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ANNOUNCING THE 2018-2019 SEASON

Music Director Teddy Abrams Leads a Season of New Commissions and Interdisciplinary Collaborations with Creatively Programmed Classics

Louisville, KY (4.3.2018)... Next season is the Louisville Orchestra's fifth under the leadership of **Teddy Abrams**, "the young music director [who] understands better than most how music makes a city" (*The Guardian*). The characteristically creative 2018-2019 Season lineup combines world premieres of new commissions, a heartfelt tribute to a 20th-century master, innovative approaches to classics and pops repertory, guest appearances by world-class conductors and soloists, exciting Film + Orchestra performances, and imaginative interdisciplinary collaborations with local arts institutions. Reconnecting the orchestra with its remarkable past while reestablishing it as the cornerstone of today's vibrant Louisville music scene, Abrams' "tireless advocacy and community outreach" are, *Listen* magazine notes, "putting the history-rich Louisville Orchestra – and classical music – back on the map." As *Time* magazine says simply: "A genre-defying orchestra in Louisville? Believe it. The locals do."

CLASSICS SERIES

Opening night at the Classics honors a giant of American culture, celebrating "Leonard Bernstein at 100" (Sep 29) featuring guest artist **Morgan James**. The Orchestra's signature "Festival of American Music" (Feb 23, Mar 8, Mar 9) continues in its fourth year to shine the spotlight on American composition with a new work focused on the history of Kentucky bourbon. The second Festival concert explodes with the energy of jazz and a second commission will create a Jazz Violin Concerto, composed and performed by **Johannes Dickbauer**. The Festival also features a collaboration with **Louisville Ballet**. A second collaboration with the Kentucky College of Art and Design enriches a wide-ranging exploration of "Art + Music" (Jan 26). In "Teddy Talks Brahms," the Music Director and Orchestra offer an illuminating deconstruction of Johannes Brahms' Fourth Symphony (April 27), and two more timeless European classics – Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* and Mozart's *Requiem* – are the vehicles for an ambitious choral extravaganza (Oct 27). Finally, it is with a

masterwork of Beethoven's Ninth—that the season draws to a monumental close (May 11). Three guest-conducting engagements complete the Classics Series lineup, including the return to Louisville by one of Abrams' mentors, the legendary [Leonard Slatkin](#) (Jan 12).

POPS SERIES

Principal Pops Conductor **Bob Bernhardt** opens the concert series with an evening of film scores of John Williams (Sep 15). This beloved composer has created magic with Harry Potter, reached the heavens with *Star Wars* and powered the imagination and delight of the world's music lovers with the greatest movie music of our time. Bernhardt turns to popular music with concerts starring [Brass Transit](#) in a tribute to the traditional music of supergroup Chicago (Nov 10), and to the **Music of Queen** (Mar 23). The Louisville Orchestra wants to celebrate holidays with you with "Home for the Holidays" with [Mandy Gonzalez](#) – the star of Broadway's original cast of *Hamilton* (Nov 24) and [Midtown Men](#) (Feb 16). The 6-concert series concludes with the red-hot chanteuse **Storm Large** in a pulse-racing tribute to "Love, Lust + Rock 'n' Roll" (Apr 20).

COFFEE SERIES

Our most affordable series, the "Coffee Concerts" are performed on Friday mornings at 11AM and features selected repertoire from the Classics Series. Presented in 70-minutes with no intermission, the concerts are "just right" when paired with a complimentary cup of coffee and the popular pre-event Concert Talk.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES at OGLE CENTER

With easy access and a delightful concert hall, the Paul W. Ogle Center at Indiana University Southeast is host to a 4-concert series. **Teddy Abrams** conducts "Kentucky Strings" (Oct 13) featuring violinists [Tessa Lark](#) and [Rob Simonds](#), an all-Tchaikovsky program "1812 Overture" (Jan 19), and an all-overtures program "William Tell" (Apr 14). LO Concertmaster [Gabriel Lefkowitz](#) serves as conductor and violin soloist in "An Evening in Italy" (Mar 2) in an attractive program of favorites.

FAMILY SERIES

Orchestrate a musical adventure for the entire family with this 3-concert series. These one-hour concerts are designed to delight and inform young music lovers from ages 4 to 12 years, but kids of all ages are welcome. Two different holiday performances encourage attendees to dress up for the occasion at "Halloween Spooktacular" (Oct 20) and "Home for the Holidays Family" (Nov 24). The family classic "Carnival of the Animals" (Mar 16) is enchanting.

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS CONCERTS

Not available as a series package and offered for sale starting August 1, these performances present the LO in neighborhood venues throughout the metro. The programs mirror the Neighborhood Series programs and engage a diversity of communities with low ticket prices and community partnerships.

STAR WARS – A NEW HOPE – IN CONCERT

The Louisville Orchestra presents a big-screen showing of the original 1977 George Lucas film *Star Wars* (Feb 2 & 3) with live orchestra performance of John Williams' music score. The epic film includes all the award-winning sound effects and dialogue but the music is live and coordinated with exact precision with the film. It's an extraordinary experience for movie lovers! Tickets to this Film/Orchestra event are available ONLY as an add-on concert with the purchase of an LO Concert Series (Classics, Pops, Coffee, and Neighborhood). Performance and ticket details are listed in the calendar following.

[LINK TO DATES AND PERFORMANCE DETAILS](#)

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About the Louisville Orchestra

Established in 1937 with Robert Whitney on the podium, the Louisville Orchestra is a cornerstone of the Louisville arts community. With the support of Mayor Charles Farnsley and the business community, Robert Whitney and the Louisville Orchestra launched First Edition Recordings in 1947 and became the first American orchestra to own a recording label. Six years later, it received a Rockefeller Foundation grant of \$400,000 to commission, record, and premiere 20th-century music by living composers, thereby earning a place on the international circuit and an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall.

From 1936 to 1978, the Louisville Orchestra commissioned 136 new works from composers including Aaron Copland, Ingolf Dahl, Henry Cowell, Wallingford Riegger and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. The First Edition Recordings (and the subsequent re-releases) offer 441 works composed after 1920. In 2001, the Louisville Orchestra received the Leonard Bernstein Award for Excellence in Educational Programming, presented annually to a North American orchestra. Continuing its commitment to new music, the Louisville Orchestra has earned 19 ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music and was awarded large grants from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the National Endowment for the Arts, both for the purpose of producing, manufacturing and marketing its historic First Edition Recordings collections.

Over the years, the orchestra has performed for prestigious events at the White House, Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and on tour in Mexico City. The feature-length, Gramophone Award-winning documentary *Music Makes A City* (2010) chronicles the Louisville Orchestra's founding years. The composition commissioning program has been revived in recent years and has resulted in more than a dozen new works for orchestra. In 2017, the Orchestra released its first commercial recording titled *All In*, which spent several weeks at the top of the Traditional Classical *Billboard* chart.

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