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BIG ARTS HOSTS THE GULF COAST SYMPHONY & FORT MYERS SYMPHONIC MASTERSINGERS

SANIBEL, Florida – February 6, 2024 –

The Gulf Coast Symphony presents Joseph Haydn's awe-inspiring *Lord Nelson Mass*, performed in collaboration with the renowned Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers, at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, at BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island. Also on the program is *Winter Moons*, a work by the Chickasaw classical composer, Jerod Tate.

ABOUT JEROD TATE

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate is a classical composer, citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, and is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. During the 2023/24 season, new commissions will be performed at Carnegie Hall by American Composers Orchestra' (Clans from Lowak Shoppala'), Lincoln Center by the New York Philharmonic (Pisachi) and Turtle Island String Quartet (Little Loksi), and CityMusic Cleveland (Kokumthena: Cloud Woman). Seattle Symphony performs Spirit Chief Names the Animal People and The Symphonia chamber orchestra performs Chokfi' among others. Tate's commissioned works have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Colorado Ballet, Dale Warland Singers, Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. His music was also featured on the HBO series Westworld.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Haydn: *Lord Nelson Mass* The grandeur and magnificence of Joseph Haydn's masterwork, the *Lord Nelson Mass* is a stirring choral piece, considered one of his greatest

works. The *Lord Nelson Mass* is a testament to Haydn's brilliance as a composer and showcases a powerful blend of orchestra and voices.

Winter Moons is a ballet based upon American Indian legends from the Northern Plains and Rocky Mountains. It is in four movements and is performed with a live storyteller to guide the audience through each legend. The title is derived from the idea that American Indian stories are best told during the full moons of the wintertime.

ABOUT THE MASTERSINGERS COLLABORATION

The Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers is the premier choral ensemble in Southwest Florida. Since forming in 2001, the Mastersingers have grown from a small chorus to a 100-plus voice ensemble of men and women dedicated to excellence in music. We are a diverse group of vocal musicians who represent all walks of life with a shared love of singing and a commitment to our mission.

BIG ARTS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in its fifth decade of providing an array of quality entertainment, arts and education programs that enrich and nurture the lives of Sanibel and Captiva residents and visitors through professionally led arts and enrichment classes for all ages, a renowned lecture series, great films, and dynamic visual and performing arts presentations of the highest caliber.

For more information, visit www.bigarts.org or call 239-395-0900.

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