, and his first concerto is noted for its scale, grandeur and technical difficulty. He composed the piece early in his career at a time when he was much more comfortable writing for piano than orchestra. After years of self-doubt and revisions, the concerto was premiered in 1859 with Brahms himself at the keyboard. The work, while not received all that positively upon first hearing, has become one of the most widely performed and beloved concerti in the repertoire. The Arapahoe Philharmonic is thrilled to once again share the stage with pianist Jamie Shaak for this performance.

*The Rite of Spring* is generally considered the most influential piece of music of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was the third composition written at the request of Sergei Diaghilev for the Ballet Russes, after *Firebird* and *Petrushka*. The work represents pagan myths and ritual, infamously inciting a riot at the premiere. Stravinsky pushed boundaries on tonality, rhythm and dissonance in the piece, as well as instrumentation. The huge orchestra includes many more wind players than usual, including two Wagner tubas, two contrabassoons, and a bass trumpet. *The Rite of Spring* can now be heard frequently in concert halls across the globe, rightfully establishing its place as a modern classic.

Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes will lead a pre-concert talk on the program at 6:45 p.m. in the Black Box Theater (balcony level.). A Classic Children’s Corner for kids of all ages will take place in the main level lobby starting at 7 p.m. and will feature some of the more unusual orchestral instruments required in *The Rite of Spring*.

Maestro Hughes and Jamie Shaak talk about the concert program in this video:

<https://youtu.be/Vp9jIYA2ogQ>.

Tickets are available online at [www.arapahoe-phil.org](http://www.arapahoe-phil.org) or by calling 303-781-1892. Tickets will also be available at the door starting at 6:30 p.m.

*The Arapahoe Philharmonic is grateful for its season sponsors: Citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and Colorado Creative Industries.*

#### About Jamie Shaak

Pianist Jamie Shaak, from Denver, has performed as soloist with the Denver Symphony Orchestra (now Colorado Symphony), Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Centennial Orchestra, Arapahoe Philharmonic, Waukegan Symphony, Mercury Ensemble and Jefferson Symphony.

Ms. Shaak has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and as Vladimir Horowitz Scholarship recipient from The Juilliard School, she performed twice at Lincoln Center in New York City. In Asia, while teaching at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, she toured as a Musical Ambassador with the United States Information Service through Asia and India.

In addition to her successful concert career, Ms. Shaak has recorded two compact disks: *The Romance of Spain*, released on the Cadenza Classics label, and *The Sun is Love*, available on the Proteus label. *The Sun is Love* is a collaboration with the composer Gwyneth Walker and soprano Michelle Areyzaga.

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

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