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**The SYMPHONIA ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY CONCERT WEEKEND  
WILL REVOLVE AROUND THE THEME, “THE EMPEROR” AND FEATURE  
JAMES JUDD, CONDUCTOR AND ROMAN RABINOVICH, PIANO SOLOIST**

Boca Raton, FL (January 25, 2018)--The SYMPHONIA ([thesymphonia.org](http://thesymphonia.org)), South Florida’s world class chamber orchestra, has announced its February 22<sup>nd</sup> Connoisseur Concert, featuring three “Emperor” themed musical pieces. The concert will be held at 3 p.m. at Roberts Theater, Saint Andrew’s School, 3900 Jog Road in Boca Raton. The day before, an “Instrument Petting Zoo” will be held for children to acquaint them with the orchestra.

**Meet the Orchestra, Saturday, February 17, 10:30 a.m. - noon**

This hands-on program for children and their parents will introduce children to classical music through interaction with musicians at a live dress rehearsal and an “instrument petting zoo.” Free for children, and \$5 for parents. Reservations are required.

**Connoisseur Concert 3, Sunday, February 18, at 3 p.m.**

**James Judd, Guest Conductor**

**Roman Rabinovich, Piano Soloist**

**Program – “The Emperor”**

J. STRAUSS Emperor Waltz

HAYDN Symphony No. 103, “Drum Roll”

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5, “Emperor”

Conductor James Judd was recently appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Daejeon (Korea) Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also Music Director of the Israel Symphony Orchestra and Little Orchestra Society of New York. The eloquent young pianist, Roman Rabinovich, is the winner of the 2008 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition.

International Piano Magazine describes pianist Roman Rabinovich as “a master of tone-color,” describing a recent concert as having “all the fire and fury one could wish for, but what was striking in every bar was the dynamic control, and the refinement and beauty of his sound.” Earlier this January, Rabinovich filled in on 24 hours notice in Brahms’

Piano Concerto with the Sarasota Orchestra to rave reviews. *The Observer* exclaimed, "This is certainly one of the 'big' concerti for any pianist, especially since the piano and orchestra are written as equal partners, with mammoth chordal sections and fleeting passagework requiring dexterous fingers. [Rabinovich] has all this, plus the talent and ability to project the grand sweep of melody, harmony and construction that is the heart of the piece."

Praised by *The New York Times* for his "uncommon sensitivity and feeling," Rabinovich is the winner of the 12th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition. He has performed throughout Europe and the USA in such prestigious venues as Leipzig's Gewandhaus, London's Wigmore Hall, the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Cité de la Musique in Paris, and the Millennium Stage at Washington DC's Kennedy Center. Rabinovich, "whose mature, self-assured playing belies his chronological age" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), made his Israel Philharmonic debut under Zubin Mehta at age 10, having immigrated to Israel a year earlier from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Rabinovich's parents are piano teachers and his earliest lessons were with them, before studying with Arie Vardi in Israel. He then attended the Curtis Institute of Music as a student of Seymour Lipkin and achieved his Masters Degree at the Juilliard School, where he was taught by Robert McDonald. Dubbed "a true polymath, in the Renaissance sense of the word" (*Seen & Heard International*, 2016), Rabinovich is also a composer and visual artist.

**Pre-Concert Conversations:**

A Pre-Concert Conversation will take place on the day of the Connoisseur Concert, from 2-2:30 p.m., with the conductor or guest speaker. Attendees can learn more about the pieces that are to be performed that afternoon. There is no charge for concert ticket holders to attend.

Tickets are \$50-\$84 and are available at [thesymphonia.org](http://thesymphonia.org) or by calling 1-866-687-4201 or emailing [tickets@thesymphonia.org](mailto:tickets@thesymphonia.org).

**About The SYMPHONIA**

The SYMPHONIA, South Florida's world-class orchestra, provides high quality classical music for the enjoyment and benefit of the South Florida community. The SYMPHONIA'S performances and educational outreach programs feature nationally and internationally acclaimed conductors and soloists, enhancing the cultural lives of area residents, with special emphasis on its younger citizens.

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