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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information: Deirdre Rasmussen, 920-639-3364, skyblueinkling@yahoo.com

The Civic Symphony of Green Bay will open its 2018-2019 season in brilliant style with internationally renowned pianist Joel Fan playing the beloved Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in B minor. Also on the program are Borodin's heroic Symphony No. 2, and "Danse Diabolique" by Josef Hellmesberger, Jr. The concert will take place at the Meyer Theatre on Oct. 6, 2018, at 7:00 pm, with Seong-Kyung Graham conducting.

Pianist Joel Fan is acclaimed as "soaring" (*Los Angeles Times*), "fantastic" (*Washington Post*), and possessing "a vivid imagination" (*New York Times*). As a concerto soloist, Fan has performed over 40 different concertos with orchestras worldwide, including the New York Philharmonic, Singapore Philharmonic, and London Sinfonietta. According to the Boston Music-Intelligencer: "We've heard many of the great pianists... Fan belongs in the company of the best." Fan has also found an enthusiastic following as a recitalist and a champion of new music. He has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma in the Silk Road Ensemble, appeared on national television, and won several international competitions.

Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor is one of the most famous and recognizable piano works of all time, from its epic first few measures through soaring lyrical passages to the triumphant end. It was written in 1874-75, with revisions in 1879 and 1888. At first, the pianist for whom it was written, Nikolai Rubinstein, was very critical of the piece, but he later recanted his criticism and became an ardent supporter of the work. At its first performance in 1875 in Boston, the audience was so delighted that the pianist (Hans von Bulow) and orchestra were obliged to play the finale again.

Alexander Borodin was a chemistry professor in addition to a composer. His friend Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov recalled visiting Borodin in his apartment with its attached laboratory, where Borodin would start distilling chemicals, go into his living room to discuss his compositions, and hurry back to the lab to make sure nothing was about to explode. His Symphony No. 2 in B minor (written 1869-1874) is full of themes of warrior folk heroes, Slavic dance, and bards singing along with traditional Russian instruments like the *gusli* (a zither, represented by the harp).

Josef Hellmesberger, Jr., was the son of a Viennese composer, violinist and conductor. He wrote an extensive repertoire of light opera, ballet, and songs. His *Danse Diabolique* is a Halloween treat, mischievous but not too scary, and is a popular addition to events like the Vienna New Year's Eve program on PBS.

Admission prices for the concert are \$18-Adults, \$15-Seniors, \$10-Students - Tickets may be ordered online from www.ticketstaronline.com, or at the Resch Center or Meyer Theater Box Office during regular business hours. Also, please be sure to check-out our website at www.gbcivic.org for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.