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Omaha Symphony adds the power of orchestra to rock hits from the '70s & '80s

Matt Catingub leads vibrant arrangements of songs by ELO, Bruce Springsteen, Phil Collins, more

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 2, 2018- What do you get when you mix some of the biggest rock songs of the 1970s and '80s with the brass, sax, strings, and rhythm of a symphony orchestra? It's the Omaha Symphony's opening Symphony Rocks concert of the season, *'70s and '80s Power Rock*, Saturday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Grammy winner Matt Catingub will return to Omaha to conduct this brand-new program of his orchestral arrangements of popular rock songs featuring music by Earth, Wind & Fire, Electric Light Orchestra, Huey Lewis and the News, Paul McCartney, Phil Collins, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, and others. Songs include Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," Earth, Wind & Fire's "September," McCartney's "Silly Love Songs," Steely Dan's "Reelin' in the Years," Chicago's "Does Anybody Know What Time It Is?," Lionel Richie's "All Night Long," Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," and many more.

Frequent Catingub collaborators Anita Hall and Steve Moretti will return on vocals and drums.

The *Omaha World-Herald* wrote, after one of Catingub's performances with the Omaha Symphony, that his concerts have become a "can't miss attraction."

"When it comes to rock music — perhaps the hardest genre to adapt to the orchestral setting — Catingub's arrangements surely have a special appeal to this ensemble. Simply put, his arrangements treat the orchestra as a full partner. He doesn't treat the strings and wind instruments as mere aural background while the singers and rhythm section do what rock bands do. He creates a single, integrated sound that makes listeners think, "This tune was great when it was on the radio — but, wow, what if it had sounded like this?"' ("Matt Catingub, Omaha Symphony a must-see show," *Omaha World-Herald*, March 22, 2015)

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 an artist, conductor, pianist, vocalist, composer, and arranger, Catingub has performed on the Symphony Rocks series on at least five occasions, most recently in 2016's *'70s and '80s Pop and Soul*, a program he created for the Omaha Symphony. Catingub made his MasterWorks series debut in 2017 with his violin concerto, *Three Shades of Blue*, which featured percussionist Steve Moretti and his wife, violinist Amy Schwartz Moretti.

One of the most sought after performers in Hawaii, Anita Hall's credits are unequaled in the Pacific. Seamlessly changing gears from country to jazz, rock to Broadway, Hall has proven to be a well-rounded entertainer, singing with symphonies, headlining conventions and rocking charity events.

She has opened for Smokey Robinson, Larry Carlton, The Pointer Sisters, Neil Sedaka, and Sting, and performed with Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter.

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.

Tickets to *'70s and '80s Power Rock* 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.

The Omaha Symphony's Symphony Rocks Series is sponsored by First National Bank. Artist Sponsor for this concert is WoodmenLife.

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 and community engagement programs touch the lives of more than 40,000 people each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345-0606 or visit omahasymphony.org.

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