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## UPCOMING RENO PHILHARMONIC SEASON CELEBRATES HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC

*Reno Philharmonic's Classix Season Begins Sept. 14, 2014*

**RENO, Nev. (Aug. 25, 2014)** – The Reno Philharmonic's 46th Season brings original compositions, noteworthy celebrations, accomplished soloists and a thoughtful balance of repertoire including Beethoven, Gershwin, Tchaikovsky and Mozart to its classical six-concert series. The **Classix One** season premiere celebrates the 200th anniversary of "*The Star-Spangled Banner*" on the actual anniversary date Sept. 14. Classix performances take place at the Pioneer Center for Performing Arts in Reno, Nev., with season subscriptions and individual tickets now available for purchase.

The Reno Philharmonic's **Classix One** pays tribute to the national anthem with a reprise of "*Chesapeake: Summer of 1814*" performed by the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus led by music director and conductor Laura Jackson. Commissioned by the Reno Philharmonic, the original work composed by Michael Gandolfi with visuals by Anne Patterson, pays homage to the anthem by depicting the story of its creation.

"The driving force of this piece was to artfully tell the story of the anthem's inception," Jackson said. "Performing it on the actual date '*The Star-Spangled Banner*' was penned 200 years ago makes it that much more powerful and emotional. It's truly a national level event due to its significance and the leadership of the Reno Philharmonic as the rest of the country also celebrates the bicentennial."

The original piece combines a symphonic score, historical melodies, choral songs, timed lighting, supertitles and projected imagery offering a multi-media immersive experience new to Reno Philharmonic audiences.

"Gandolfi's piece has a great message, gives heartfelt memorable educational moments and left me with a feeling of patriotic pride," said Mike Davis, Carson City resident, following the world premiere performance in March 2013.

**Classix One, Sept. 14 and 16:** *Chesapeake: Summer of 1814* by Michael Gandolfi. Also included in the Classix One program is Dudley Buck's whimsical variation on the national anthem and classic Gershwin songs performed by guest soloist Albert Lee, a University of Nevada Reno voice professor. *Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major, op. 68 "Pastorale,"* illustrates the composer's recollection of life in his own beloved nation and tranquil country life in Vienna, rounding out the finale of this patriotic performance.

**Classix Two, Oct. 11, 12 and 14:** Celebrates the state of Nevada's 150th birthday with a special arrangement of the state song, "*Home Means Nevada*," commissioned by the Reno Philharmonic, arranged by Carson City composer David Bugli and made possible by a grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation. A Saturday concert added to the schedule Oct. 11 features a video montage of K-12 students from schools across Nevada performing the state's battle cry.

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"We wanted to make sure that every student in Nevada had the opportunity to learn our state song," Amy Heald, education director for the Reno Philharmonic Association, said. "We commissioned several versions at different levels so instructors could teach their students and take part in this sesquicentennial celebration."

Continuing the recognition of Nevada's history from birth to modern day, the performance includes "*Desert Garden*," another Reno Philharmonic-commissioned work by composer Sean Shepherd, a Reno native and Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestra alum who now composes for distinguished orchestras across the globe. "*Desert Garden*" was inspired by the beauty of the Nevada landscape and will be accompanied by imagery provided by Megan Burner, lecturer of photography at the University of Nevada, Reno. Further selections include Michael Daugherty's "*Lost Vegas*" and *Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G major, op. 44* performed by James Winn, a University of Nevada, Reno piano professor and long-time Reno Philharmonic pianist.

**Classix Three, Nov. 16 and 18:** Featuring music selections including *Wagner's "Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg," Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor, op. 85* and *Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 43*. The guest artist for Classix Three is twenty-year-old cellist and 2012 Davidson Fellow Nathan Chan.

**Classix Four, Jan. 18 and 20:** Featuring Mozart's "*Don Giovanni*" *K.527 Overture and Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466*, as well as *Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," op. 61-Nocturne and Scherzo and Symphony No. 5 in D major, op. 107 "Reformation."* The Reno Philharmonic welcomes guest conductor and pianist Jeffery Kahane who will conduct the orchestra from the piano, a unique experience for the orchestra and for the audience.

**Classix Five, Feb. 15 and 17:** Selections include Debussy's "*Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un faune*," *Fairouz's Violin Concerto "Al-Andalus"* and *Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 in G major, op. 88* and features guest artist Chloe Hanslip on the violin.

**Classix Six, April 18 and 19:** The season finale highlights the Reno Philharmonic Chorus along with guest vocalists Jessica Rivera and Kelly O'Connor featuring music selections including *Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068* and a landmark performance of *Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor "Resurrection"* featuring more than 300 performers onstage in what is sure to be one of the most memorable concerts in Reno Philharmonic history.

"We are going to continue to raise the bar for the season with historically significant works, challenging productions and performances that will showcase the versatility and talent of our orchestra, chorus and special guests," Jackson said. "This season we will be celebrating history and making history."

Classix concert sets are Sunday's at 4 p.m. and Tuesday's at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. Pre-concert talks take place with Jackson at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall and at 7 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall.

To purchase tickets to any of the Classix concert sets or for more information on the Reno Philharmonic, visit [RENOPHIL.COM](http://RENOPHIL.COM) or call 775-323-6393.

#### **About the Reno Philharmonic**

The **Reno Philharmonic Association** is northern Nevada's largest performing arts organization. Beginning its 46th season, the orchestra, led by music director Laura Jackson, is comprised of more than 80 professional musicians who perform more than 30 concerts annually throughout the Reno, Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe region. Musicians of the professional orchestra, youth orchestras, various ensembles and education programs offer more

than 60 performances each year, playing to more than 50,000 people. The flagship of the Reno Philharmonic concert offering is a six-concert classical music series, *Classix*, performed on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. To learn more about the Reno Philharmonic and its events, and to discover all that the Reno Phil has to offer, visit [RENOPHIL.com](http://RENOPHIL.com).

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