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## **Symphony Joslyn concerto explores Mozart's stormy genius and his final symphony**

*Renowned pianist Washington Garcia debuts on Mozart's Piano Concerto in D Minor*

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 26, 2017- Celebrate Mozart's genius at the Omaha Symphony's opening Symphony Joslyn concert of the season, *Mozart's Jupiter Symphony*, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2 p.m., in Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall.

Conducted by Music Director Thomas Wilkins, the program will feature Mozart's final symphony, his Symphony 41 in C Major, "Jupiter," as well as the composer's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor, featuring renowned concert pianist and new director of the University of Nebraska Omaha School of Music, Washington Garcia, in his debut with the Omaha Symphony. The program will also include Telemann's Concerto Polonois in G Major.

Mozart's Piano Concerto in D Minor is the composer's most famous, and one admired by Beethoven himself. It is the only piano concerto Mozart played in public, and was the sole concerto by Mozart performed regularly into the nineteenth century, when it was fashionable to dismiss the composer as outdated compared the Romantics of the day. The concerto's demonic power and dark beauty spoke to musicians who had been raised on Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt, and brought them back to Mozart. It established D minor as the darkest of keys and was the first concerto written by Mozart in a minor key.

Mozart's final symphony, and the title of this concert, represents the peak of his achievement as a composer for orchestra: self-assured, lyrical, and ultimately grand. There is no evidence that Mozart heard his final symphony before he died, although he most certainly had plans to have it performed before his untimely death at age 35. The composer never called it the "Jupiter" symphony, which was a nickname reportedly given it by London impresario Johan Peter Salomon after the most powerful of the Roman gods, suggesting the majesty and nobility of the first movement.

Washington Garcia has amassed an acclaimed international reputation as a dazzling performer and a nurturing, innovative educator. He became a seasoned veteran of the concert platform at a young age, performing throughout his native country of Ecuador. Since his debut with the Ecuadorian National Symphony at age 15, he has been an active recitalist, soloist, and lecturer in prestigious venues in Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Israel, China, Singapore, the United States, and many other countries. He graduated at the age of 25 with master's and doctoral degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, the youngest Latin American to have received a doctoral degree in piano performance from the institution. He was appointed the founding director of the School of Music at UNO in 2016.

Symphony Joslyn concerts explore the unique connections between art and music. The highlighted work paired with this concert is *The Smugglers Return*, a painting by Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg. With its compositional contrasts, speed and variation of tempo, and irresistible wildness, *The Smugglers Return*, painted a little over a decade after Mozart composed his 41<sup>st</sup> symphony, reflects de Loutherbourg's great sense of the theatrical. Joslyn curators will deliver preconcert talks about this piece at 1 p.m. and 1:25 in Gallery 10.

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Tickets to *Mozart's Jupiter Symphony* are \$33. Joslyn Art Museum members may purchase single concert tickets for \$28.80 each (a 20% savings). Joslyn members must call Ticket Omaha to reserve advance single tickets or show a Joslyn membership card if purchasing tickets at the door the day of the concert. All other tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.omahasymphony.org](http://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.

*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, Movie, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony's nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 31,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345-0606 or visit [omahasymphony.org](http://omahasymphony.org).*

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