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Next Symphony Joslyn concert features Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony
Program also includes Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings, and Hindemith's Spielmusik

OMAHA, Neb., March 6, 2018- Just in time for Easter, Martin Luther's triumph during the Reformation will be explored in *Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony*, Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m., at Joslyn Art Museum.

Led by Music Director Thomas Wilkins, the symphony's latest Symphony Joslyn concert will also include Hindemith's *Spielmusik*, and Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings*, featuring tenor Marc Molomot and principal horn Brett Hodge.

Mendelssohn's *Symphony in D Major* was composed in celebration of the festivities marking the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, one of the key events in the Protestant revolt led by Martin Luther against the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, European revolutions in 1830 prevented the celebrations, and the symphony's debut, and it was not performed until two years later. Despite his Jewish family name, Mendelssohn himself considered both Jewish and Christian doctrine as part of his spirituality. The "Reformation" Symphony, with its implicit theme of the Protestant struggle and ultimate triumph, reflects his youthful understanding of Luther's faith as not only religious dogma but an important event in the development of German national and cultural life.

Britten's lush *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* evokes the world of night. Through a twilight atmosphere set by muted horn and stings, a tenor voice offers six English poems ranging from an anonymous 15th century funeral dirge to verses by John Keats, exploring dreamscapes both beautiful and haunting. The horn provides a prologue and epilogue to the piece, with the horn player employing "natural" horn technique of forgoing valves and push buttons, and relying on changes of air pressure and lip positions to produce different notes.

Possessed of a rare high-tenor voice and a winning stage persona that comfortably embraces both comedic and dramatic roles, Molomot enjoys an international career in opera and on the concert stage. Roles have included Udolin in Schubert's *Die Verschworenen*, and Adolphe de Valladolid in Offenbach's *Les brigands* at Opéra Toulon and Paris' Opéra Comique, among many others. He appeared with the Omaha Symphony in a production of *Carmina Burana* in 2013.

Brett Hodge has held the position of principal horn with the Omaha Symphony since 2016; he previously held the position with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. He is also third horn for the Grant Park Music Festival. Hodge has performed new works as a soloist-in-residence with the Midwest Chamber Ensemble, and has participated in the internationally renowned Banff Centre's *Orchestral Session* and performed with the All-Star Brass for recording sessions.

Symphony Joslyn concerts explore the unique connections between art and music. The highlighted work paired with this concert is *Mountain Landscape*, an oil on canvas painting by Gustave Doré. Best known for his graphic work, Doré illustrated over 100 books throughout his career, including Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Milton's *Paradise*

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Lost, and Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. Joslyn curators will deliver preconcert talks about this piece at 1 p.m. and 1:25 in Pavilion Gallery 4.

Tickets to *Mendelssohn's Reformation 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 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.

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