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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

COLORADO SYMPHONY PARTNERS WITH DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS FOR SOCIALLY DISTANCED PERFORMANCE OF "AMAZING GRACE"

Using alphorns, Colorado Symphony musicians perform duet of "Amazing Grace" on Make Music Day, celebrating the recent reopening of Denver Botanic Gardens

[Watch the Video](#)

June 21, 2020 – Denver, CO – The Colorado Symphony has partnered with [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) for a socially distanced alphorn duet of "Amazing Grace" featuring Colorado Symphony Principal Horn Michael Thornton and Matthew Eckenhoff in commemoration of [Make Music Day](#). The performance took place in the Gardens' picturesque Mordecai Children's Garden, that remains closed to the public. The main gardens recently reopened after an extended closure as Colorado dealt with restrictions following the outbreak of COVID-19.

The alphorn is a brass instrument, consisting of a straight several-meter-long wooden natural horn of conical bore. It is used most commonly used by mountain dwellers in the Swiss Alps, Austrian Alps, Bavarian Alps in Germany, and French Alps. Similar wooden horns were used for communication in most mountainous regions of Europe, from the Alps to the Carpathians. Today, alphorns are used as musical instruments.

The instrument's length makes it ideal for social distanced playing, allowing the musicians to stand at least six feet apart while allowing the horns to rest safely next to each other.

"As we carefully and responsibly begin to reopen major SCFD organizations, it was such fun to use 'socially distanced' instruments (alphorns are about 14 feet long!) in the idyllic Denver Botanic Gardens," said Thornton. "Playing pastoral music in this beautiful setting was a joy and privilege."

"During this time of COVID-19 quarantine and temporary Denver Botanic Gardens closure (we recently reopened!), we wanted to find creative and collaborative ways to activate the empty Gardens," said Erin Bird, Communications Manager for Denver Botanic Gardens. "We are thrilled Colorado Symphony was interested in bringing two musicians to Mordecai Children's Garden to perform the powerful and hopeful 'Amazing Grace'. Not only does this video performance provide fun content for our social media audiences, but it also celebrates the supportive nature of SCFD organizations."



Make Music Day was dreamed up in 1982 by France’s Ministry of Culture as an idea for a new kind of musical holiday. They imagined a day where free, live music would be everywhere: street corners and parks, rooftops and gardens, store fronts and mountaintops, allowing anyone and everyone to participate. The event would take place on the summer solstice, June 21, and would be called Fête De La Musique, meaning “festival of music” and “make music”. Three decades later, the holiday has spread throughout the world and is now celebrated in more than 120 countries.

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CONTACTS:

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For high-resolution, downloadable images of the Colorado Symphony,
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The 2020/21 Colorado Symphony Season is presented by Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. Support also provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), the Colorado Symphony Guild, and the Virginia Hill Foundation.

COLORADO SYMPHONY/BOETTCHER CONCERT HALL TICKETS:

For assistance, please contact the Box Office by phone at 303.623.7876 or through email at tickets@coloradosymphony.org.

UPDATED HOURS: The Box Office is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. **Please note that, due to increased communication, call wait times may be significantly longer than usual. If your event is not within the next 72 hours, we ask that you consider contacting us closer to your event date to mitigate call volume. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding.**

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 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. 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 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.