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COLORADO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF WILLIAM HILL'S *THE RAVEN*

Tone poem for orchestra and chorus uses all 18 stanzas of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven"

Jan. 22, 2018 – Denver, CO – The Colorado Symphony announces the public release of William Hill's *The Raven* on CD and digital download. Composed by Hill, Principal Timpanist for the Colorado Symphony, *The Raven* was commissioned by the Colorado Symphony and Chorus and premiered March 27 and 28, 2015 with David Lockington conducting. The chorus was prepared by Duain Wolfe.

Hill's *The Raven* is a tone poem for orchestra and chorus based on Edgar Allen Poe's narrative poem, "The Raven". Poe's entire eighteen stanzas are used while Richard Wagner's leitmotif technique links important aspects of the poem with musical gestures that describe the bird, the protagonist's memory of Lenore, his ever changing mental state, and the repeated 'nevermore'.

"Poe said that for him the most beautiful human emotion is melancholy; how many times has something beautiful brought us to tears? In 'The Raven', Poe explores much of the gray area of human feeling, the subtleties where sadness, humor, logic, madness, hope, and despair all find their way into our minds," said William Hill. "My music attempts to depict these same mysteries of our conscious and subconscious thought."

Poe's text was chosen because of its sublime and meticulous use of the English language, its musical flow and character, and particularly, for its ambiguous and though provoking exploration of human loss.

"'The Raven' is certainly an American iconic poem and the text will be familiar to almost everyone," added Hill. "It is quite daunting to set such a masterpiece to music, but the poem is quite musical in its flow and use of words, and its structure is perfect for a musical setting."

Hailed by Duain Wolfe as, "A remarkable setting of the poem, and a noble challenge for the chorus", *The Raven* received excellent audience and critical response and was nominated for both the Pulitzer and Grawemeyer Awards in Music Composition.

Recordings of *The Raven* will be available at the Colorado Symphony Guild Shop inside Gallery 1 in Boettcher Concert Hall, open before most performances. Please call the box office to confirm hours. It will also be available for direct digital download through iTunes and Amazon.

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**CONTACTS:**

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The 2017/18 Colorado Symphony Season is presented by Arrow Electronics. Support also provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), 9News, and United Airlines.

TICKETS:

Tickets are available online at coloradosymphony.org/tickets, by phone at 303.623.7876, and in person at the Boettcher Concert Hall Box Office, Denver Performing Arts Complex, 1000 14th Street. The Box Office is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, noon – 6 p.m.; and two hours prior to each performance.

ABOUT WILLIAM HILL

William Hill has been critically acclaimed as a composer, soloist, visual artist, recording artist, and conductor. Currently he is the Principal Timpanist with the Colorado Symphony, Music Director of the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, and teaches composition at Denver University's Lamont School of Music. Mr. Hill has served as a composer with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, National Music Festival, Cheyenne Symphony, Strings in the Mountains Festival, Grand Rapids Symphony, Colorado and Denver Symphonies, and the Nova Series of Salt Lake City. Hill has also performed as Principal Timpanist with the Honolulu and Omaha Symphonies, the Colorado Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Hill has won numerous awards as a composer and performer from organizations like ASCAP, Indiana University, The Percussive Arts Society, and The Music Academy of the West. His Symphony #3 premiered in 2012 with the Colorado Symphony and was nominated for both the Pulitzer and Grawemeyer Awards in Music Composition. As a conductor, Hill has led the Colorado Symphony, Denver Chamber Orchestra, Greeley Chamber Orchestra, Aurora Symphony, Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, various groups at the Grand Teton Music Festival, and numerous Denver area groups.

ABOUT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY

One of the leading orchestras in the United States, the Colorado Symphony performs more than 150 concerts annually at Boettcher Concert Hall in downtown Denver and across Colorado. Led by Music Director Brett Mitchell, the Colorado Symphony is home to eighty full-time musicians, representing more than a dozen nations, and regularly welcomes the most celebrated artists from the world of symphonic music and beyond. Every season, the Colorado Symphony serves more than 300,000 people from all walks of life, performing a range of musical styles, from traditional to contemporary. Recognized as an incubator of innovation, creativity, and excellence, the Colorado Symphony continually expands its reach through education, outreach, and programming. The Colorado Symphony partners with the state's leading musical artists, cultural organizations, corporations, foundations, sports teams, and individuals to expose diverse audiences to the transformative power of music. To learn more, visit coloradosymphony.org.