

# ORIGINS

ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for Origins, our first-ever livestreamed orchestra performances.

When I wrote my welcome message to our virtual concert in May, we were celebrating the fact of being able to close out last year's season strongly, albeit differently than we planned.

Since then, our team has worked hard to make possible the return this year to face-to-face rehearsals in a way that lets us meet or exceed COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

Staff members have spent countless hours studying ever-changing public safety guidelines and best practices. We have been in regular discussions among our team and with key partners like our friends at Elgin Community College. This investment of our time and energy, combined with the EYSO values we bring to this process, has allowed us to develop protocols that make this season not just possible, but extraordinary.

Last spring, I shared how proud I was of what our administrative staff, conductors, coaches, donors, parents, and most of all our students as they shifted activities to remote learning and ultimately a virtual concert—our first.

My level of appreciation since then has only grown, as students and parents point out that, for many, this is a true point of stability and joy in an otherwise challenging world filled primarily with virtual activities.

So much in our lives, and the lives of our students, is different now. It makes the opportunity to enjoy and learn from the performance of music together ever more special. It is worth noting that this return to in-person activity has never, and is still not, taken for granted by us. Many others have suspended operations or moved fully to remote activity, and for understandable reasons.

I would also like to thank our financial supporters—from individuals to foundations to the state—who helped make this all possible and are helping us defray the additional expenses required to hold in-person activity safely in the current environment.

I thank all of you who have helped us whether by supporting your student, volunteering, or donating. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about EYSO or supporting our mission, please visit eyso.org or call me at (847) 841-7700.

With gratitude,

K. Eric Larson
Executive Director

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# ORIGINS

### ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Stories, fairy tales, myths, and legends: these are how we make sense of the world around us. In EYSO's 45th season, explore these myths and legends through music as we build connections between ourselves and the wider world.

### 2:00PM

**PRELUDE** 

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

HANSON STRING QUARTET

SINFONIA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Zachary Bowers, director

**SINFONIA** 

Aaron Kaplan, conductor

4:30PM

**BRASS CHOIR** 

Dan Sartori, conductor

PHILHARMONIA PERCUSSION **ENSEMBLE** 

Zachary Bowers, director

**PHILHARMONIA** 

Anthony Krempa, conductor

STERLING BRASS QUINTET

7:00PM

YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

YOUTH SYMPHONY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Zachary Bowers, director

**EARL CLEMENS WIND QUINTET** 





















### **ORIGINS**

Stories, fairy tales, myths, legends: these are how we make sense of the world around us. Fact or fiction, they have a way of telling us about ourselves, both in what we consciously know, and in the murkier realm of the implicit.

Great artists know this—cultural expectations, traditions, and personal biases are inevitably woven into their art on multiple levels. How does music reveal these, and how do these fundamental facts (and fictions) influence both the music and the musicians as we study and and perform together?

At EYSO, we often use the term "expert noticer" to describe our approach both to making music together and to examining the wider world around us. As expert noticers, we use music and our season theme as lenses through which we deepen and broaden our understanding of ourselves, of our communities, and of the roles we play in them. In *Origins*, our first concert of the 2020-21 season, we peel back the layers of notes and rhythms and sift through the accumulated historical and performance traditions. As we study and perform together, we investigate not just the *how to* of music, but the *why*.

This season more than ever, the *why* matters. As communities and individuals face challenges cutting across all facets of life, making sense of the world around us is both more daunting and more critical than ever before. The stories we tell, the way we tell them, and voices sharing them: these things matter.

And with the challenges of this year, each of us has the opportunity to re-examine what matters to us in our stories, and in our lives. The feeling of community each Sunday, the critical examination of concepts and ideas, and the thrill of making music together at the highest level have been constants in a year that often leaves us feeling adrift. Through our investigation and study of great music, we better understand the stories we tell ourselves—our own myths and legends, and our own values and beliefs.

Thank you for being a part of this journey in our 45th season, Myths & Legends.

Matthew Sheppard Artistic Director

ONLY

P.S. We continue to celebrate what's special about the EYSO and the long and storied musical history of Elgin through our *Only in Elgin* initiative, launched in 2010 as part of our 35th anniversary celebration. Watch for the special logo to highlight what is truly unique and innovative about the EYSO.



# PROGRAM / 2:00 CONCERT PRELUDE

Matthew Sheppard, conductor



Henry Purcell (1659-1695) transc. Benjamin Britten arr. Andy Masters

Who owns a piece of music?

In some ways, this question has a straightforward legal response. There are the copyright holders for the music itself (typically the composers), and then there are the licensing agents for performance (typically the publishers). But this response, though technically accurate, doesn't really capture the ideas of responsibility and ownership so critical to a meaningful performance. Musicians are not performing rote reproductions each time—what is driving them? *Philosophically*, rather than legally, to whom does a performance belong?

When Prelude explored this idea, we broke into three clear positions: I) the "originalists" who felt that Henry Purcell had the greatest claim, the 2) "newest copyright" advocates who gave their allegiance to Andy Masters, and 3) the "heart and soul" team who suggested that each new ensemble performing the piece had the greatest stake to that specific performance. No matter the camp to which each musician belonged, each felt a deeper connection and responsibility to the piece after our vibrant philosophical discussions!

About this piece, arranger and long-time EYSO conductor Andy Masters writes:

This relatively unknown little gem by Purcell is a piece my mom used to play on the piano when I was a kid. I remember listening with amazement to the sixteenth note flourishes and being inspired by the piece's power and stature. Later I would play the melody with her on violin or trumpet. Even as a kid I could tell the piece was special.

Benjamin Britten was inspired by the music of Purcell, often arranging it from old sources into contemporary editions modern instruments. In this case, Britten created a piano accompaniment, with his own harmonies supporting florid melody.

### Capriol Suite

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

- I. Basse-Danse
- II. Pavane
- VI. Mattachins

The lineage of Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock (the pseudonym of English composer Philip Heseltine) traces an incredible journey back to its origins. A collection of dance movements written for string orchestra, Capriol Suite was first composed for piano duet in 1926, and it was based on the music that Warlock discovered in Orchésographie, the landmark 1589 treatise on French Renaissance social dances by Thoinot Arbeau...who was the pseudonym of French priest Jehan Tabourot, and who based portions of Orchésographie (specifically the pavane movement) in part on his recollection of the French song Belle qui tiens ma vie by Spanish composer Antonio de Cabezón from the early 16th century...who in turn was writing variations on a tune whose composer has since faded into the shadows of history.

Now that's an origin story.

In studying Capriol Suite, Prelude explored the ways that each of the contributors to Capriol Suite influenced the music they now study—and how learning about the origins of the suite guided their performance.

We speculated on the meaning of that unique title, Capriole, and what learning about it might tell us. (The title comes from the character in Orchésographie with whom Arbeau dialogues: Capriol, derived from French "capriole" for capering.) And, we explored the specific calls and dance rhythms of "basse-danse" as derived from Arbeau's Orchésographie, reflecting on how they informed the overall structure of the movement.

As we delved deeper into the layers of context in the "pavane", our understanding of the music grew tremendously. Our playing changed as we learned that the original pavane dance was a noble and majestic processional, and then shifted yet again as we explored the words of the song *Belle qui tiens ma via*. In peeling back layers of history, Prelude did their own "expert noticing" and forged deeper connections to their performance.

[M. Sheppard]



### HANSON STRING QUARTET

Zachary Stordahl, violin Catherine Winsor, violin Lillian Cano, viola Lydia Gruenwald, cello

# **String Quartet No. 22 in B-flat**IV. Allegro assai

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Mozart's "Prussian" quartets are a collection of three string quartets written to impress King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia, who commissioned the works. While most Classical-era string quartets find the cello part holding down harmonic material in the background, Mozart favored the cello part in this set—a savvy move to please the king, who was a talented amateur cellist. The three Prussian quartets are a set of inventive, contrapuntal, and challenging works fit for a king.

This rousing finale closes the second of the three quartets. A whirlwind of overlapping repetitions, this movement is a sparkling rondo: chattering its main theme between the four voices, straying into variations, but always finding a surprising return among the playful conflicts between the voices.

[R. Green]

### SINFONIA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Zachary Bowers, director

### Four Horsemen (1966)

Mitch Markovich (b. 1944)

Four Horsemen is a traditional rudimental drum quartet by Mitch Markovich. Born and raised in Chicago, Markovich is one of America's most notable rudimental drummers and a three-time consecutive National Champion snare drummer.

Scored for two snare drums, tenor drum, and bass drum, Four Horsemen is a straight-ahead march in 4/4. The snare drums carry the primary melodic material, while the tenor drum plays counter melody and the bass drum accompaniment. The thematic material is based on the standard drumming "rudiments", the specific rhythmic combinations used as the original building blocks of vocabulary for drummers.

[Z. Bowers]

### SINFONIA

Aaron Kaplan, conductor

### from Carmen Suites No. 1 & 2

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Prelude Aragonaise Intermezzo Les Toréadors Habanera Danse Bohême

Love, death, intrigue, betrayal, brilliant melodies, and colorful orchestrations: these are just a few of the reasons why Carmen has become one of the most popular and performed operas in the world.

With music by French composer Georges Bizet and a libretto by Ludovic Halévy and Henri Meilhac, the opera premiered at the Opéra-Comique in Paris on March 3, 1875. Despite its initial poor reception from the audience and critics, *Carmen* would go on to achieve international recognition within the first ten years of its premiere. Cross-genre adaptations speak to its staying power: it has been used in orchestral music, ballet suites, over twenty films, a Broadway musical, a "Hip Hopera" starring Beyoncé, and successful live broadcasts to movie theaters around the world. After the premiere of the opera, editor Franz Hoffmann arranged selections of Bizet's music into two orchestral suites, and the music he selected has become the most recognizable from the opera.

For many people, Carmen is the original access point into the world of opera and classical music. Most people will recognize one of the melodies from a film, cartoon, or television commercial, which is part of the reason for its fame: the melodies are infectious, get stuck in your ear, and instantly convey different emotions, from joyous frivolity to pain and despair. Scholars also recognize Carmen as the first bridge between the opéra comique style of 18th-century French opera (with arias and spoken dialogue) with the verismo style of the 19th-century Italian opera (sung-through operas with little to no dialogue).

The "Prelude" from Act I introduces the audience to the ominous *fate motive*. A musical motive, or leitmotif, is a melody specifically associated with a recurring character, idea, or mood (think Darth Vader's theme from the *Star Wars* saga). Bizet explores the idea of fate throughout the opera: from the opening notes of the "Prelude", we know that things will not end well for our leading character. The fate motive is introduced by the cellos, clarinets, bassoon and trumpets while the violins and violas add to the tension with their tremolo (moving the bow back and forth quickly) to create a nervous and unsettled sound. The music builds to a climax and then segues seamlessly into the "Aragonaise" from Act IV. An aragonaise is a "dance of Aragon", a region in Spain. The dance is in a driving triple meter and typically accompanied by guitars and castanets. In the orchestra, the strings and harp simulate the guitar, while the castanets are on full display in the percussion! The complex solos in the oboe, piccolo, and clarinet play against the consistent rhythm of the strings, creating an intricate dance of flirtation, mirroring the relationship between Carmen and Don José.

The haunting "Intermezzo" from Act III is one of the most beautiful melodies written for the stage. Beginning as a simple eight-measure duet between the flute and harp, it builds into an entire movement—a wonderful display of Bizet's compositional skills. The phrase is extended, modified, echoed, and transposed into all of the woodwind instruments before becoming entangled with an ascending countermelody in the strings that ultimately leads to a quiet place of reflection and solitude. Bizet placed this lovely intermezzo, or interlude, at this spot in the opera not only as a "palate cleanser" from the frenzy that has just occurred, but also as the last peaceful moment in the opera before the tragedy ensues.

"Les Toréadors" acts as both the overture to the opera and as the main theme for the Toreadors—the bullfighters. This boisterous melody sparkles from start to finish and also introduces us to the "Song of the Toreador", heard later in the opera as sung by the swashbuckling character Escamillo.

The "Habanera" is a song or dance from Havana, Cuba, and it is the common name for Carmen's aria "L'amour est un oiseau rebelle" ("Love is a rebellious bird"). To set the scene, the bell of the cigarette factory rings and the women employees emerge, eagerly awaited by the townsmen who have gathered to flirt with them. Carmen, seductive

and cunning, enters and the men compete for her affections. She sings "love is a rebellious bird that no one can tame..." and throws a flower to Don José. The contradictory rhythms in this piece create the flirtatious atmosphere: the strict ostinato in the cellos, against the free and constantly changing duple vs. triple rhythm in the melody.

The suite ends with the Bohemian dance "Les tringles des sistres tintaient" ("The rods of the sistrums jingled"). Carmen and her friends Frasquita and Mercédès are entertaining the army officers in the tavern, singing about the jingling rods of the sistrum—akin to the metal jingles or "zills" of the tambourine, featured prominently in this movement. The dance begins slowly and gradually builds throughout the movement, ending in a spinning frenzy with fireworks on display from the full orchestra.





# PROGRAM / 4:30 CONCERT BRASS CHOIR

Dan Sartori, conductor

### from Sacrae Symphoniae

Giovanni Gabrieli (1554-1612)

Canzon septimi toni No. 2 Sonata octavi toni

I6th- to I7th-century Italian composer and organist Giovanni Gabrieli was one of the main music figures at the shift from Renaissance to Baroque idioms. A devoted composer of sacred vocal and instrumental music, Gabrieli composed his monumental Sacrae Symphoniae in I597, and it remains a brilliant demonstration of how to use various sonorities to maximum effect. The 45 motets, I4 canzonas, and two sonatas of the collection were composed to make full use of the unusual opposing choir lofts in the famous Venetian San Marco church. Canzon septimi toni No. 2 and Sonata octavi toni demonstrate Gabrieli's masterful use of antiphonal brass instruments in separate choirs, which would have sounded very different from the instruments in use today.

This fall, Brass Choir explored the origins of traditional compositional techniques for brass instruments, as well as origins and development of traditional sonorities and expectations for brass instruments in ensemble use. Gabrieli's music solidified several aspects of writing for brass instruments: the use of balanced brass chords, the use of composer-specified dynamics, and the practice of writing for brass instruments in separate groups (antiphonal brass writing). While prior music did make use of these aspects, with Gabrieli numerous conventions such as notation of precise dynamics became codified in the music itself, rather than left to the interpretation of the performer. Gabrieli uses dynamic contrast to great effect in both of these pieces.

Continuing in our investigation of the origins of the brass choir traditions, we referenced two recordings that stand as bellwether events in solidifying the expected orchestral brass sound in orchestras around the world today. These recordings are foundational for contemporary norms of sound for a brass section: the origins of what we do as brass players.

[D. Sartori]

### PHILHARMONIA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

### Seduction (2004)

Andrew Beall (b. 1980)

Written by virtuoso international soloist and composer Andrew Beall, Seduction began as the third movement of Beall's symphony for marimba and orchestra, Testament.

Seduction is inspired by Indian and Middle Eastern modalities and instruments. The melodic material is based on the Mayamalavagowla scale, or C double-harmonic scale (C-D<sup>b</sup>-E-F-G-A<sup>b</sup>-B), a familiar sound in South Indian classical music. The unique instruments used are from around the world: djembe, udu (small clay drum), ankle bells, seed shakers, claves, and cajon.

Throughout the piece the marimba develops the primary melodic material while the percussionists establish the groove. The marimba begins with a rhythmic bass-line and distant, soothing melody. One-by-one the percussionists enter until the full groove is established. The first major section continues to develop and climaxes with a raucous "percussion break", sharply shifting focus to the percussionists. After a "tutti call", each percussionist takes an improvised solo. After one more "tutti call" the marimba takes a solo, and then leads the music back to material from the beginning. The piece ends with a marimba cadenza and then a section marked *Malincolia* for marimba alone.

[Z. Bowers]

### **PHILHARMONIA**

Anthony Krempa, conductor

### Sinfony from Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759) arr. Ebenezer Prout

When George Frederick Handel set out to put the story of the King James Bible to music, he likely hoped for a mild success and perhaps a few extra coins in his pocket. Instrumental pieces and opera were out of style in London, and oratorio works (narrative non-staged works featuring singers) were all the rage with audiences of the day. When approached by friend and librettist Charles Jennings with the idea of scoring Messiah, Handel jumped at the chance to write this large-scale piece.

Originally shunned by the church, *Messiah* is widely regarded as Handel's greatest and most influential work. Apart from the "Pastorale" movement that breaks up the action of Act I, the opening "Sinfony" is the only substantial instrumental number. The contrasting energy of the grandiose introduction and high-flying *Allegro* sets the mood for the entire oratorio.

Listen for the performance techniques specific to the Baroque era: the clean, almost wiry tone of the strings on long sustained lines, and the choppier bursts of repeated notes in fast tempos. This expanded setting by Ebenezer Prout includes woodwinds unavailable in Handel's time, deepening the texture and resonance for the listener. Imagine being in London at the premiere of this monumental work, witnessing the musical origin story of Jesus through Handel's pen!

### Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

A young Beethoven traveled to London in his formative student years, where he met the well-established and wildly successful Franz Joseph Haydn at a performance of Haydn's new work. After examining some of the young composer's scores, Haydn agreed to meet with Beethoven in Vienna and take him on as a composition student. Haydn's busy schedule and Beethoven's lack of patience made it a tumultuous relationship, but one that they both maintained and cherished throughout their lives.

After the premiere of his only ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Beethoven was anxious for his teacher's approval. At a serendipitous meeting in the streets the next day, Haydn extolled the new work, to which Beethoven replied, "thank you Papa, but it is no Creation!" Papa Haydn, as he was known, helped shape the young composer from his beginnings, forever influencing Beethoven's work as a mature composer.

The music to *The Creatures of Prometheus* is decidedly lighter than most audiences would come to expect from Beethoven. He only agreed to take on this commission when friend and fellow composer Salvatore Vigano begged him to set the new libretto to music. As the story begins, Prometheus steals fire from Zeus as a gift to mankind, and he proceeds to teach them science, art, music, dance and theater.

As the orchestra opens with its solemn introduction, it conjures images of the mighty hall of Zeus where the fire of creation is kept—and where Prometheus is creeping through the shadows. As the music abruptly shifts to a fiery *Allegro con moto*, imagine Prometheus running as fast as he can from Zeus's hall, all the while dreaming of the origin story he was about to create.



Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

- I. The Representation of Chaos
- II. In the Beginning

Franz Joseph Haydn once attended a performance of Handel's *Messiah* featuring over 1000 players and singers. Not surprisingly, he was completely overwhelmed by the experience, and it inspired him to improve his craft as a composer and attempt to create a work on a similarly exalted scale and theme that would appeal to a broad public.

Years passed before he found the right opportunity, but in 1795 Haydn was presented with a libretto of the story of *The Creation* that had originally been meant for Handel 50 years prior. Haydn seized the opportunity and began work on his version right away. As was the case with *Messiah*, the church did not support the work at its premiere, but it won the hearts of critics and audiences immediately as one of Haydn's greatest triumphs. The multi-movement oratorio depicts the *Book of Genesis* and describes the Biblical creation story—even the congratulatory feeling of a job well done in the finale.

The opening two movements show the expansiveness of Haydn's musical imagination. Chaos is represented by chord progressions that never resolve as bits and pieces of musical structure dart in and out of the cosmos of the opening strains. As the soloists (instrumentalists in our performance) enter, the text depicts the early days of darkness covering the Earth, as well as the spectacular moment of LIGHT thrust into creation with a glorious C-major chord.

After the premiere, Haydn (who conducted the concert), said he could not describe the feelings that he was filled with during the performance, both white hot burning and ice-cold. We hope to bring that same sort of passion to your ears today!

# March to the Scaffold from Symphonie Fantastique

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Hector Berlioz was a passionate Frenchman. Born of doctors who wanted their son to follow in their footsteps, Berlioz could not ignore his drive and desire to compose music and entered the Paris Conservatory of Music after a failed attempt to please his parents at medical school. The same vigorous passion that drove him to pursue music led to his infatuation with Irish actress Harriet Smithson—a passion that fueled one of his greatest projects, *Symphonie Fantastique*. In fact, only after hearing the work did Smithson agree to marry Berlioz, though the relationship would prove difficult to maintain and ended some years later.



In Symphonie Fantastique, Berlioz paints a tale of a modern artist in love and tortured by his feelings. If it sounds familiar, you're right in recognizing some autobiographical elements! In the fourth movement, "March to the Scaffold", the protagonist, believing all hope is lost, poisons himself with opium and imagines that he has murdered his beloved and is sentenced to death at the guillotine. The orchestra goes on a tumultuous ride through the movement, as a pair of pounding timpani signals impending doom for the hero. Frantic string lines and triumphant brass fanfares lead to a single cry from a despairing clarinet voice—the last sound heard before the blade falls.

Leonard Bernstein described this piece as the origin of psychedelic music, thanks to both its hallucinatory and dreamlike nature, and to Berlioz's likely autobiographical sources for composition. Let your imagination run wild as the music takes you on a journey of love, murder, and punishment!

[A. Krempa]



### STERLING BRASS QUINTET

Emanuel Vasquez, trumpet Camden Hildy, trumpet Luke Suarez, horn Daniel White, trombone J.T. Butcher, tuba

### Vivaldi-Bach Concerto for Brass Quintet

I. Allegretto

II. Allegro—Adagio molto

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) transc. J.S. Bach arr. David Baldwin

The Vivaldi-Bach Concerto for Brass Quintet is a nesting doll of interpretations. At its core is the 1711 composition by Antonio Vivaldi: his D minor concerto for two violins, cello, and strings from L'Estro armónico (The Harmonic Inspiration), a wildly influential set of concerti. These concerti proved so popular that in 1714, Johann Sebastian Bach transcribed selections—including this one, No. 11—for organ.

The version performed today is an arrangement of that transcription crafted by David Baldwin in 1984. While still recalling Vivaldi's celebration of counterpoint, the brass quintet's lush texture draws from the fullness, sustained sonorities, and rhythmic insistence of Bach's organ arrangement. From Vivaldi's sprightly chamber piece and into Bach's weighty solo work, we hear the structure returned—and reinvented—as a chamber piece.

Famous works are sometimes added to the canon with great trepidation and reservation—protected as if they must be preserved behind a pane of glass without changing a thing. Instead, here we find a work kept vibrant by its retellings and transformations.

[R. Green]

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Thank you for donating your design talents towards seven years of season materials, branding, and program design for EYSO.

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# PROGRAM / 7:00 CONCERT YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

### Ma mère l'Oye: cinq pièces enfantines

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

- I. Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant (Pavane of the Sleeping Beauty)
- II. Petit Poucet (Tom Thumb)
- III. Laideronnette, Impératrice des Pagodes (Little Ugly One, Empress of the Pagodas)
- IV. Les entretiens de la Belle et de la Bête (The Conversations of Beauty and the Beast)
- V. Le jardin féerique (The Fairy Garden)

Ravel's Mother Goose Suite (Ma mère l'Oye in its original French) pulls from some of the most famous archetypes and stories in the Western tradition. Drawing on both the classic Mother Goose tales as written down by Charles Perrault and other famous French tales by Madame d'Aulnoy, Ravel builds on layers of human exploration, introspection, moralizing, and understanding.

Each movement is tied to a specific image or concept from a fairy tale. Ravel hints at the sources without explicitly offering a road-map (as other composers such as Richard Strauss sometimes do), providing only single phrases or quotations from individual stories. In expressing his vivid and colorful views of the sound-worlds created by Perrault and d'Aulnoy, Ravel still leaves room for the creativity of the performer—and the listener.

Perhaps this was a reflection of the origins of *Mother Goose Suite*, which was first composed for two children: the daughter (Mimie) and son (Jean) of his friends Cipa and Ida Godebski. The child-like innocence, imagination, and sense of sheer joy and wonderment at these timeless tales has made this short collection of movements one of Ravel's most cherished works.

Ravel conjures up the magical world of "once upon a time" in the opening movement, "Pavane of the Sleeping Beauty". The steady yet gentle accompaniment in the harp, the insubstantial and transparent wisps of color through texture and timbre, and the circular melodic patterns of the soloists build a sound-world of stillness, beauty, and wonder.

The second movement "Tom Thumb" is inscribed with a quotation from Perrault's work:

He thought he would be able to find the path easily by means of the bread he had strewn wherever he had walked. But he was quite surprised when he was unable to find a single crumb; the birds had come and eaten them all.

Ravel creates a musical experience akin to that of the protagonist: repeated melodic gestures unsuccessfully attempt to escape the forest of sound; rhythmic confusion abounds as we are metrically "lost" in the mixed meters of 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 5/4 time; wave-like gestures seem to find the way out only to be immediately subsumed into the texture; and the shrill bird calls from the solo violin invoke a surprising and unsettling fear.

The most colorful movement, "Laideronnette", depicts not the plot but the incredible and fanciful setting of *The Green Serpent* by Madame d'Aulnoy. Imitating the faux-Orientalism that was in-vogue for French composers in the early 20th century, Ravel mixes pentatonic scales, brilliant instrumental timbres, splashes of sound from the percussion, and rhythmic ostinatos that call to mind the pitter-patter of little feet as the princess's servants entertain her.

In setting *Beauty and the Beast*, Ravel focuses not simply on the characters themselves—though they are perfectly captured by the gentle loveliness of the clarinet as Beauty and the grotesque awkwardness of the contrabassoon as the Beast—but rather on the dialogue and interaction between them. Introduced separately, the two characters waltz together with increasing urgency, leading to their two climactic interactions:

"Beauty, would you like to be my wife?" "No, Beast!"

"I die happy because I have the pleasure of seeing you once again." "No, my dear Beast, you shall not die. You shall live to become my husband."

The Beast had disappeared, and she beheld at her feet a prince more handsome than Amor, who was thanking her for having lifted his spell.

Ravel offers no inscription for the final movement, "The Fairy Garden": the magic and warmth of the music needs no words to better convey the sense of possibilities that this garden, the fertile ground of imagination, may hold.

### Fugue from Symphony No. 4

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Just as in Barber's Essay for Orchestra, the Fugue by Charles Ives is built around one central theme, one main thesis—one original strand of musical DNA. A fugue, by definition, takes this original subject and treats it to multiple variations:

- Transpositions, played in a different key;
- Inversions, played in "mirror image";
- · Retrograde statements, played backwards;
- · Diminutions and augmentations, compressed or stretched rhythmically;

and more. This structured and rigorous approach to their construction can create the false impression that fugues are no more than exercises in composition, or examples of precise craftsmanship rather than transformative art. Yet at the core of the *Fugue* by Ives lies not just a musical subject—a fifteen-note melody—but a deep sense of musical identity.

A brilliant composer and pianist who had studied music at Yale before embarking on his full-time career as an insurance salesman, Ives connected deeply with his identity as a New Englander. This identity comes through strongly in his musical compositions, especially in this excerpt from his fourth symphony. In content, structure, and tone, his music has a unique American quality to it—patriotic in the most uplifting and positive sense. Youth Symphony musicians recognized this somewhat abstract quality as being the emotional center, origin, and unifying agent of the piece, and as something to guide their performance.

Ives uses simple and beautiful melodic ideas (the hymn tune "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" for the theme, and "Joy to the World" set softly and intimately at the close) as the core material for his fugue. By adding both a dramatic narrative arc and the poignant dissonance characteristic of Ives's polytonal explorations, he capture a sense of duality, a single-mindedness of multiple dimensions, that sits at the center of the New Englander's identity.

### First Essay for Orchestra

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Essay |e-sa|(n.):

- a) an analytical or interpretative literary composition usually dealing with its subject from a limited or personal point of view
- b) something resembling such a composition
- c) a composition of moderate length on a particular subject...more or less elaborate in style though limited in range

Overture? Typical fare. Symphony? Of course. Suite? Yes, naturally. But Essay? That's not for music...right?

While we shouldn't judge a book by its cover, the title can indeed be revealing. When he first wrote this piece in 1937, Barber titled it *Essay for Orchestra*—a rather provocative and unusual title. (It was re-titled as *First Essay for Orchestra* for clarification when he wrote two more essays in 1942 and 1978.)

What does this title suggest? Asked this question over his lifetime, Barber never elaborated beyond referring listeners to the Oxford English Dictionary. What could be the origins of this title? Certainly, Barber had a specific reason for titling it such—how does that inform our listening, understanding, and performance of the piece?

In Youth Symphony, we explored this concept of an essay from a formal standpoint, thinking about how the origins of the literary essay may translate to music. As we peeled back layers of what is at first a complex and somewhat intimidating piece, more connections revealed themselves. Just as an essay might open with a thesis and then be bolstered by evidence, repetition in various forms, and a powerful final conclusive restatement, Barber's First Essay stays single-mindedly focused on its opening thesis: a rhythmic pattern of two long notes, followed by two short notes and a final long note:



The simplicity of the theme and its insistent pitch repetition provide remarkable staying power and potency, realized over the course of the introduction until the brass present its most powerful argument. But then, seemingly out of nowhere, the music shifts to a new, quicker theme:



Though the music seems completely changed, connections quickly reveal themselves: a similar relentless repetition both in the pitches of the theme itself and in its use, the same limited range of a minor third from the top note to the bottom, and an identical rhythmic pattern of two long notes, two short notes, and a final long note. The arguments continue, until both are presented at once and the connections are made evident in the final conclusive statement of the theme—the origin of it all.

[M. Sheppard]

# YOUTH SYMPHONY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Zachary Bowers, director



Juri Seo (b. 1981)

Based in Princeton, New Jersey, composer and pianist Juri Seo seeks to write music encompassing extreme contrast through compositions that are unified and fluid, yet complex. *Shui* is part of her "Portable Percussion" series, a set of compositions centered around small (and usually accompanimental) percussion instruments. The score calls for six crotales—pitched bronze discs—and water, which has wonderful effects on the resonance of the crotales. She writes:

I conceived Shui as a miniaturized version of an extended musical meditation. The circular shape of the instrument, the round bowls, and the long resonance are all conducive to meditative environment. As in any ensemble music—perhaps more in this case—the performers are indispensable parts of the whole. Each performer has only two pitches so that all melodies to be played collectively. There's one moment they have to pass crotales to each other without killing the resonance, as if the is a living being.

For Youth Symphony Percussion Ensemble, this piece is a departure from traditional repertoire; through study of this score we have developed a broader concept of music and sound. Interestingly enough, due to the incredible resonance nature of crotales, and the fact that they are held in hand and struck together, we spent a considerable amount of time perfecting and unifying our interpretation of sound. Specifically, we considered the "origin" of our sound—the point at which the crotales meet—and the lifespan of the resulting pitch, either natural, or modulated via submersion in water.

[Z. Bowers]



### **EARL CLEMENS WIND QUINTET**

Chanel Antoshin, flute Abigail Sledden, oboe Dylan Rhodes, clarinet Anna Creech, horn Jacqueline Fernandez, bassoon

La cheminée du roi René (The Chimney of King René)

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

I. Cortège VII. Madrigal Nocturne A tribute to the romance and chivalry of 15th-century royalty, Darius Milhaud's La cheminée du roi René is rooted in courtly storytelling. In 1939, Milhaud composed music to underscore part of the film Cavalcade d'amour, depicting a love story set at the court of King René of Anjou. Milhaud then adapted this music into a chamber piece, La cheminée du roi René for wind quintet.

This performance includes the first and last movements of the work, the Cortège (procession) and the *Madrigal Nocturne*. Both movements are elegant and good-natured, with the timbre of the woodwind instruments recalling their early-music ancestors. In combination with the kingly horn calls, we find ourselves in a dreamy 20th-century imagining of a 15th-century castle.

[R. Green]

### YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

### Helios Overture

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Silence and darkness,
The sun rises with a joyous song of praise,
It wanders its golden way
and sinks quietly into the sea.

Inscribed by Carl Nielsen on the opening pages of Helios Overture, these words are but a hint of the journey ahead.

The origins of the *Helios Overture* aren't mysterious, nor is the concept of a "composed sunrise" unique. (Youth Symphony performs two this concert.) Tracking the journey of the sun over the Aegean Sea is interesting, certainly, but ultimately a rather straightforward plot. But what Nielsen does with his vision of the arc of day in his expansive, 20th-century Romantic language is truly spectacular.

The overture opens in the stillness of night: not a star in the sky, not a sound in our ears. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the first hints of movement and light appear in the cellos as the gentle awakening begins. Horn calls meld together with a steadily rising stream of eighth notes in the strings, slowly but inexorably building toward the fiery first moments of dawn. The trumpets herald in the fullness of the day as vibrant splashes of color from the orchestra reflect the gleaming and play of the sun against the waves.

As the arc of the sun flattens at its midday peak, the music stretches into the enjoyable languor of the afternoon. A long, expanded melodic line—first heard in the cellos—is punctuated by gentle droplets of sound from the winds and plucked strings, then passed around the orchestra in succession. Different compositional forms and techniques capture different moods along this journey: the imitative fugato section reflects a playfulness as each section joins in on the game.

A final triumphant return of the main theme streams forth from the orchestra in brilliant golden colors: brass chords, woodwind trills, timpani rolls, and string tremolo. And then, just as seamlessly yet eternally as the sun rose in the morning, it sinks back into the sea, leaving only echoes—and the promise of a new dawn to come.

This idea, this image of a rising sun and its arc through the day and into the night is fundamental to our humanity. As people, we are physiologically built for it, and our entire lives revolve around the sun and our experiences of it. (Hence the expression "revolves around it.") Rarely has a composer captured this idea so magically as Nielsen.

[M. Sheppard]

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Julia Hansen, Lake In The Hills
Blake Harris, South Elgin
Camden Hildy, Elmhurst 
Katherine McClellan, Village of Lakewood
Avanish Narumanchi, South Barrington
Norah Quinn, Batavia
Emanuel Vasquez, Carpentersville 
\*\*

### **TROMBONE**

Alton Beck, Peru Iona Dillon, Crystal Lake Marion Herrmann, Elgin Sarah Leardi, Streamwood Ian Martinez, Carpentersville Abraham Ortiz, Montgomery Ethan Sanderson, Elgin Daniel White, Batavia %

### **EUPHONIUM**

Ryan Blake, Bartlett Clayton Wagner, Geneva

### **TUBA**

EJ Ave, Elgin James Butcher, Algonquin & Alex Karwowski, Wayne Matthew Styrna, Geneva

% Sterling Brass Quintet
é Earl Clemens Wind Quintet

### **PHILHARMONIA**

### VIOLIN

Isabel Bergmann, Glen Ellyn • Ava Blalark, Elgin • Zachary Blankenship, Kildeer • Alberto Bonilla, Elgin • Angélica Borrego, Countryside • \* Vasudha Cidambi, Hoffman Estates • Nathaniel Davison, Geneva • \* Maxim Duncan, Saint Charles • \* Olivia Eftefield, Schaumburg • Vidya Gundlapalli, South Barrington • Talein Hairekian, Schaumburg O + Avak Hairekian, Schaumburg O Jonathan Hirtzig, Streamwood • \* Nohl Ingoldsby, Schaumburg • + Naomi Johnson, South Elgin • Sarah Juan, Geneva • Grace Kerkbashian, Crystal Lake • Abigail Kreeger, Saint Charles O Charlie Liu, Aurora O Alexander Mathew, Oswego O Aanya Navsariwala, Bartlett • \* Savannah Nichols, Elmhurst O Maison Preuss, Bartlett O Hanna Rey, Saint Charles • Emilio Rodriguez, Pingree Grove O Ella Roth, Saint Charles O Vitaly Starkov, Geneva O \*\* Metehan Tandag, Schaumburg O Cara Thomas, Sleepy Hollow O \* Emily Watanapongse, Saint Charles O

### VIOLA

Samantha de Souza, South Elgin ◆
Aayush Desai, Naperville ◆ \* \*
Adeline Grimm, Saint Charles ◆
Derek Hibben, Elburn • \*
Eleanor Maloney, Campton Hills O
Edward McNally, Saint Charles O
Emily Nelson, Chicago O \*
Karthik Ramanathan, Vernon Hills O

### **CELLO**

Saarang Bakre, Bartlett ●
Matthew Brunson, Saint Charles ● \*
Ryan (Max) Lo, Naperville O \*
Tiffany Lu, South Elgin ●
Ephraim Pas, Elmhurst ●
Mallory Pretkelis, Saint Charles ●
Abhishek Ramakrishnan, Inverness O
Ioanna Rendas, Elgin ● \*
Peyton Siegler, Huntley O
Damian Sulikowski, North Barrington O
Alan Taylor, Huntley O
Anushi Varma, Naperville ● \*

### **BASS**

Alexandra de Souza, South Elgin • Mateo Estanislao, Elgin • \*\*
Thor Eysturlid, Geneva •
Isabella Nichols, Elmhurst • \*\*
Ailish Seibert, Elgin •

### FLUTE

Jeewoo Kang, Hoffman Estates ● Francesca Korbitz, Woodridge O Emily Marx, Lake In The Hills ● Cayden Olsen, Elgin ● Taylor Picha, Elgin O \*\*

### **OBOE**

Ella Erickson, Glen Ellyn O \*

### **CLARINET**

Allison Schaffer, West Dundee **O \*** Jaelyn Wallace, Genoa • **\*** 

### **BASSOON**

Korey Krajecki, Huntley • Tyler Kroll, Geneva • \*

### **HORN**

Samantha Ayars, Geneva • O
Brendan Coller, Batavia • O \*
Michelle Gain, Geneva • O \*
Aidan Murray, Glen Ellyn • O

### **TRUMPET**

Daniel Barnas, Geneva ● O Katherine McClellan, Village of Lakewood ● O Norah Quinn, Batavia ● O \*

### **TROMBONE**

Iona Dillon, Crystal Lake • O \*
Ethan Sanderson, Elgin • O

### **BASS TROMBONE**

EJ Ave, Elgin ● O

### **TUBA**

EJ Ave, Elgin ● O Matthew Styrna, Geneva ● O \*

### **PERCUSSION**

Trevor List, Yorkville ● x Maxine Mikkelson, Newark ● x Matthew Ostergard, Geneva **O** x

### PIANO/ORGAN

Katherine Wynn, Elgin • O

- "Phil" Orchestra
- O "Harmonia" Orchestra
- + Concertmaster
- \* Principal
- Chamber Music Institute
- x Percussion Ensemble

### YOUTH SYMPHONY

### VIOLIN

Lindsey Baron, Pingree Grove O \*
Ethan Blankenship, Kildeer ●
Lauren Chang, Wheaton O
Mina Chang, Naperville ●
Alan Chen, Naperville ● \*
Connie Chen, Naperville ●
Rachel Christensen, Mount Pleasant O \*
Zylle Constantino, Gilberts ● + \* \*
Jazmine Dela Rosa,

Lake In The Hills O \* Eliana Eng, South Elgin O Autumn Fitch, Woodstock • Molly Gruman, Aurora • \* Layna Ingoldsby, Schaumburg • Jacy Jacobus, Saint Charles • Perry Li, Algonquin O + \* \* Richard Lu, Warrenville • Samuel Mathew, Oswego• Monish Murali, Naperville • Ethan Park, South Barrington • \* Anand Purushothaman, Naperville O Prashanth Ramachandra, Palatine O Luke Shimizu, Batavia • Micah Shimizu, Batavia • Zachary Stordahl, Cary O \* ∞ Zoe Umlauf, Glen Ellyn O Maya Umlauf, Glen Ellyn O Catherine Winsor,

Campton Hills **O \* ~** Madison Yehling, Geneva **O** 

### **VIOLA**

Lillian Cano, Bartlett O \* ~ Noemi Csutak, Winfield ●
Harry Graham, Saint Charles O \* \* ~ Genevieve Tuffy, Barrington ● \*
Nikhil Venkat, Aurora ● \*
Lucia Wilfong, Saint Charles O \*

### **CELLO**

Nora Brink, Aurora ● \*
Kennedy Buehler,
Campton Hills **O** \*\*

Luke Fosdick, Naperville O \*
Lydia Gruenwald, Lombard ● \* \* ∞
Gabriel Im, Saint Charles ●
Benjamin Irwin, Crystal Lake ●
Megan Kamysz, Saint Charles O
Elizabeth Kerr, Batavia O \*

### **BASS**

Ronald Gorka, South Elgin O Michael Parchaiski, Saint Charles • \* James Petno, Saint Charles • Nathan Throneburg, Saint Charles O \* Samuel Vittetoe, Crystal Lake O

### **FLUTE**

Chanel Antoshin, Elgin **O** \* <u>é</u>
Abigail Creighton, Carol Stream • \*
Chelsea Davis, Oswego **O**Alina Kwon, Hoffman Estates •
Miguel Rodriguez, Elgin **O** 

### **OBOE**

Linnea Diersen, Crystal Lake **O** Audrey Forester, Saint Charles • \* Abigail Sledden, Yorkville **O** \* <u>é</u> Elli Wallace, Genoa •

### **CLARINET**

Axel Aguilera, Aurora ●
Tyler Eng, Oswego ● \*
Zachary George, South Barrington O
Dylan Rhodes, Batavia O \* €

### **BASSOON**

Jacqueline Fernandez, Elgin ● O \* <u>é</u> Nathaniel Tunggal, Aurora ● O

### **CONTRABASSOON**

Jacqueline Fernandez, Elgin ● O \* é

### HORN

Anna Creech, Glen Ellyn • O \* €
Carleen Gussman, Yorkville • O
Brenna Jun, Saint Charles • O
Luke Suarez, Peru • O \* %
Naomi Virgil, Village of Lakewood • O

### **TRUMPET**

Sam Greetis, Lombard • ○
Avanish Narumanchi,
South Barrington • ○
Emanuel Vasquez,
Carpentersville • ○ \* %

### **TROMBONE**

Sarah Leardi, Streamwood ● O Ian Martinez, Carpentersville ● O Daniel White, Batavia ● O ※ %

### TIIRA

James Butcher, Algonquin • O \* %

### **PERCUSSION**

Toby Elliott, Aurora • O x Niku Myers, West Chicago • O x Benjamin Ramm, Geneva • O x

### **HARP**

Taylor Headley, Elmhurst • O

### PIANO/ORGAN

Aidan Murray, Glen Ellyn • O

- "Barber" Orchestra
- O "Nielsen" Orchestra
- + Concertmaster
- \* Principal/Co-principal
- \* Chamber Music Institute
- → Maud Powell String Quartet
- ⅍ Sterling Brass Quintet
- $\sim$  Hanson String Quartet
- $\underline{\acute{e}}$  Earl Clemens Wind Quintet
- x Percussion Ensemble

### **CMI ONLY**

### VIOLIN

Valerie Terdina, Bartlett

### **FLUTE**

Oscar Garcia, Elgin

### IT'S EASY TO DONATE TO EYSO!

EYSO serves as a supportive refuge where students can express themselves freely and create the foundation for a lifelong journey of inquiry, creativity, and growth. Ticket sales and contributions are critical to EYSO's financial vitality and stability, ensuring that we are ready and able to serve future aspiring musicians.

Did you know that...

- Your gift of \$50 helps replace lost ticket sale revenue from in-person concert performances?
- · Your gift of \$100 purchases sheet music for 10 students?
- Your gift of \$500 underwrites tuition assistance for a student who could otherwise not participate in EYSO?

You can make a life-changing investment in a student like Palmer, Trudie, or Andy with your gift to EYSO may we count on you for a gift of \$50 or more?

"EYSO challenges you...each hour is better than the last."

- Palmer, current EYSO student musician

"EYSO has affected me in ways I couldn't have guessed when I started...I've learned the importance of working in a group."

- Trudie, EYSO alumna pursuing professional career in music

"We learned to care for our music and each other, of what it means to be part of something greater than ourselves. These lessons have served me well...as a friend, father, and husband."

- Andy, EYSO alumnus, Principal in national firm

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# AND AND LEGENS

Stories, fairy tales, myths, and legends: these are how we make sense of the world around us. In EYSO's 45th season, explore these myths and legends through music as we build connections between ourselves and the wider world.

### **ORIGINS**

Sunday, November 15, 2020

### WANDERERS

Sunday, March 14, 2021

### **HEROES**

Sunday, May 9, 2021

FALL CAMP August 28-30, 2020 CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE CONCERTS

November 8, 2020 April 18, 2021 **OPEN HOUSE** 

February 21, 2021 April 18, 2021 2021-22 SEASON AUDITIONS

May 27-30, 2021



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Concert Information

Proud supporters of the Performing & Fine Arts in the Fox Valley.

S. E. (Stu) Ainsworth Family

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