



PRESS RELEASE

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All-American concert features stunning photochoreography & narration by Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

- What:** *All-American Fanfare* MasterWorks concert sponsored by Omaha Steaks
- When:** Friday, April 23 8 PM
Saturday, April 24 8 PM
- Where:** Holland Performing Arts Center, 1200 Douglas Street
- Tickets:** \$15-\$75; 402.345.0606, 402.342.3560 or www.omahasymphony.org

Omaha, Neb – Relive history through stunning photochoreography and iconic American music, as the Omaha Symphony presents “All-American Fanfare” April 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center. This soaring, passionate program includes popular works by beloved composers Aaron Copland (his Third Symphony and *Lincoln Portrait*) and Leonard Bernstein (*Candide Suite*).

“All-American Fanfare” audiences will also experience a unique photochoreography presentation by James Westwater, entitled *The Eternal Struggle*. Set to Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, it was commissioned and premiered by the Orlando Philharmonic and the Akron Symphony Orchestra, both under the direction of Christopher Wilkins. *The Eternal Struggle* is a visual/musical portrait of America's greatest president, the Civil War, and the ongoing struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. More than 10,000 historical images were considered in the making of this extraordinary, powerful, and timely work of art.

—more—

All-American program celebrates country, best of Copland & Bernstein

For over a quarter century, Mr. Westwater has performed his symphonic photochoreography as a guest artist appearing with orchestras across North America, including those of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Saint Louis, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Washington, D.C. Twice a National Endowment for the Arts Resident Artist, Westwater has photographed in Alaska with the Institute of Polar Studies and in Antarctica as the National Science Foundation's Artist-in-the-Antarctic. His artistic credentials include an award-winning front cover for *Saturday Review* magazine and the publication of a highly acclaimed book of photography.

Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University, narrates *Lincoln Portrait's* inspiring text, complementing the music and images. The narration blends a biographical sketch of Abraham Lincoln with excerpts from some of his most famous speeches. "The message contained in this piece not only reflects the integrity and greatness of Lincoln, but holds a message that is as relevant and poignant today as it was in 1863 when Lincoln spoke those words and in 1942 when Copland composed the piece," said Schlegel. "It proves great music is timeless and timely."

Praise for James Westwater's symphonic choreography:

- *Washington Post* – "the images magnified the music" at Westwater's sold-out concert with the National Symphony
- *Grand Rapids Press* – "a visual and aural experience of marvelous beauty... pure art for the eye and ear..."
- *Pittsburgh Press* – Westwater's performance with the Pittsburgh Symphony was "spectacular and loving... touching and lyrical... a brilliant photographic display"
- *LA Times* – "the photography was spectacular"
- *News & Record* – "a match made in heaven"

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Chamber, Sights and Sounds, and Family series concerts, the orchestra tours both Nebraska and Iowa providing education and community engagement concerts and special events. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402.342.3560 or visit www.omahasymphony.org.

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