



DATE: October 26, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andy Buelow, (253) 272-7264
abuelow@symphonytacoma.org

Acclaimed saxophonist Amy Dickson performs Northwest premiere of groundbreaking Philip Glass arrangement

Glass concerto is the centerpiece of a program of American music, the second of Symphony Tacoma's new season

Grammy-nominated saxophonist Amy Dickson—2016 Young Australian of the Year—will perform the Northwest premiere of her arrangement of Philip Glass's 1987 Violin Concerto with Symphony Tacoma. Conducted by Sarah Ioannides, the program will also include Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, and Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*. The concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 19 in the Pantages Theater, 901 Broadway. Tickets, starting at \$19, are available at symphonytacoma.org or by calling 253-591-5894 or 1-800-291-7593. The program is sponsored by Churchill Management Group and Pacific Northwest Eye Associates.

Gramophone has described Amy Dickson as "a player with a difference who has an individual and unusual tone, luscious, silky-smooth, sultry and voluptuous by turns." In 2013 she became both the first saxophonist and the first Australian to win a Classic Brit Award, as MasterCard Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Her arrangement of the Philip Glass Violin Concerto was done with the composer's approval and cooperation. For its performance, Dickson had to master the formidable technique of circular breathing: inhaling through the nose while blowing through the lips. This enables her to maintain the constant, unrelenting melodic line of the piece, written for a non-wind instrument. The arrangement was premiered in 2008 and released on CD on the RCA Victor label the following year. *AllMusic*, in reviewing the disc, declared that "Dickson... makes the Glass concerto sound as though it was written for her instrument, rather than the violin."

Philip Glass eschews the label of "minimalism," or more properly "minimal music," even though he is arguably the school's most famous composer. The Violin Concerto No. 1, among his most well-known pieces, was his first for full orchestra. It was, for him, an uncharacteristically personal work, written for his late father Ben, an ardent classical music lover who particularly enjoyed the great repertoire concertos but "had no education in music whatsoever" (as Glass puts it).

Copland's most beloved work, *Appalachian Spring*, was premiered in 1944 by the Martha Graham Ballet Company. The title, famously, was added not by the composer but by Graham herself after the music had been completed. The work includes a gorgeous setting of the Shaker tune "Simple Gifts." Barber's *Adagio for Strings* is a moving, powerful piece that was performed at the funerals of both Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, and used to great effect in the movies *Platoon* and *Elephant Man*.

#####

901 BROADWAY, SUITE 600, TACOMA, WA 98402

symphonytacoma.org