



PRESS RELEASE

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LOUISVILLEORCHESTRA.ORG + 502.587.8681

Heather O'Mara

+ Media Relations Manager

P: 502.561.7929

C: 502.797.8099

E: homara@louisvilleorchestra.org

BRAHMS WORKS THE MEDIA WITH HIS SECOND SYMPHONY

He said it himself, "Writing a symphony is no joke." But when composer Johannes Brahms, in the middle of his renowned career, was being criticized by the press for the dark and foreboding character of his work - he decided to make sport of it with his Second Symphony.

Brahms dryly told his friends, "**You have only to sit down at the piano and strike the chord of F-minor several times in succession, first in the treble, then in the bass, fortissimo and pianissimo, and you will gradually gain a vivid impression of my latest.**"

He said to his publisher, "**[My second symphony] is so melancholy that you will not be able to bear it. I have never written anything so sad, and the score must come out in mourning.**"

In fact, Brahms was joking, taking a jab at his critics because this symphony was his brightest and most lyrical of his entire repertory.

The Louisville Orchestra will shed some light on this work under the baton of guest conductor, Vladimir Kulenovic, on Friday, January 13, and Saturday, January 14 at the Kentucky Center.

Kulenovic, 2015 "Chicagoan of the Year" and the Music Director of the Lake Forest Symphony, also includes Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola in these performances. He has chosen LO's own musicians as soloist - principal violist, Jack Griffin (a 40 year LO veteran and assistant concertmaster Julia Noone (the LO's most recent addition to the violin section.)

The Saturday evening concert also includes Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* – a quiet piece that launched a musical revolution.

JUST THE FACTS:

On Brahms' Second at the Kentucky Center

TREYTON OAK TOWERS COFFEE CONCERT:

Friday, January 13 || 11AM || LO Concert Talk starts at 10AM in Whitney Hall

Complimentary coffee provided by Heine Brothers Coffee

Tickets \$45 \$35 \$30 \$20

BROWN-FORMAN CLASSICS CONCERT:

Saturday, January 14 || 8pm || LO Concert Talk starts at 7pm in the Mary Anderson Room

Tickets \$75 \$55 \$40 \$27

Call 502-584-7777 or visit LouisvilleOrchestra.Org

[Vladimir Kulenovic](#), conductor || [Jack Griffin](#), viola || [Julia Noone](#), violin

Listen to the pieces on our [YouTube playlist](#)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) | [Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune \(Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun\)](#)

Written: 1892 - 1894

Premiere: December 22, 1894 Paris the Société Nationale de Musique conducted by Gustave Doret.

Most recent LO performance: 2007 Giancarlo Guerro, conductor

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart (1756-1791) | [Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola + Orchestra in E-flat Major, K. 364](#)

Written: 1779

Premiere: unknown

Most recent LO performance: 1996 Daniel Spurlock, conductor | Michael Davis, violin | Jack Griffin, viola

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) | [Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73](#)

Written: 1877

Premiere: December 30, 1877 Vienna by the Vienna Philharmonic with Hans Richter conducting

Most recent LO performance: 2011 Jorge Mester, conductor

2016/17 Brown-Forman Classics + Treyton Oak Towers Coffee Concerts:

All Concerts at Kentucky Center's Whitney Hall.

Friday Coffee Concerts start at 11 AM with the LO Concert Talks at 10AM in Whitney Hall.

Saturday Classics Concerts start at 8PM with LO Concert Talks at 7PM in the Mary Anderson Room.

Brahms Second – FRI 13 JAN + SAT 14 JAN || Rachmaninoff Third – FRI 27 JAN + SAT 28 JAN

Classic Film + Music – SAT 25 FEB || Sacred + Profane – FRI 10 MAR + SAT 11 MAR

Walton + Britten – FRI 31 MAR + SAT 1 APR || Festival of American Music I: Mavericks – SAT 15 APR

Festival of American Music II: All Concertos – FRI 28 APR + SAT 29 APR

All programs, dates, times and venues are subject to change.

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