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For Immediate Release

**Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Presents
Valerie June on BSO Pulse Series**

Baltimore (February 28, 2018) The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) announces the third performance in its 2017-2018 Pulse concert series: Valerie June on March 22, 2018. The concert takes place at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, MD.

Under the leadership of BSO Associate Conductor Nicholas Hersh, BSO Pulse pairs classical music with prominent alternative and indie artists. "Over the past two seasons, the BSO has continued to push its limits to discover new and thrilling musical juxtapositions in BSO Pulse," says Hersh. "I am thrilled to be a part of this journey as we collaborate with this season's featured artists and explore the fundamental connections between these diverse genres."

Singer-songwriter Valerie June's music blurs the lines between genres and eras of sound, an eclectic blend of folk, soul, country, R&B and blues. *The New York Times* praises her as one of America's "most intriguing, fully formed new talents," and she has appeared at venues including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

This concert opens with a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* for string orchestra by members of the BSO, followed by a set by Valerie June. The concert then culminates with a collaborative performance between the two groups.

The event begins with a pre-concert party with live music by Nick and Luke. The pre-concert party also features happy hour drink specials from Flying Dog Brewery and Gentleman Jack, as well as food from local Baltimore restaurants including Dooby's, Parts & Labor and The Charmery.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

BSO Pulse: Valerie June
Thursday, March 22, 2018
Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

6 pm Pre-concert party
6-7:30 pm Happy Hour specials
8:30 pm Concert

Pulse is made possible by a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation. Media Sponsor WTMD 89.7.

VENUE INFORMATION

Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD

TICKETS

Tickets on sale through the BSO Box Office at 410.783.8000 or BSOmusic.org.

For press comps, please contact the PR Department at tkopasek@BSOmusic.org.

ARTIST BIOS

About BSO Pulse

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's newest concert series, Pulse, brings together the worlds of classical music and indie rock onto one stage. Each concert crosses genres, opening with a classical performance by members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, followed by a set by our featured indie artist, culminating with a unique collaboration between the two groups. Pulse performances kick-off with a pre-concert party featuring live music, happy hour drink specials and food from our favorite Baltimore restaurants and breweries.

About the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

For over a century, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has been recognized as one of America's leading orchestras and one of Maryland's most significant cultural institutions. Under the direction of Music Director Marin Alsop, the Orchestra is internationally recognized and locally admired for its innovation, performances and recordings, and educational outreach initiatives including OrchKids. Launched by Marin Alsop and the BSO in 2008, OrchKids provides children educational resources and fosters social change through the power of music in some of Baltimore's most underserved communities.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs annually for more than 350,000 people throughout the State of Maryland. Since 1982, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has performed at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. In 2005, with the opening of The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, MD, the BSO became the nation's first orchestra with year-round venues in two metropolitan areas.

About Nicholas Hersh

Nicholas Hersh currently serves as Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras. Since joining the BSO as Assistant Conductor in 2014, he continues to make his mark on the mid-Atlantic region with exciting, innovative programming—notably as conductor and co-curator of the acclaimed BSO Pulse series, bringing together indie bands and orchestral musicians in unique collaborations.

As Associate Conductor, Hersh directs the BSO's educational and family programming, including the celebrated Academy for adult amateur musicians, as well as a variety of classical and popular programs. Following his successful BSO subscription debut, Hersh conducts the BSO in a set of subscription concerts each season. He has also appeared in concert with such orchestras as the National Repertory Orchestra and the New World, New Jersey, Auburn and Southern Great Lakes symphonies. Hersh is a frequent collaborator and guest faculty at the Peabody Conservatory as well as the BSO's OrchKids program for Baltimore City schoolchildren.

Hersh grew up in Evanston, IL and started his musical training with the cello. He earned a bachelor's

degree in Music from Stanford University and a master's degree in Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, studying with David Effron and Arthur Fagen. In 2011 and 2012 he was a Conducting Fellow with the prestigious American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, studying with mentors Robert Spano, Hugh Wolff and Larry Rachleff, and has participated in masterclasses with Bernard Haitink and Michael Tilson Thomas. Hersh is also a two-time recipient of the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award.

Hersh continues to earn acclaim for his skill as an arranger and orchestrator. He has had frequent arrangement commissions from the BSO as well as from the Cleveland Pops, the National Repertory Orchestra and the Jackson Symphony. His orchestral arrangement of Queen's famous "Bohemian Rhapsody" saw worldwide success after the video of its premiere and subsequent studio recording went viral on the Internet.

About Valerie June

Since the release of her 2013 breakout *Pushin' Against A Stone*, Valerie June has been patiently at work on her stunning new album, *The Order Of Time*. "Time is the ruler of Earth's rhythm," June explains. "Our daily lives revolve around it. Our hearts beat along to its song. If we let it, it can be a powerful guide to turning our greatest hopes and dreams into realities." With *Pushin' Against A Stone*, she went from self-releasing her music as Tennessee's best kept secret to being hailed by *The New York Times* as one of America's "most intriguing, fully formed new talents." *The New Yorker* was captivated by her "unique, stunning voice," while *Rolling Stone* dubbed her "unstoppable," and NPR called her "an elemental talent born with the ability to rearrange the clouds themselves."

June astonished TV audiences from coast to coast with spellbinding performances on *The Tonight Show*, *The Late Show*, *Austin City Limits*, *Rachael Ray* and *CBS Saturday Morning* and graced some of the world's most prestigious stages from Carnegie Hall to the Kennedy Center. Former first Lady Michelle Obama invited June to the White House, and she toured with artists like Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings, Sturgill Simpson, Norah Jones and Jake Bugg in addition to flooring festival crowds at Bonnaroo, Outside Lands, Newport Folk, Hangout, ACL, Pickathon, Mountain Jam and more. In the U.K., the reaction was similarly ecstatic. June performed on *Later...with Jools Holland*, joined a bill with the Rolling Stones in Hyde Park and took the press by storm.

June is a songwriter first and foremost, willing and able to blur the lines between genres and eras of sounds. The result in *The Order of Time* is an eclectic blend of folk, soul, country, R&B and blues that is undoubtedly the finest work of her career. Despite the music's varied nature, her songs all belong to a cohesive family, in part because they're tied together by June's one-of-a-kind voice, and because they're all pieces of a larger rumination on the passage of time.

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