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Omaha Symphony opens 2017/2018 season with Dvořák's Seventh *Catingub's Three Shades of Blue Violin Concerto also featured*

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 13, 2017- The Omaha Symphony will open the 2017/2018 season with what is considered by many to be Antonin Dvořák's greatest symphony, his seventh, in *Dvořák's Seventh*, Friday, Sept. 22 and Saturday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Conducted by Music Director Thomas Wilkins, the program will also feature Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche (Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks)*, and *Three Shades of Blue Concerto* for Violin, Jazz Trio, and Orchestra, written by Matt Catingub and featuring violinist Amy Schwartz Moretti, Catingub on piano, Steve Moretti on drums, and Kevin Axt on jazz bass.

Written in 1885, Dvořák's Seventh Symphony in D Minor was originally called Symphony No. 2, as it was only the second symphony to come off the printing press, even though it was the seventh to come off his pen. Dvořák's first five symphonies, in fact, were never published in his lifetime. However, his seventh is now considered the finest of his works, representing a mastery of form comparable to Schubert or Brahms, and a deeper meaning than audiences had come to expect from the composer of up until that time popular Slavonic dances. The second movement in particular is remarkable for its quality of material and the way it unfolds freely and unpredictably. It is rich music, both intimate and open-hearted; while Dvořák's famous Largo from his New World Symphony may be better remembered, he never surpassed the achievement of this movement in his Seventh.

Familiar to our Symphony Rocks Series audiences, conductor, composer and pianist Matt Catingub will bring his 2014 *Three Shades of Blue Concerto* for Violin, Jazz Trio and Orchestra to the MasterWorks series. Combining influences of jazz, big bands, Latin rhythms, and contemporary classical, the piece explores the different emotions, colors, and musical feelings of "Blue" and the musical genre "the Blues." The three "blue" movements highlight the brilliance of violinist Amy Schwartz Moretti and her husband, percussionist and frequent Catingub performing partner Steve Moretti, as well as Catingub on piano and Axt on jazz bass. This original and innovative work was, in fact, commissioned by the Morettis.

Matt Catingub is the co-founder of the Macon Pops in Macon, Ga., as well as the Glendale Pops in California, and the Hawaii Pops in Honolulu. As a artist, conductor, pianist, vocalist, composer, and arranger, Catingub is no stranger to Omaha, having performed on the Symphony Rocks series on at least five occasions, most recently in last year's *'70s and '80s Pop and Soul*, a program he created for the Omaha Symphony.

Amy Schwartz Moretti is recognized as a deeply expressive artist and known for her musical career of broad versatility. She is director of the McDuffie Center for Strings and Mercer University Townsend School of Music and former concertmaster of the Oregon Symphony and Florida Orchestra. She maintains an active performing schedule of solo, chamber and concertmaster appearances, and performed with the Omaha Symphony in a 2013

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MasterWorks program.

Percussionist Steve Moretti is a two-time Grammy Award nominee and winner of two Telly Awards. He has an extensive recording career playing on over 30 nationally released recordings, and is co-founder, president, and CEO of the Macon Pops with his longtime collaborator Matt Catingub. Moretti is no stranger to Omaha, appearing on the Omaha Symphony's Symphony Rocks series frequently with Catingub.

Kevin Axt has been a freelance upright and electric bassist in Southern California for over 35 years, performing, recording and touring with artists such as Natalie Cole, Jack McDuff, Queen Latifah, Placido Domingo, Christina Aguilera, Bernadette Peters, Etta James, The Manhattan Transfer and Take Six, and many more. His bass work has been featured on music projects that have garnered 16 Grammy nominations.

Tickets to *Dvořák's Seventh* start at \$19. They can be purchased by visiting www.omahasymphony.org or by calling Ticket Omaha at 402.345.0606. Student Rush tickets are available one hour prior to the concert. Any student with a valid student ID may purchase up to two Student Rush tickets for \$10 each.

Prior to each MasterWorks performance, Maestro Ernest Richardson will lead concertgoers in a step-by-step guide through the evening's program. These preconcert preludes begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Orchestra Level Lobby.

The Omaha Symphony MasterWorks series is sponsored by Omaha Steaks.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 100 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movies, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony's nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345-0606 or visit omahasymphony.org.

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