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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra Presents Classical concert, "An Evening With Mark Markham"**

**(LINCOLN, Neb. – Oct. 13, 2021)** Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra returns to the Lied Center for Performing Arts for their Classical performance, **An Evening With Mark Markham** on **Friday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.**

Led by **Music Director Edward Polochick**, the program will open with Jessie Montgomery's *Banner*, her answer to the question 'What does an anthem for the 21<sup>st</sup> century sound like in today's multicultural environment?', featuring **Quartet ES** with members LSO Concertmaster Anton Miller, violin; Ertan Torgul, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola; and Jennifer Kloetzel, cello.

Following this opening piece, LSO will perform Mendelssohn's buoyant *Italian Symphony*, Symphony No. 4, op. 90, A major.

"Our LSO season opening concert is a wonderful mix of celebratory and multi-cultural repertoire, opening with a work by living American composer, Jessie Montgomery's *Banner*. Written to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country's National Anthem, this work cleverly weaves the well-known theme of our *Star-Spangled Banner* with musical samples of Mexico's and Puerto Rico's anthems," says LSO Music Director Edward Polochick. "Next on the program is Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, "Italian", and is perhaps one of his most familiar and popular works. It is a vivid portrayal of his experience of the Italian way of life: the invigorating, sunny Mediterranean countryside, the serious religious observances, the joyous and celebratory lyricism, and breathtakingly energetic dances."

To pair with this symphony, internationally-acclaimed pianist **Mark Markham** will take the stage after intermission to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first concert with LSO, and the 100<sup>th</sup> "birthday" of Prokofiev's famously virtuosic *Piano Concerto No. 3*.

"Our Lincoln community has such a special connection with pianist Mark Markham," says LSO Executive Director Barbara Zach Lee, "and we're overjoyed to welcome him back to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his first performance with LSO, and the 100th "birthday" of the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3. What a way to celebrate our return to the concert hall with a live audience!"

Tickets for the concert are available for purchase online at [www.lincolnsymphony.com](http://www.lincolnsymphony.com), by phone at (402) 476-2211, or by visiting Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra's box office (233 S. 13th St., Ste. 1702).

LSO requires that every audience member ages 12 and over provides proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test taken within the previous 72 hours, prior to being admitted to the venue. Regular main floor seating configuration will be utilized, and every patron (regardless of age) is required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times while in the concert venue. In lieu of offering concerts via streaming, LSO is implementing an "Enhanced Safety Seating Zone" in order to accommodate patrons who have concerns about their personal risk level. Please contact the LSO box office to request special seating in this zone; audience members in this zone are required to wear their mask at all times, and will be seated in their requested pods with a minimum of six feet of distance between each group.

This season, LSO will continue the innovation of pre-recording each pre-concert chat with Maestro Polochick and special guests, hosted by Nebraska Public Media's Genevieve Randall, and making it available 24-48 hours prior to each classical concert, in addition to screening it at the usual time in the Steinhart Room. Submit questions ahead of time to [info@lincolnsymphony.com](mailto:info@lincolnsymphony.com), and we'll try to answer as many listener questions as possible. LSO's pre-concert chats are supported in part by Humanities Nebraska.

To stay current with symphony events, follow Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter – and don't forget to use #LSOLove when sharing your symphony experience.

In an effort to make all LSO concerts financially accessible, LSO's tickets are available for only \$15 or \$35 each for adults, inclusive of all ticketing and facility fees. Tickets for youth ages 17 and under are available for \$5 each, made possible by the Lienemann Charitable Foundation.

Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra's 2021-22 season sponsors are Immanuel Communities and Union Bank & Trust. The Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment also provided generous support toward Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra's 2021-22 season.

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