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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Las Vegas Philharmonic Celebrates Opening Night on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM at The Smith Center



The orchestra will perform Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*, John Adams's *Common Tones in Simple Time* and Johannes Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor* featuring acclaimed pianist and UNLV Associate Professor of Music, Mykola Suk

Ticket Prices Start at \$30

Tickets available for purchase online at lvphil.org and through The Smith Center Box Office at 702.749.2000

LAS VEGAS (August 9, 2017) – The Las Vegas Philharmonic will commence its 19th concert season with *Opening Night: Don Juan - Cabrera Conducts Strauss, Adams & Brahms* on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM in Reynolds Hall at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Music Director Donato Cabrera will host a pre-concert conversation in Reynolds Hall one hour prior to the performance (6:30 PM) for patrons who want to learn more about the history and meaning behind the music to be performed that evening. Following the performance, the Philharmonic will host a champagne, wine and dessert reception on-stage (\$50 per person) to toast to the new season.

The orchestra begins with Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*, a symphonic poem that successfully launched the 24-year old composer's career after its debut in November of 1889. The music brilliantly captures the essence of this notorious lover from its rigorous opening, tender love scene and passionate duel to the death.

Next, the orchestra segues into *Common Tones in Simple Time*, an ethereal piece composed in 1979 by one of the most frequently performed composers of our time, John Adams. The music demonstrates Adams's Minimalist orchestral style and simulates the feeling of soaring above the landscape. Adams describes it as "a pastoral with pulse."

The performance closes with the grandeur of Johannes Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 1* performed by Mykola Suk, Associate Professor of Music at UNLV. The powerful work combines piano and orchestra with equal prominence and alludes to a few of Brahms's musical influences including Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann.

Suk gained international recognition as the winner of the First Prize and Gold Medal at the 1971 International Liszt-Bartok Competition in Budapest. His career has spanned four continents, with performances in the most prestigious venues from the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory to Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Suk received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance from Moscow State Conservatory and served as Professor of Piano at the Kiev State Conservatory and Moscow State Conservatory prior to moving to the United States.

"The opening concert to our 19th season encapsulates what the Las Vegas Philharmonic is all about," says Music Director Donato Cabrera. "We begin with one of the most beautiful and virtuosic pieces ever written for the orchestra, Richard Strauss's tone poem, *Don Juan*. It shows off every section of our wonderful orchestra and gets the season off to a rousing start! We are celebrating the 70th birthday of America's most famous living composer, John Adams, with a performance of one of his earliest orchestral compositions, *Common Tones in Simple Time*. The second half of the concert showcases a local piano hero and international talent, Mykola Suk, in Brahms's towering *Piano Concerto No. 1*. I so look forward to seeing everyone there for this very special (and fun!) concert."

Ticket Prices and Shuttle Bus Services

Single tickets include five price levels in Reynolds Hall:

PT Box = \$109, A Seating = \$105, B Seating = \$70, C Seating = \$50 and D Seating = \$30

Tickets can be purchased online through lvphil.org or The Smith Center Box Office at [702.749.2000](tel:702.749.2000).

The Las Vegas Philharmonic will continue to offer shuttle bus services to its Reynolds Hall evening performances from the Anthem Center at Independence Center in Henderson and the Starbright Theater in Summerlin. A roundtrip bus ticket costs \$20 per concert and can be purchased in conjunction with the patron's concert tickets.

Calendar Listing

OPENING NIGHT - DON JUAN

Cabrera Conducts Strauss, Adams & Brahms

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 - 7:30pm

Pre-concert conversation at 6:30pm in Reynolds Hall

Opening Night Champagne, Wine and Dessert Reception on stage at 9:30pm - \$50 per person; reservations required; ticket purchase separate from concert

Donato Cabrera, conductor

Mykola Suk, piano

STRAUSS, R. *Don Juan, TrV 156, Opus 20*

ADAMS *Common Tones in Simple Time*

BRAHMS *Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, Opus 15*

OPENING NIGHT ON OUR 19TH SEASON features one of the greatest symphonic blockbusters of all time, music from an American icon to mark his 70th birthday and a concerto performed by an award-winning pianist who calls Las Vegas home. Richard Strauss, a versatile artist with a library of work spanning tone poems, opera and concerti, was deeply rooted in the Romantic Era, the artistic, literary, musical and intellectual movement that originated in Europe toward the end of the 18th Century. His more mature voice emerged with the tone poem *Don Juan*, which premiered in 1889 and conveys the story of the legendary lothario. John Adams is one of the best known and most often performed of American composers. His *Common Tones in Simple Time* premiered in 1979 and this will be the orchestra's first performance of this work, which was composed to

create the sense of soaring above landscapes, evoking emotion and excitement. We conclude the evening with Johannes Brahms's first Piano Concerto and soloist Mykola Suk, internationally recognized pianist and Las Vegas. Brahms, considered one of three prolific "B's" of German composers (in the company of Bach and Beethoven) wrote solo piano music often described as rapturous. Listen to Donato's Spotify Playlist: <http://tinyurl.com/lvphilsept9>

About the Las Vegas Philharmonic

The Las Vegas Philharmonic, led by Music Director, Donato Cabrera, established its presence in Southern Nevada in 1998. The mission of the organization is to perform music that enriches and educates, helping to build a vibrant, culturally rich community.

Music education and outreach are the cornerstones of the Philharmonic's commitment to community. Our Youth Concert Series brings more than 19,000 children annually into the concert hall for a vital music education program, and our Cox Communications Young Artists' Concerto Competition recognizes and encourages emerging talent among Nevada youth in the area of music performance.

Our season of concerts showcases local talents alongside stellar nationally and internationally known guest artists on the magnificent Reynolds Hall stage. At the orchestra's core are 76 contracted professional musicians, many of whom are esteemed educators who also perform in other professional productions in Las Vegas, bringing depth and variety to the organization.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Philharmonic's community, education and artistic programs are made possible by the generous donations and support of individuals and corporations. To join us in our mission or learn more, visit lvphil.org or call [702.258.5438](tel:702.258.5438).

We're social! Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/lasvegasphilharmonic](https://www.facebook.com/lasvegasphilharmonic), Twitter: [@lvphil](https://twitter.com/lvphil) and Instagram: [@lvphil](https://www.instagram.com/lvphil)

PRESS CONTACT INFORMATION:

Photos of the Las Vegas Philharmonic are available on request from Michele Madole, VP of Marketing and Public Relations, Phone [702.462.2005](tel:702.462.2005), email michele@lvphil.com.

Accommodations for the Las Vegas Philharmonic's music director and guest soloists are provided by MGM Resorts at The Signature Suites at MGM Grand.