



PRESS RELEASE

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THE LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA PRESENTS MAHLER'S 2ND SYMPHONY – (“RESURRECTION”)

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE SCHOOL OF MUSIC COLLABORATES

Louisville KY (9/1/2016)... Teddy Abrams opens the 2016/17 Brown-Forman Louisville Orchestra Classics Series on Saturday, October 8, at 8pm at the Kentucky Center with Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, known as the “Resurrection” Symphony with soloists Celena Shafer and J’Nai Bridges. Dr. Kent E. Hatteberg leads University of Louisville School of Music choral groups. Single tickets range from \$27 - \$75 and are available by calling 502.584.7777 or visiting LouisvilleOrchestra.org.

The LO has taken on this enormous work only twice before: the first time in 1972 with Jorge Mester conducting, Anna Reynolds soprano and Syble Young, mezzo-soprano. The last time the LO performed this work was in 1987 with the late Lawrence Leighton Smith conducting; Edith Davis, soprano and Laura Brooks Rice, mezzo-soprano as soloists.

This monumental symphony is Mahler's most personal and fervent composition. It is his existential quest for the meaning of life and death opening with a heroes' funeral march and ending with the biblical Resurrection. It traces the joys and agonies of life and the hope of a transcendent life everlasting. The composer's despair and cynicism about man's existence ultimately gives way to a terrible beauty on the Day of Judgement. Bringing us one of the most miraculous moments in symphonic music, Mahler's own poetry carries the work to its emotionally overwhelming conclusion. In his program notes for this piece Mahler says:

“There is the great question: ‘Why did you live? Why did you suffer? Is it all nothing but a huge, ghastly joke?’ We *must* answer these questions in some way, if we want to go on living—indeed, if we are to go on dying! He into whose life this call has once sounded must give an answer; and this answer I give in the final movement.”

Teddy Abrams is in his third season as the Louisville Orchestra's Music Director. His non-traditional programming and his community activities are reinventing the Louisville Orchestra. <https://louisvilleorchestra.org/about/conductors/teddy-abrams/>

Soprano Celina Shafer returns to the Louisville Orchestra stage after her wildly successful 2014 performance in *Carmina Burana*. <http://www.colbertartists.com/celena-shafer/>

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This performance will mark J'Nai Bridges' Louisville Orchestra debut, but her highly sought-after sultry mezzo-soprano voice is well-known on opera and concert stages around the globe. <http://jnaibridgesmezzo.com/>.

Dr. Kent Hatteberg is the Director of Choral Studies at the University of Louisville and a frequent collaborator with the Louisville Orchestra. His most recent projects with the LO include Handel's *Messiah* and Bernstein's *Mass* in 2015 and he led the massive choir for *Carmina Burana* in 2014. : <http://louisville.edu/music/faculty-staff/Faculty/kent-hatteberg>

Know before you go:

Concert Talks led by Classical 90.5FM WUOL host, Daniel Gilliam and UofL School of Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Kent E. Hatteberg will take place at 7PM in the Mary Anderson Room. Free for ticket holders.

Concerts in Context podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/louisville-orchestra/mahler2>

Full concert on YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MPuoOj5Tlw>

Tickets: <http://www.kentuckycenter.org/all-shows/mahler-second>

This concert is made possible by the generous support of Presenting Sponsors David + Betty Jones along with the Concert Producers: Garvin Brown; David Jones, Jr. + Mary Gwen Wheeler.

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

All Concerts at Kentucky Center's Whitney Hall.

Friday Coffee Concerts start at 11AM with the Pre-concert conversation at 10AM in Whitney Hall.

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

Mahler Second – SAT 8 OCT || **All Dvořák** - FRI 20 OCT + SAT 21 OCT
Shakespeare in Music – FRI 18 NOV + SAT 19 NOV || **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 30 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

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