



For Immediate Release: July 19, 2021

Contact: North State Symphony, (530)898-5984, symphony@csuchico.edu

NORTH STATE SYMPHONY RETURNS TO LIVE PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCING 2021-22 “CRESCENDO” SEASON

CHICO/REDDING, CA – North State Symphony is pleased to announce our all-new 2021-22 season with a return to the concert hall and a full line-up of Masterworks Holiday, Family, and Youth concerts, supplemental virtual content, Membership benefits and discounts, and options for live or virtual ticket packages. In our “Crescendo” season, we gratefully celebrate a gradual return to normal, seeing symphony friends, sharing great music, and reveling at being back in our North State communities. Join us in this special season as we Crescendo together through a musical journey of the human condition, from struggle and anguish to inspiration and triumph.

We begin with Masterworks 1: The Soldier’s Tale, on September 25th (Redding) and 26th (Chico), featuring Igor Stravinsky’s *L’Histoire du Soldat*, a work of adaptation born from an immense struggle. It’s a work that emerged near the end of World War I and the 1918 pandemic, a time when Stravinsky’s large ballets were not able to be performed. We partner with Shasta College Theatre in a telling of this remarkable tale of a common soldier who, on leave from the troops, trades in his scratched violin for a promise of riches. Unknowingly making a deal with the devil, this story addresses the universal question that everyone eventually asks themselves: what makes us really happy?

In November, we present Masterworks 2: A Little Mahler. The program centers around Gustav Mahler’s “Titan” Symphony. Despite the reduction of forces, this version of this outstanding symphony will not fail to stir the soul and leave you with a determined sense that anguish and loneliness can be banished and the human spirit will triumph. Also on display is the magnificent melodic elegance of Mozart’s *Concerto for Flute and Harp* featuring NSS Principal Flute Tim Koop and Principal Harp Candace LiVolsi, and Jessie Montgomery’s *Banner*, a work commissioned in 2014 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner.

Join us in December for festive performances of a variety of sacred and popular holiday music in our traditional Holiday Concerts. We welcome our Young Artist Winner, Valdis Birznieks, baritone, to help ring in the holiday season, and will conclude with the traditional carol sing-along. Bring the entire family to get into the holiday spirit and celebrate the season!

In February of 2022, we return to the big stage with Masterworks 3: Finding Inspiration. Mendelssohn took a trip to Scotland that stirred him to write the *Hebrides Overture*. Giovanni Bottesini was inspired by the depth, versatility, and sheer power of the double bass to compose

Concerto No. 2 featuring acclaimed guest artist and double bassist Kurt Muroki. Jean Sibelius was moved by a play by Maurice Maeterlinck and its themes of forbidden love, subsequently writing some of the most picturesque and charming incidental music in *Pelleas and Melisande*. Maurice Ravel served in the French Army in World War I and later wrote *Le Tombeau de Couperin* as a gentle tribute to the victims of the war. Join us as we explore inspiration in its many forms, and as we also find inspiration by performing the Mendelssohn “side-by-side” with members of Chico and Redding’s youth orchestras.

For a March interlude, our favorite month of the concert season brings our Youth and Family Concerts to multiple cities across the North State. The program features Prokofiev’s beloved *Peter and the Wolf* where different characters – from a clarinet imitating a cat to a wolf being portrayed by horns – come alive through the magic of symphonic sound. Also on the program are Haydn’s *Toy Symphony* - a fun work that includes some very peculiar instruments - and our Young Artist Audition winners performing various works for piano by Mozart.

We’ll put an exclamation mark on our Crescendo Season in May with Masterworks 4: Unstoppable Beethoven, and the monumental Ninth Symphony, a work showcasing the power, heroism, humanity, and revolutionary spirit of his groundbreaking and visionary voice. In addition to our four phenomenal soloists (Tonia D’Amelio, soprano; Molly Mahoney, mezzo-soprano; Michael Desnoyers, tenor; and Ben Brady, bass-baritone), we’ll have more than 100 voices from the combined choruses of Shasta College and Simpson University. The concert begins with the dramatic and fiery Overture No. 2 by Louise Farrenc and also features a world premiere by the winner of the North State Symphony Composition Competition.

“We’ve missed live performances so much during the past year”, says Elizabeth Quivey, North State Symphony Executive Director. “We can’t wait to start the new season in September and build to an exciting crescendo with the fruition of our Beethoven Ninth concert. Working with the teams at our wonderful venues, we’ll be taking the comfort and safety of our audiences and musicians very seriously. We also have some great new Membership benefits, and flexible attendance options to accommodate anyone who needs some classical music back in their lives, whether in-person or virtual. We’re thrilled to be able to once again say: “see you at the symphony!””.

This season’s Membership benefits include ticket discounts, member-only ticket pre-sales, free access to all virtual content all season long, and more. Memberships and Season Ticket Renewals for the 4-concert Masterworks Series go on sale July 27th, Season Ticket new purchases go on exclusive Member pre-sale on August 10th, and non-Member Season Ticket new purchases and single tickets go on sale August 24th. For more dates and purchase options, visit North State Symphony at www.northstatesymphony.org.

North State Symphony is a cultural symbol of Northern California seeking to engage, educate, excite, and unite North State communities through the language of music.

###