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Media Contact:

Nick Dobreff, Communications and Creative Director

616.485.3913 (m) - 303.308.2477 (o)

ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org

**IMAGINATION ARTIST SERIES RETURNS WITH ALL NEW PERFORMANCES
FEATURING RZA, MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL, AND NATHANIEL RATELIFF**

Raekwon joins RZA for an orchestral reinvention of the classic hip-hop album Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...;

Mary-Mitchell Campbell brings the flavor of California to Denver with a Celebration of Laurel Canyon;

Nathaniel Rateliff returns to Boettcher Concert Hall honoring the legendary Leonard Cohen.

Dec. 6, 2023 – Denver, CO – Announcing the next chapter in the Colorado Symphony’s Imagination Artist Series featuring brand new collaborations with **RZA**, **Nathaniel Rateliff**, and **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**. RZA will be joined by fellow Wu-Tang Clan founder Raekwon for a symphonic reinvention of the classic hip-hop album ***Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...*** at Boettcher Concert Hall on February 16 and 17, 2024. On March 15 and 16, 2024, Broadway darling Mary-Mitchell Campbell brings the flavor of California to Denver with a celebration of the songwriters of **Laurel Canyon** featuring the return of Broadway performer Jessica Vosk. And hometown hero Nathaniel Rateliff returns to Boettcher Concert Hall on April 5 and 6, 2024, for a tribute to legendary singer/songwriter **Leonard Cohen**. Rateliff’s performance will open with a set featuring **Phil Cook** on solo piano.

RZA PRESENTS ONLY BUILT 4 CUBAN LINX... WITH RAEKWON AND THE COLORADO SYMPHONY:

Only Built 4 Cuban Linx... is a landmark hip-hop album released by rapper Raekwon who rose to prominence as a founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan. Produced by fellow Wu-Tang Clan founder RZA, this record is a cornerstone of East Coast hip-hop and a quintessential piece of the genre's golden era, thanks in part to RZA’s extraordinary beats and the introduction of Raekwon and Ghostface Killah as a legendary rap duo. With its gritty storytelling, intricate lyricism, and cinematic production, *Cuban Linx* offers listeners a vivid glimpse into the street life of 1990s New York City. Together with the Colorado Symphony, this legendary duo will reimagine their timeless album that continues to inspire and shape the sound of contemporary hip-hop today.

**This concert features explicit language and themes and may not be suitable for attendees under 18 years of age. Viewer discretion is advised.*

RZA QUOTE: “Continuing the collaboration with the Colorado Symphony as an Imagination artists, we are presenting *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...* The album was always intended to give an audience a 'cinematic' experience. These new orchestrations will give fans a new experience through imagination and creativity that was not possible with our early recordings.”

**EVENT INFORMATION:**

What: RZA presents *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...* with Raekwon and the Colorado Symphony

Where: Boettcher Concert Hall

When: Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17 at 7:30pm MST

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

RZA QUOTE ABOUT *THE FIREBIRD*: "When I first listened to Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, it spoke to me on a primal level, embodying the raw power of imagination and the unyielding spirit of creativity, much like the essence of hip-hop itself. Just as I've witnessed the birth and evolution of hip-hop culture, I hear within this piece the echoes of a phoenix rising from the ashes. This pairing bridges seemingly distant worlds, highlighting the universal language of music and the ways we can push boundaries through art."

[Learn more.](#)

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN': THE MUSIC OF LAUREL CANYON WITH MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL AND THE COLORADO SYMPHONY:

Step into the enchanting sun-soaked hills of California's Laurel Canyon with Mary-Mitchell Campbell and vocalist Jessica Vosk. Originally conceived by Campbell and Vosk, California Dreamin' highlights the inspiring California songwriters of the 1960s and '70s, whose beautiful harmonies and enduring lyrics formed the soundtrack to the West Coast pop sound that defined an era. As the lights dim and the first notes fill the air, audiences will be transported to a time when Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, David Crosby, Linda Ronstadt, John Phillips and The Mamas & the Papas, and the Eagles' Don Henley and Glenn Frey reigned supreme, shaping the musical landscape with their timeless melodies and trailblazing songwriting. Mary-Mitchell Campbell, a masterful conductor and arranger, leads world-renowned vocalist Jessica Vosk and the Colorado Symphony through a carefully curated selection of hits that defined an era and captivated hearts across the globe.

MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL QUOTE: "This project feels like revisiting a cherished chapter of my musical soul. These timeless songs from the Mamas and the Papas, Joni Mitchell, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and the Eagles aren't just notes on a page; they're the heartbeat of my earliest musical memories. The beauty of Laurel Canyon's harmonies and trailblazing songwriting inspired me in ways words can't capture. With the phenomenal Jessica Vosk and the Colorado Symphony, we're not just performing; we're immersing ourselves in the very essence of why this music is eternally meaningful. Join us on this journey, as we breathe new life into the soulful sounds that have shaped my artistic journey and continue to resonate with hearts across generations."

EVENT INFORMATION:

What: California Dreamin': The Music of Laurel Canyon with Mary-Mitchell Campbell and the Colorado Symphony

Where: Boettcher Concert Hall

When: Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at 7:30pm MST

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



MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL QUOTE ABOUT A SEA SYMPHONY: "*A Sea Symphony* not only showcases the sheer power and emotional depth of the Colorado Symphony Chorus but also encapsulates the limitless possibilities of the human imagination through music. Its sweeping melodies and evocative harmonies transport you to the vast expanse of the sea, awakening a sense of wonder and adventure you'd often find on a Broadway stage. It perfectly embodies the spirit of exploration and creativity that defines the Imagination Artist Series, making it a fitting centerpiece for this extraordinary musical journey and a natural companion piece to our Laurel Canyon celebration." [Learn More.](#)

NATHANIEL RATELIFF PRESENTS A NIGHT OF LEONARD COHEN WITH THE COLORADO SYMPHONY:

One of the most fascinating and enigmatic singer/songwriters of the late '60s, Leonard Cohen developed a massive following across six decades of music-making, interrupted by various digressions into personal and creative exploration, all of which have only added to the mystique surrounding him. A master wordsmith with a voice like aged whiskey and lyrics that cut to the core of humanity, Cohen's artistry transcends generations, weaving tales of love, longing, and spirituality that continue to resonate. Denver singer and songwriter Nathaniel Rateliff joins the Colorado Symphony, blending his folk, Americana, and vintage rhythm & blues influences with Cohen's timeless lyrics for a collaboration six decades in the making. From "Hallelujah" to "Suzanne," witness the power of songwriting to touch the deepest recesses of the soul.

NATHANIEL RATELIFF QUOTE: "As one of my favorite vocalists, it was an honor to pay tribute to Harry Nilsson's *A Little Touch of Schmilsson in the Night*, with the Colorado Symphony last year. I am thrilled to announce that this coming spring I have the opportunity to honor one of my favorite songwriters - Leonard Cohen. I will be performing a selection of songs to showcase his life's work. I am grateful to bring this show to Colorado."

EVENT INFORMATION:

What: Nathaniel Rateliff Presents A Night of Leonard Cohen with the Colorado Symphony

Where: Boettcher Concert Hall

When: Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6 at 7:30pm MST

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

NATHANIEL RATELIFF QUOTE ABOUT AN ALPINE SYMPHONY: "Music has this ability to transport you as a listener, and upon hearing *An Alpine Symphony*, I was struck by how strongly it evoked the rugged yet awe-inspiring landscapes of Colorado. The symphony's sweeping orchestration and vivid storytelling really capture the grandeur and majesty of our state, echoing the same sense of wonder and reverence for nature that has always inspired my own songwriting. This is a piece that invites you to embark on an adventure, much like the musical experiences I aim to create with my music, and I believe it will resonate deeply with our audience, allowing them to connect with our state's rich natural heritage through the power of music." [Learn More.](#)



In its second year, the Imagination Artist Series has provided **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 during in the 2023/24 season.

All three titles are now on sale as part of the Imagination Artist 2-Packs. These packs include both the Imagination Artist concert and a substantial discount on the Imagination Artist's chosen Classics concert. RZA's 2-pack includes Stravinsky's *The Firebird* (March 8-10, 2024), Nathaniel Rateliff's 2-pack includes *An Alpine Symphony* (May 24-26, 2024), and Mary-Mitchell Campbell's 2-pack includes the Colorado Symphony Chorus' 40th Anniversary celebration featuring *A Sea Symphony* (May 18-19, 2024).

Patrons can also attend all of these concerts by purchasing a 6-Pack that includes a ticket to all three Imagination concerts and their accompanying Classics. 6-Pack holders receive an additional 15% discount on the Imagination Artist concerts and an over 80% discount on their Classics tickets, best-available seats, and other special offers!

For concert descriptions and ticket information, please visit coloradosymphony.org/tickets or call the box office at 303.623.7876.

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CONTACTS:

For more information or to request interviews, please contact:

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ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org - 303.308.2477 (o)

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

Support for the 2023/24 Colorado Symphony Season is provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Genesee Mountain Foundation, Denver Arts & Venues, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, 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. The orchestra celebrates their Centennial during the 2023/24 concert season. In the last year, the Colorado Symphony served over 340,000 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.