



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Nick Dobreff, Communications and Creative Director

616.485.3913 (m) - 303.308.2477 (o)

ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org

**COLORADO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES IMAGINATION ARTIST SERIES CONCERTS
FEATURING RZA AND NATHANIEL RATELIFF**

*A Ballet Through Mud with RZA and the Colorado Symphony will debut February 17 and 18, 2023;
Nathaniel Rateliff and the Colorado Symphony comes to Boettcher Concert Hall March 3 and 4, 2023.*

Aug. 1, 2022 – Denver, CO – The Colorado Symphony has announced the next two titles in their Imagination Artist Series: **A Ballet Through Mud with RZA and the Colorado Symphony** at Boettcher Concert Hall on February 17 and 18, 2023; and **Nathaniel Rateliff with the Colorado Symphony** at Boettcher Concert Hall on March 3 and 4, 2023.

Both titles are now on sale exclusively as part of the Imagination Artist 2-Packs. These packs include both the Imagination Artist concert as well as a discounted ticket to the Imagination Artist's chosen Classics series concert. RZA's 2-pack includes A Ballet through Mud with RZA and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (May 26-27, 2023). Nathaniel Rateliff's 2-pack includes Nathaniel Rateliff with the Colorado Symphony and Beethoven Symphony No. 3 (November 4-5, 2022). [Learn More](#)

ABOUT A BALLET THROUGH MUD WITH RZA AND THE COLORADO SYMPHONY:

From the mind of Robert Fitzgerald Diggs — better known by his stage name, the RZA, and as the de facto leader of the hip hop group Wu-Tang Clan — comes a brand-new symphonic collaboration that bridges the gap between classical and contemporary music. With a full orchestra at his disposal, RZA creates a unique and unforgettable musical experience, featuring spoken word, live ballet dancers, and rich orchestration from the Colorado Symphony. This is a performance that will engage the senses, provoke thought, and offer a never-before-seen look inside the mind of one of today's most influential artists. When RZA teams up with the Colorado Symphony, the possibilities are endless.

RZA QUOTE: "This collaboration really came about at the perfect time for me. As an artist, I'm always striving for ways to grow and evolve and when you get a chance to hear your music translated by an orchestra, it's so fulfilling, the vibration of it, the feel of it. As musicians we strive to inspire or give inspiration to our listeners. At the same time, I was inspired to take my own music in a new and different direction and having the opportunity to collaborate with the Colorado Symphony had a huge impact on this project. This music comes straight from my heart and I'm excited to finally share it with the world."

EVENT INFORMATION:

What: A Ballet Through Mud with RZA and the Colorado Symphony

Where: Boettcher Concert Hall

When: Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18 at 7:30pm MST

Tickets: [Available now at coloradosymphony.org](https://coloradosymphony.org)

RZA QUOTE ABOUT THE RITE OF SPRING: "The first time I heard Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* I was



blown away by the audacity and uniqueness of the music — people literally rioted when they heard it. But I also felt an unusually strong connection to the sound and rhythms throughout the piece. Stravinsky's use of rhythm will resonate with anyone who enjoys my music and is an explosive, singular introduction to the world of classical music. I hope my fans will enjoy expanding their imaginations and experiencing a truly wild night of music with the Colorado Symphony." [Learn more.](#)

ABOUT NATHANIEL RATELIFF WITH THE COLORADO SYMPHONY:

In 1973, singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson released an album of standards from the Great American Songbook, an adventurous and unprecedented move for someone at the height of their powers in the rock era. The album, *A Little Touch Of Schmilsson In The Night*, takes listeners on a narrative arc through infatuation, courting, marriage, separation, and the inevitable slide into old age. This March in celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Denver singer and songwriter Nathaniel Rateliff breathes new life into this classic album alongside the Colorado Symphony, blending his folk, Americana, and vintage rhythm & blues influences with Nilsson's classic tribute to the Golden Age of American music.

NATHANIEL RATELIFF QUOTE: I've always felt that music does have the potential to take your breath away. I experienced that feeling when listening to Harry Nilsson's *A Little Touch Of Schmilsson In The Night* for the first time and that exhilaration has been with me throughout every subsequent listen ever since. When considering where to take my collaboration with the Colorado Symphony, I kept coming back to this album. The courage of Nilsson to release an album of standards like 'It Had To Be You', 'Thanks For The Memory', and 'Over The Rainbow' at the height of his fame is wild to contemplate. And to create something so beautiful that takes listeners on an emotional journey through love and loss is what I'm excited for audiences to experience."

EVENT INFORMATION:

What: Nathaniel Rateliff with the Colorado Symphony

Where: Boettcher Concert Hall

When: Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 7:30pm MST

Tickets: [Available now at coloradosymphony.org](https://coloradosymphony.org)

NATHANIEL RATELIFF QUOTE ABOUT BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO.3: "So much of Music is about emotion, and when I listen to Beethoven's Third Symphony, I'm always struck by just how emotional it is," said Rateliff. "It's one thing to convey the meaning and emotion of your songs with words, but it's much more challenging to convey those feelings through instrumental tone and melody alone. Throughout the Third Symphony, Beethoven deals with classic ideas of what it means to be human, themes that also resonate throughout Harry Nilsson's *A Little Touch Of Schmilsson In The Night*. Beethoven's ability to imagine possibilities for music so far beyond what had ever been done before is inspiring to me as I continue to grow and evolve as an artist, and I hope my fans will enjoy exploring this iconic work with the Colorado Symphony." [Learn More.](#)

The Imagination Artist Series, which was announced in March 2022, is a new collaborative series providing **RZA**, **Nathaniel Rateliff**, and **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** with unparalleled creative access to the entire orchestra, offering a blank canvas to innovate, imagine, and curate orchestral programs while sharing



three unique artistic visions that will debut exclusively for Colorado Symphony audiences starting in the 2022/23 season. Single tickets and two-packs for Mary-Mitchell Campbell's **Tribute to Stephen Sondheim** are currently [on sale](#). In addition to their projects with the Colorado Symphony, Imagination Artists will act as brand ambassadors for the orchestra's Classics programs, advocating on behalf of the orchestra's core repertoire of their choosing.

Tickets for [A Ballet Through Mud with RZA and the Colorado Symphony](#) and [Nathaniel Rateliff with the Colorado Symphony](#) are currently available exclusively as part of the Imagination Artist 2-Packs <https://coloradosymphony.org/events-tickets/subscriptions/imagination-packs/> paired with the artist's Classics concert of their choice. For concert descriptions and ticket information, please visit coloradosymphony.org/tickets or call the box office at 303.623.7876.

###

CONTACTS:

For more information or to request interviews, please contact:
Nick Dobreff, Communications and Creative Director
ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org - 303.308.2477 (o)

For high-resolution, downloadable images of the Colorado Symphony,
contact: ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org

Support for the 2022/23 Colorado Symphony Season is provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Liberty Global, and the Colorado Symphony Guild.

TICKETS:

Tickets to Colorado Symphony events 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. - 5 p.m., Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., and two hours prior to each performance.

ABOUT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY

One of the leading orchestras in the United States, the Colorado Symphony Association is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization performing more than 150 concerts annually at Boettcher Concert Hall in downtown Denver and across Colorado. Led by Principal Conductor Peter Oundjian, 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. In the last year, the Colorado Symphony served nearly 233,000 people attending live performances at concert and non-traditional venues throughout Colorado's Front Range. Recognized as an incubator of innovation, creativity, and excellence, the Colorado Symphony continually expands its reach through in-person and virtual education programs, 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.