



#### **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 19, 2022

For more information:  
Trianne Newbrey  
Director of Communications  
Direct: 865-521-2317  
Cell: 615-498-2759  
[tnewbrey@knoxvillesymphony.com](mailto:tnewbrey@knoxvillesymphony.com)

#### **Knoxville Symphony Orchestra to premiere Michael Schachter's 'Cycle of Life' on April 21-22**

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra will perform the long-awaited world premiere of Michael Schachter's "Cycle of Life" violin concerto in April featuring Grammy-nominated violinist Tessa Lark.

The April 21-22 concerts will take place at the Tennessee Theatre at 7:30 p.m. and will be led by KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian. The concerts are part of the Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series and are sponsored by Dalen Products and Bass, Berry & Sims. Tickets can be purchased through the KSO box office at 865-291-3310 or online at [knoxvillesymphony.com](http://knoxvillesymphony.com).

Schachter's "Cycle of Life" was commissioned by the KSO, with support from the Knoxville Museum of Art (KMA) and nearly 30 individual donors. The inspiration behind the piece comes from artist Richard Jolley's glass and steel installation at the KMA called ["Cycle of Life: Within the Power of Dreams and the Wonder of Infinity."](#)

"I couldn't be more thrilled for the premiere of my violin concerto, 'Cycle of Life,'" Schachter said. "It has been one of the highlights of my creative life to craft a musical response to Richard's brilliant masterwork and the cosmic scale of its subject."

The 25-minute concerto was written in seven continuous movements named after the divisions established in Jolley's original artwork – "Primordial," "Emergence," "Flight," "Desire," "Tree of Life," "Contemplation" and "Sky." The movements follow a narrative structure, with the solo violinist serving as the central character. The orchestra plays as the collective against the solo violin, at times dialoguing, leading, following, supporting or antagonizing.

Commissioned by Joe and Ruth Fielden, a video will display visual images of Jolley's glass installation above the orchestra during the performance to accompany the movements.

"The long-awaited premiere of Schachter's 'Cycle of Life' is a milestone for the KSO and for me as the first large-scale commission for the KSO during my time as music director," Demirjian said. "This piece was born out of a spirit of community, starting with Richard Jolley's epic vision, which laid the groundwork for a collaboration between two of Knoxville's leading artistic institutions in the KSO and KMA."

In the latter half of the evening, the KSO will perform Sergei Rachmaninoff's romantic Symphony No. 2, a four-movement symphony filled with rich orchestration and lush melodies.

Visit [knoxvillesymphony.com](http://knoxvillesymphony.com) for more information.

###

**About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra**

Led by Music Director Aram Demirjian, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre and Civic Auditorium, as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit [knoxvillesymphony.com](http://knoxvillesymphony.com) or call 865-291-3310.