“Slavic Rock” Opens Arapahoe Philharmonic’s New Season with Music by Rachmaninoff, Kodály and Dvořák

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes, opens its 2019–2020 concert season on Friday, September 20, 2019, with a program titled “Slavic Rock,” featuring music by Sergei Rachmaninoff, Zoltán Kodály and Antonín Dvořák. The concert takes place at the orchestra’s new performance home, Denver First Church of the Nazarene, 3800 E. Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113. Food trucks will be available at the venue starting at 5:00 p.m. Maestro Hughes will offer a talk at 6:45 p.m. prior to the performance at 7:30 p.m.

The theme for the season is “On With the Dance!” and includes some of the greatest symphonic dance music from the past 250 years, with the first program showcasing lush and fiery selections from Slavic composers. Rachmaninoff’s three-movement Symphonic Dances was the last composition he wrote. It contains quotes from a number of his other works, including the First Symphony and All-night Vigil. Rachmaninoff did discuss creating a ballet from the Symphonic Dances with choreographer Michel Fokine of the Ballets Russes, but the idea failed to materialize after Fokine’s passing.

Kodály composed his Dances of Galanta in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Budapest Philharmonic Society. The work is based on folk music from Galanta, now part of Slovakia, where Kodály once lived. The gypsy musicians in Galanta were famous, both while he lived there and much earlier, as they were mentioned in a publication from Vienna around the year 1800. The dances that served as inspiration for the piece were known as verbunkos, the primary instrumental music tradition from the 19th century. Verbunkos, translating to “recruitment” in German, were used by the Austrian army to entice young men to enlist.

Dvořák’s Slavonic Dances are a series of 16 short orchestral works inspired by the Hungarian Dances of Johannes Brahms. Evoking the style and character of the lively folk music and rhythms of Bohemia, the Slavonic Dances do not actually quote traditional folk melodies. This engaging set of pieces quickly gave the once unknown composer an international reputation. The Arapahoe Philharmonic will perform a selection of the Dances during the concert.

Season ticket packages, offering discounted pricing and a number of additional benefits, are available. Details are outlined on our website at www.arapahoe-phil.org/events/buy-tickets/.
The AP once again offers its “Pay Your Age” package for young adults age 18 to 35. This subscription offer includes four tickets to be used to any of our full orchestra concerts for just the cost of the purchaser’s age. It’s priced to entice and give maximum flexibility. Some restrictions, which are outlined on our website, do apply.

Single tickets are now also available for all performances.

THE 2019–2020 CONCERT SEASON: On With the Dance!

**Friday, September 20, 2019: Slavic Rock**
Sergei Rachmaninoff: *Symphonic Dances*
Zoltán Kodály: *Dances of Galanta*
Antonín Dvořák: *Slavonic Dances* Nos. 1 and 8, Op. 46 and Nos. 2 and 7, Op. 72

Hear Maestro Devin Patrick Hughes talk about the Slavic Rock program: [https://youtu.be/6U0EZxzL-vI](https://youtu.be/6U0EZxzL-vI)

View the full 2019–2020 Season Brochure: [https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/season-brochure/](https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/season-brochure/)

*The Arapahoe Philharmonic is grateful for season support from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and Colorado Creative Industries.*

About the Arapahoe Philharmonic
Founded in 1953, the Arapahoe Philharmonic is among the longest-established 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 Discovery Concert, sponsoring outreach to schools, working with area student honor orchestras, sponsoring a Play-In side-by-side event for high school students and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting and Composition Competitions. Recent initiatives include a Family Concert and music therapy-inspired programs for individuals with developmental disabilities and dementia.

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 also 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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