Go “Off the Rails” with the Arapahoe Philharmonic on November 1

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic (AP), under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes, presents its second concert of the 2019–2020 season on Friday, November 1, 2019. “Off the Rails” is a train-themed program showcasing the adventurous spirit of the west and the romantic lure of travel by rail. The orchestra will perform two premieres by Zhou Tian and Brian LaGuardia, works by Jennifer Higdon and Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Aaron Copland’s Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo, featuring dancers from the Rocky Mountain Ballet Academy. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Denver First Church of the Nazarene, 3800 E. Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113, and is preceded by a Fall Fête & Silent Auction starting at 6:30 p.m., a pre-concert talk with Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes and guests at 6:45 p.m., and a Children’s Corner for kids of all ages at 7:10 p.m.

This program is built around Chinese-American composer Zhou Tian’s Transcend, which will receive its Colorado premiere at this performance. Zhou was commissioned by a consortium of 13 orchestras from across the country, including the Arapahoe Philharmonic, to compose an orchestral work in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Reno Philharmonic gave the world premiere performance in April 2019, with the other consortium orchestras, many along or near the Transcontinental Railroad route, presenting performances through the 2019–2020 season. The music represents the arid deserts and mountainous terrain the tracks passed through, the dynamite blasting of tunnels, and even the nationwide Morse code telegraph simply stating “D – O – N – E” that was transmitted upon completion. Zhou was honored to have the opportunity to write about such a significant part of United States history, as well as pay homage to his own cultural heritage and the thousands of Chinese immigrants who made the Transcontinental Railroad possible. He talks further about the piece in this video: https://youtu.be/slwqKh5kWnI.

Another new work receiving its world premiere on this program is Rhapsody in Orange by Arapahoe Philharmonic member Brian LaGuardia. Inspired by Orange Blossom Special, LaGuardia’s creation gives a nod to the west with fiddle solos written for his mother, Arapahoe Philharmonic Concertmaster Tracy LaGuardia.

Jennifer Higdon’s Loco is a one-movement work commissioned by the Ravinia Festival in Illinois. Of the work, Higdon writes: “‘Loco’ celebrates the Centennial season of Ravinia, and the train that accompanies the orchestra. When thinking about what kind of piece to write, I saw in my imagination a locomotive. And in a truly ironic move for a composer, my brain subtracted the word ‘motive’, leaving ‘loco’, which
means crazy. Being a composer, this appealed to me, so this piece is about locomotion as crazy movement!”

Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos’s *The Little Train of the Caipira* is the fourth Toccata movement of his *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2*. The piece evokes a steam locomotive ride through the Brazilian countryside.

When one thinks of music representing the American west, it’s easy to immediately think of Aaron Copland and his two “Cowboy Ballets” – *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*. Copland created an orchestral suite in four movements from *Rodeo* with the movements *Buckaroo Holiday*, *Corral Nocturne*, *Saturday Night Waltz* and *Hoe-Down*. The simple story is one of love on the ranch, and Copland used a simpler, more engaging style of writing, shifting away from his more atonal works of the time to themes and melodies that would be more appealing to the public. The tale of love and use of popular American folk tunes embody the spirit of western life and established these pieces as favorites of the American orchestral repertoire.

Tickets and information may be found at [https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/event/concert-2-off-the-rails/](https://www.arapahoe-phil.org/event/concert-2-off-the-rails/).

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

**Friday, November 1, 2019: Off the Rails**
Aaron Copland: *Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo*
Zhou Tian: *Transcend* (Colorado Premiere)
Brian LaGuardia: *Rhapsody in Orange* (World Premiere), featuring Concertmaster Tracy LaGuardia
Jennifer Higdon: *Loco*
Heitor Villa-Lobos: *The Little Train of the Caipira*, from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2

Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes talks about the “Off the Rails” program in this video: [https://youtu.be/WNfLOmH1esQ](https://youtu.be/WNfLOmH1esQ)

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
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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