



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Young talent trained & celebrated at Omaha Symphony's New Music Symposium**

**What:** *New Music Symposium*

**When:** June 1-3  
*Final Concert:* Thursday, June 3 @ 7 PM  
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 6001 Dodge Street

**Media:** Please contact Sarah Brownlee, Public Relations Manager, at 402.342.3836 x140 if you'd like to attend or cover the symposium. A complete schedule of events is available upon request.

**Omaha, Neb** – With competition like Mozart and Beethoven, it's not always easy for young composers to get their music heard in concert halls these days. It can be a struggle to get hands-on experience working alongside a professional orchestra. The Omaha Symphony's cutting-edge **New Music Symposium** provides vital enrichment experiences for talented young composers: the rare opportunity to test their skills in a real-life laboratory setting and the privilege of working directly with established music mentors and teams of musicians from the Omaha Symphony. This three-day symposium culminates in a formal public performance on Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center.

"The Omaha Symphony is passionate about identifying the next generation of composers and investing in their growth and development," said Jennifer Boomgaarden, vice president of education and community partnerships. "This symposium is all about creating connections—between composers young and old, conductors, and professional orchestra musicians."

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## Young composers from across the country come to Omaha for training, concert

Master composer **Joseph Schwantner** will be mentoring the five participating composers. After winning the Pulitzer Prize for *Aftertones of Infinity*, Schwantner composed *New Morning for the World: Daybreak of Freedom*, based on words from Martin Luther King, Jr. for narrator and orchestra, which has since entered the standard repertory of orchestras nationwide. His Percussion Concerto has garnered more than 100 performances since its 1995 premiere and is one of the most performed concert works of the past decade. Compositions by Schwantner have been commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Chamber Music America, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, among many others.

In 2007, the League of American Orchestras and Meet the Composer announced that Mr. Schwantner had been selected as composer for the second cycle of the nation's largest commissioning consortium of orchestras: Ford Made in America. The resulting work from the commission, *Chasing Light*, is being performed in all 50 states—and will have its second Nebraska performance at the New Music Symposium final concert on June 3. Members of both the Omaha Symphony and the Omaha Area Youth Symphony will perform a movement from the piece side-by-side on stage.

Support the future of classical music at the New Music Symposium Concert Thursday, June 3!

*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](http://www.omahasymphony.org).*

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