



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### BVSO'S SEASON OF "TENORS AND TITANS" KICKS OFF OCT. 22ND

September 20, 2017 College Station, TX – The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra is preparing for a 36<sup>th</sup> season featuring "Tenors and Titans." Music Director Marcelo Bussiki has planned the 2017-2018 subscription series to include five classical performances and starts off the year in epic fashion with a highly anticipated performance featuring the newly crowned 2017 Cliburn Gold Medalist, Yekwon Sunwoo, performing with the BVSO. We are proud to again join forces with **CHI St. Joseph Health** as the official sponsor of the 2017-2018 Season.

The opening concert will take place on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 5pm in Rudder Theatre on the Texas A&M University campus. The first performance of the season, "Cliburn Gold" will feature Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony No. 3 and Rachmaninoff's fiery Piano Concerto No. 3. The BVSO is thrilled to feature Korean-born Yekwon Sunwoo. The 28-year-old pianist has been hailed for "his total command over the instrument and its expressiveness" (*San Francisco Examiner*). A powerful and virtuosic performer, he also, in his own words, "strives to reach for the truth and pure beauty in music," and hopes to convey those fundamental emotions to audiences.

Every four years, the illustrious international Cliburn event is held in Ft. Worth, Texas and Maestro Bussiki attended the competition this summer. "This year's competition was unique in the sense that it was particularly difficult to 'guess' the winner with a level of certainty. The level of the candidates was so high that any of the six finalists could have won. I had narrowed it down myself to a couple of candidates, one of them being Sunwoo," Bussiki said.

"We will be making music with one of the top pianists in the world, one that, over the span of three weeks, was tested in every aspect of his musical abilities and won this prestigious competition," continued Bussiki. "I am sure that his presence will be a treat for our audience."

**What:** "Cliburn Gold"

**When:** Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM

**Where:** Rudder Theatre on Texas A&M University Campus in College Station

**Program:**

**Rachmaninoff** Piano Concerto No. 3, Op. 30, D minor  
**Mendelssohn** Symphony No. 3, Op. 56, A minor, "Scottish"

**Guest Artist** Yekwon Sunwoo, piano, 2017 Cliburn Gold Medalist

**Concert Sponsor** Rose P. VanArsdel and Derby Day 2017 Fund-a-Concert Donors

Since winning the competition, Sunwoo has launched a worldwide tour as The Cliburn Winner. "Winning Cliburn Gold means just so much because Van Cliburn is one of my favorite pianists, and he was a humble and sincere human being whose life and music touched so many people," shared Sunwoo. "I feel extremely privileged to be the first Korean to win the Cliburn Gold. The Korean people I meet abroad, especially in the U.S., say that they are really proud, and this makes me even prouder for the valuable award," he continued.

The BVSO's theme for this year is 'Tenors and Titans' due to the key elements of the season featuring composers considered to be the titans of classical music, as well as monumental guest artists at the top of their game. According to Symphony Executive Director, Mary Koeninger, "The 2017 Cliburn Gold Medalist is an incredibly talented pianist. I look forward to seeing his career soar to new heights in the coming years. We are so fortunate to have booked this exclusive artist so quickly."

Koeninger continued, "This season opener is certain to highlight the pinnacle of piano performance and I encourage everyone to get their tickets in advance as this concert will sell out early!"

BVSO patrons can also enjoy free pre-concert talks one hour prior to each subscription performance in the Rudder Theatre Complex. Ann Thompson will again present her delightful and witty insights into the composers, the history, and meaning behind the music. Then after each subscription concert, a patron social hour at Napa Flats will keep the enjoyment going to top off an exquisite evening of music and entertainment. The Maestro and select guest artists are scheduled to attend these socials as well!

Individual tickets to all concerts are also on sale now at the MSC Box Office, \$39/adult and \$13/student advance; \$44/adult and \$16/student at the door. Call (979) 845-1234 or go on-line to <http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>.

Patrons can still purchase season tickets on-line at [www.bvso.org](http://www.bvso.org) or by phone through the Symphony Office (979) 696-6100. A full season adult ticket is \$170 and the full season student ticket is \$60, a \$10 processing fee is added to each order. All programs are subject to change.

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*About the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra: The BVSO is a non-profit performing arts organization with the mission to maintain a symphony of high artistic standards, and to promote the musical arts for cultural and education purposes in the Brazos Valley. For more information about the Symphony's 2017-2018 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra Web site at [www.bvso.org](http://www.bvso.org).*

**The Brazos Valley Symphony Society wishes to recognize and thank our programming sponsors, grant funding providers, and charitable trust contributors:**

*Nina Astin Winkler Charitable Trusts, Eugene Edge III Charitable Trust, The Ham Family Trust, Gilbert & Thyra Plass Arts Foundation, and Gilbert & Thyra Plass Charitable Trust*

**Official Sponsor of the BVSO 2017-2018 Season:**



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