

## News Release

For immediate release  
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### **SYMPHONY OPENS SEASON OCTOBER 12 WITH MUSIC FROM THE HEART OF EUROPE**

The Salina Symphony begins another exciting season at the Stiefel Theatre on Sunday, October 12, at 4:00 p.m. Escape to the romantic **Heart of Europe** with the music of Brahms, Sibelius and Berlioz: *Academic Festival Overture*, *Finlandia* and *Harold in Italy* featuring the Symphony's own Dr. David Lowe on viola.

The first two pieces to be performed are staples of today's concert hall repertoire. Brahms composed the *Academic Festival Overture* during the summer of 1880 as a musical "thank you" to the University of Breslau, which had awarded him an honorary doctorate the previous year. The piece is well received by audiences due to its lyrical warmth, excitement and humor.

*Finlandia* is a symphonic poem by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. Most of the piece is taken up with stirring and turbulent music, evoking the national struggle of the Finnish people. But toward the end, a calm comes over the orchestra, and the serenely melodic *Finlandia Hymn* is heard.

*Harold in Italy* is a lesser performed work by Hector Berlioz featuring an extensive part for solo viola, an instrument normally assigned a secondary role in orchestral texture. The piece was inspired by Lord Byron's poem *Child Harold's Pilgrimage*, part of an epic focused on a romantic hero named Harold. Throughout the symphony, the viola represents Harold's character. Lowe, principal violist of the Salina Symphony since 1993, will be the featured soloist for the piece.

Lowé has performed professionally with the St. Louis Symphony and the United States Air Force. He was professor of strings at Bethany College from 1970-1996 and currently serves as an adjunct faculty member at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Tickets will go on sale September 15 and can be purchased at the Stiefel Theatre Box Office, 151 S. Santa Fe, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For an additional fee, tickets may be ordered online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). The box office will open at 1 p.m. on concert day. Single admission is \$19 for adults and \$12 for students. For more information, please visit [www.salinasymphony.org](http://www.salinasymphony.org).

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