CANVAS

OUR 49TH SEASON // NOVEMBER 10, 2024 // **SOUNDSCAPES**

SOUNDSCAPES



How do you paint a symphony?

With the flick of a brush, painters can manipulate elements of color, contrast, and texture to craft meaning from visual inputs and create powerful emotional experiences from everyday tools and images. In EYSO's 49th season, explore how composers transform simple soundwaves into extraordinary art through the awesome sonic palette of the orchestra.

I. CANVAS

White. A blank page or canvas.
The challenge: bring order to the whole.
Through design
Composition

Tension

Balance

Light

And harmony.

The 1984 musical Sunday in the Park with George opens—perhaps predictably—with the eponymous George sitting in the aforementioned park. (The day? Sunday.) Immediately, though, with these words, our protagonist makes clear that this is no simple blow-by-blow account of a day. Stephen Sondheim, one of the world's great composers, is about to take us on a journey to explore central concepts of artistic identity: the responsibilities of artists to their creative muse, the role of artists in telling stories and capturing the world as they perceive it to be, and even the relationship between artists and those in their world.

The first challenge? A blank page, as George grapples with both its challenge—to bring order to the whole—and the endless possibilities within. His opening monologue is an ode to canvas: to what it is, what it isn't, and what it can be.

Think back to the most recent time you faced a blank page, whether metaphorical or literal. Perhaps it was the start of a new initiative at work, or the redesign of a physical space...or perhaps it was a fresh and crisp sheet of paper at the start of a writing project. (As I write, erase, scratch out, and rewrite, this one hits closest to home.) Our language is filled with different examples that speak to both the promise and the terror of starting anew: the blank page, the empty canvas, or the clean slate, all awesomely boundless and terrifyingly open-ended before joy emerges as lines, colors, words, and notes start to flow.

For many artists, choosing the canvas (or more broadly speaking, the medium) is the critical first decision that starts the journey along the path from idea to art. The ramifications of that decision reverberate through and influence each choice that follows. Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel wouldn't be the same on a postage stamp; Herman Melville's Moby-Dick would read differently as a haiku. Music is the same: composers often make decisions early in the process that inform everything to follow. How can we, as the performing artists who help bring a composer's vision to life, help understand and illuminate these choices as we take them and frame them as our own?

Since Fall Camp, EYSO musicians have explored these ideas and more through music, visual art, and spirited engagement with big ideas. Using our "expert noticer" approach, we interrogated our music, drawing connections between it and the rich world of visual art. We speculated as to composer intent, and we crafted our own images and visual metaphors to fire our imagination. In *Soundscapes*, our 49th season, we continue to explore big ideas, celebrate and cultivate curiosity, and examine how we fit into the world around us...all while exploring music through the spectacular art that we study and perform. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Matthew Sheppard Artistic Director 2021, 2007, 2000 YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE YEAR

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Dear parents, family, friends, and neighbors,

Joining the EYSO feels a bit like coming home. I didn't grow up in Elgin or the surrounding area, but the culture, spirit, and philosophy of the EYSO feel like a familiar place. It's like returning to the house you grew up in, full of nostalgia and familiarity, but also new and ready to be discovered again. You know all the little nooks and crannies, but not how they've changed or been reimagined.

In my first week here, Youth Symphony and Philharmonia participated in side-by-side rehearsals with the St. Olaf College Orchestra, my alma mater. The four years I spent as an "Orchie" defined not only my relationship to music, but to my community and the world around me. Playing in the St. Olaf Orchestra wasn't just an opportunity to engage creatively, challenge myself, or be "cultured." It taught me how to see myself in others, and others in me, how to relate to each other across difference through the experiences we share, and how to nurture the unique sparks that make each of us come alive. I learned how to step beyond myself and into the vibrant communities and worlds around me.

Since stepping into the EYSO as a guest at Fall Camp in August, it's been clear that it plays the same defining role in these students' lives. These incredible young people embrace exploration and curiosity, they take pride in each other's accomplishments, they help each other to be their best, and they are driven to create something new and special for each other, and for you.

Take a moment and think about how special that is. Then, think about what our communities, our jobs, our world would be like if more people had experiences like these students.

You're here today to hear these exceptional young musicians play, and I promise you will witness some incredible performances. As you watch and listen, notice how the students interact with each other, the way they grin in support or chuckle at private rehearsal jokes, the way they move together and embody the emotion in the music. Notes and rhythms are just the beginning for these students; our ensemble directors have coached them to dig deeper, to find their connection with the emotion and the music and to share that with you.

I am so excited and grateful to be here at the EYSO, to help grow these ensembles and deepen the experience of these students, and to share the EYSO difference with audiences and communities beyond these walls. That is the mission that we are all participating in together, and it wouldn't happen without everyone—students, parents, audiences, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners—who works together to make it possible.

I look forward to joining you in the mission.

aniel Mages

Daniel/Mr. Meyers

Daniel Mevers Executive Director

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CANVAS

1:30PM

PRELUDE

Michael Naughton, interim conductor

SINFONIA/PHILHARMONIA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE Joe Beribak, director

SINFONIA

Greg Schwaegler, conductor

4:30PM

BRASS CHOIR

Dan Sartori, conductor

FLUTE CHOIR

Ruth Cavanaugh, conductor

PHILHARMONIA

Aaron Kaplan, conductor

7:00PM

YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

YOUTH SYMPHONY

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLEJoe Beribak, director

EYSO is an In-Residence Ensemble at the Elgin Community College Arts Center.

PROGRAM / 1:30 CONCERT PRELUDE

Michael Naughton, interim conductor

Nimrod

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) arr. Mitchell Bender

A composition beloved by audiences and performers alike, *Nimrod* is beautifully subdued and introspective, yet heartfelt and passionate. It is the ninth and most famous variation of the *Enigma Variations* by Edward Elgar. Each movement is a variation on a melody dedicated to a friend or family member with the intent to create a musical homage. The composer dedicated this movement to a dear friend, A. J. Jaeger. Its title refers to the Biblical hunter Nimrod, a connection to Jaeger's last name, which is German for "hunter."

Elgar spoke of a memory that inspired the movement: "a long summer evening talk, when my friend [Jaeger] grew nobly eloquent (as only he could) on the grandeur of Beethoven, and especially his slow movements." Similarly, the piece is slow, and the melody builds from the faintest pianissimo to the grandest fortissimo before retreating again. It is sublime in its use of a repetitive simple melody and varying dynamics to evoke the deep love between close friends. The orchestra practiced diligently to use their bows to alter the volume and balance of the music, which is no small task. They developed a keen sensitivity to its dynamics and expressive playing while discovering music's profound emotional power.



"Nimrod" refers to August Jaeger, Elgar's dear friend and publisher. Jaeger died young in 1909, and twenty years later Elgar wrote that "His place has been occupied but never filled."



Want to learn more about Elgar's Enigma Variations?
Scan code to read program notes

Scan code to read program notes from the November 13, 2022 Youth Symphony 7PM performance of Elgar's Enigma Variations.

Over the Rainbow

Harold Arlen (1905-1986) and Yip Harburg (1896-1981) arr. Andy Masters

Over the Rainbow is a signature piece for Prelude, having been arranged by Andy Masters, Prelude's conductor from 2010-2020. He first arranged the famous song for string quartet to be played at a friend's wedding. He then reworked it for the Prelude Orchestra, and it has since been performed only by this orchestra.

Though many of the musicians were passingly familiar with this iconic song from the 1939 movie, most had not seen *The Wizard of Oz*. The arrangement became a great tool for discussing how arrangers and composers use finely crafted, often unnoticed details to create overall mood and expression in music, much like when you examine the details of a painting after observing the whole. The musicians spent time learning about the song's lyrics and the movie's plot to understand the song's intent. They also worked to fine-tune the piece's details so the audience could reminisce about the time a young girl from Kansas and her dog got swept into a magical adventure and returned home with a greater sense of love and belonging.

[M. Naughton]



Joe Beribak, director

Lift-off!

Russell Peck (1945-2009)

For many forms of art, intensely collaborative projects are the exception. The Van Goghs, Michelangelos, Kahlos, Beethovens, and Goethes of the world are known for toiling individually in the studio more than collectively on the stage. Performing artists such as musicians, however, regularly work together to craft their art. A significant part of the work we do in rehearsals each week revolves around discovering our shifting roles as a piece of music unfolds. Often, some players create a musical texture upon which a soloist plays, analogous to how an artist paints on a canvas. This concert theme affords us the opportunity to examine those accompanimental textures in detail.

Lift-off! is unusual in the way it unfolds, and it offers a unique opportunity to examine these textures. It doesn't fit neatly into any of the historical forms of the Classical or Baroque era. Rather, it follows a novel narrative pathway, progressing in stages from a single musical line, through polyphony (multiple lines), to homophony (solo with accompaniment), ultimately ending with a stark accompanimental texture only, without soloist. It is a form reminiscent of a painting being systematically stripped of its paint to reveal the canvas underneath. Listen for solo lines that are interrupted, covered over, passed around, and ultimately transformed into accompanimental textures as Lift-off! thwarts expectations at each turn, never giving listeners a chance to set their feet on the solid ground

[J. Beribak]

of familiarity.



SINFONIA

Greg Schwaegler, conductor

Concerto Grosso

- I. Intrada
- II. Burlesca ostinata
- III. Sarabande
- IV. Scherzo
- V. March and Reprise

Many people who are familiar with the word "concerto" may find it surprising that the meaning of the original Latin word is "to contend" or "go against." We think of concerts as acts of collaboration, but the nature of a concerto is to pit sounds against each other in friendly competition. This is most obvious in a solo concerto where a single instrument is set in relief against the sound of the full orchestra—a full orchestra that may itself alternate between muscular ensemble statements and subservient accompaniment backgrounds.

In the Baroque period—roughly I600 to I750—the concerto grosso was a common form of music. Here, instead of a single soloist, a small group of players would be set against a larger group of musicians, just like the solo concerto model, but bigger...so a concerto grosso! Baroque composers such as Corelli, Handel, and Bach used the concerto grosso model to create a greater expressive range in dynamic and timbral effects.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) arr. Greg Schwaegler



Ralph Vaughn Williams conducting the London Symphony at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 1946

In 1910, the English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, gained great popularity for his piece Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis. Although the piece is categorized as a free-form fantasy, its orchestration is a kind of extension of the concerto grosso model. Sometimes described as "three organ stops," the Fantasia uses three unequal groups of string instruments: a large string orchestra, a small string orchestra, and a string quartet. The interplay of these three groups creates depth and variety within the all-string setting.

Forty years later, this success may have been on Vaughan Williams' mind when he was approached by three music educators with the request to write a new piece for the string program at their school. Vaughan Williams quickly hit upon the idea to write a piece for three orchestras, each of a different skill level, that would allow them to perform together. Indeed, the parts for the youngest students would consist of mostly open strings. The work premiered in November 1950 at Albert Hall with more than 400 musicians performing.

The Concerto Grosso's five movements are a tour of various styles and tempos, though all keeping with the fashion of Vaughan Williams' mid-20th-century English harmonies. *Intrada* is a grand entrance, introducing the sound of the full ensemble and its various divisions. *Burlesca ostinata* presents a theme in the open strings that playfully serves as the foundation of the entire movement, similar to the Baroque idea of a passacaglia. Listen carefully, as this theme is sometimes nearly invisible but always present! *Sarabande* features a solemn, somber melody that passes through a tender moment for two players—piano and cello—before expanding into a deeply felt climax with the full orchestra. *Scherzo* is a spritely chase in triple meter, while *March* is a charming, light-hearted British melody in a march style. A *Reprise* of the opening movement rounds out the entire work.

In today's performance, Sinfonia expands on Vaughan Williams' composition by adding winds, percussion, and piano. The added instruments allow us to go further in using the concert hall as our canvas. How much of the space should we fill with sound at any particular moment? Where will certain instruments be placed on the stage? Will the sound appear in the front rows of the ensemble or the back? How will the natural reverberance of the hall contribute to our performance choices with regards to tempo and volume? We hope you will enjoy today's confluence of musical form, orchestration, melody, accompaniment, and the concert hall in which you now sit!



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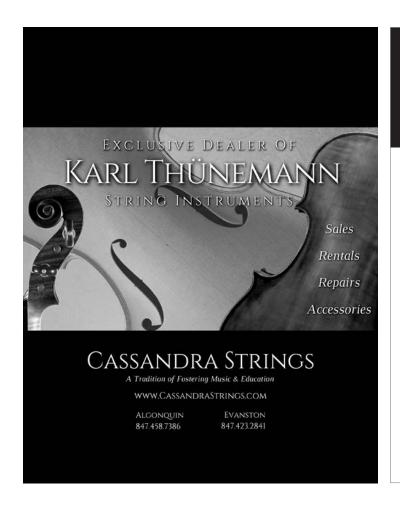
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PROGRAM / 4:30 CONCERT BRASS CHOIR

Dan Sartori, conductor

Fanfares Liturgiques

I. Annonciation

- II. Evangile
- III. Apocalypse (Scherzo)

Henri Tomasi (1901-1971)

"Music that doesn't come from the heart isn't music." ~Henri Tomasi

Henri Tomasi was a French composer and conductor born in Marseilles. His parents were from Corsica, where his grandmother remained. During the summer, Tomasi stayed with his grandmother and learned many traditional Corsican songs. These, along with the early films of Charlie Chaplin, influenced much of his work.

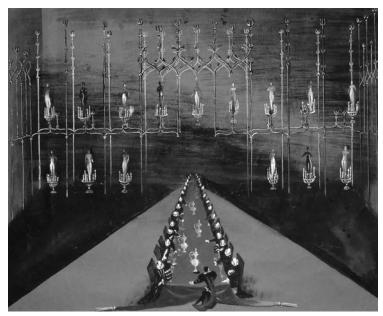
Tomasi excelled at improvisation at the piano yet was described by his friend and fellow musician Maurice Franck as "an inveterate workaholic." He was one of the first radio conductors, but he spent equal time composing as conducting. In 1939 he was drafted into the French army and served as a marching band conductor at the Villefranche-sur-Mer fort southwest of present-day Monaco. Tomasi became disillusioned by World War II and subsequently rejected all faith in God, which is particularly interesting in the context of this piece.

Tomasi loved the theater and loved writing music for wind instruments. The Fanfares Liturgiques for brass and percussion are musical vignettes (admittedly, the final movement is quite long to be labeled as a vignette) that are symphonic in nature, though they derived from his opera Don Juan de Mañara. Fanfares Liturgiques was premiered first in 1947, even though the opera had been completed in 1944. (The full opera wasn't given a staged performance until 1956 in Munich, Germany.)

The first movement, Annonciation, depicts the main character, Miguel, renouncing his past life of depravity in order to marry the innocent and pure Girolama. In the opera, Girolama dies shortly after their marriage, and Miguel Mañara becomes a monk, devoting his life to charity and selflessness. The second movement, Evangile, evokes Miguel's reading of sacred text as he struggles with doubt over his piety and grief over his wife's death. The third movement, Apocalypse, features raucous hunting horn calls as a picture of the apocalyptic horsemen, as an aged Miguel faces a final withering temptation to renounce his faith.

Tomasi's statement on music coming from the heart came in response to criticism from his musical contemporaries that his music remained firmly tonal, even as many others began committing to post-tonal and atonal idioms in the

avant-garde. He was certainly responding with a modicum of criticism himself, insinuating that those composers were straying from "writing from their hearts." How ironic that this most famous of works by Tomasi chooses religious stories as its canvas, even as he himself staunchly rejected God. Even the word liturgical connotes something having to do with a religious service or with religious rites. Being that Tomasi rejected all religious insinuations, one could certainly make the case that this piece fails to meet the basic criterion for music he lays out in the quote above, since he claimed to have no religious fervor whatsoever. Criticism of the work asks the question how a heart empty of religious zeal could produce music with deep religious undertones?



Stage design by Helmut Jürgens for Henri Tomasi's opera, *Don Juan de Manara*, 1956

Nevertheless, the Fanfares Liturgiques is a work of art with great depth of musical meaning. From polytonality to extensive use of mutes in the third movement, Tomasi clearly understands the capabilities of his instrumental canvas (that is, what brass instruments are capable of). He deftly employs the soundscapes at his disposal to portray the announcement of a changed life in movement one, the open-air sermon of outdoor tent preaching with the subsequent altar call in movement two, and the deathly temptations of worldly pleasure that threaten to drag the pious down to hell in movement three.

Beyond the technical demands of this piece, which are considerable (especially for the horns), Tomasi's work provided the brass choir with an opportunity to explore tonal options often not employed by a work for this ensemble. The polytonality of the horn ballad in the first movement, as well as the horror movie sounds of the third movement, are prime examples of this stretched tonality. How do you understand notes that seem to clash with what everyone else is playing around you? Well, you find the people in the ensemble you do match with, of course! We spent a lot of time discovering who had matching parts across the ensemble, a strategy that has clear ramifications for ensemble playing in any piece these students will come across in the future. This has been a great work for opening up our ears and learning how to listen in an ensemble. I am confident you will be amazed at what a brass choir can sound like in the hands of a master composer and arranger like Tomasi.

[D. Sartori]



Henri Tomasi in Cassis, France, 1965

FLUTE CHOIR

Ruth Cavanaugh, conductor

For Love of Swans

Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

In September, Flute Choir members each chose one of three works of visual art that, to each individual member, best represented the concept of color value (darkness/lightness). We used this metaphor of color value and applied it to various aspects of performance: articulation style, dynamic levels, vibrato intensity, and more.

I deliberately selected works of art representing contrasting eras, cultures, and mediums. It was fascinating to hear flutists' rationale for their choices to represent color value and its application to flute performance.

For Love of Swans was commissioned by the National Flute Association (NFA) to honor the memory of Phil Swanson, cofounder of the organization. Catherine McMichael is a Michigan-based pianist, composer, arranger, and educator. In addition to her award-winning works for flute choir, McMichael has written for the Canadian Brass, Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, and the Saginaw Choral Society, among other ensembles.



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Flowers in Four Seasons
Wu Zhang (b. 1670), 18th-century Chinese court artist.
New acquisition, Art Institute of Chicago



No. 12 Special Georgia O'Keefe, Charcoal on paper drawing; MoMA, New York (Not currently on view)

Big and Bright

Timothy Hagen (b. 1981)

Timothy Hagen is an internationally acclaimed composer, performer, scholar, and educator. His accolades include numerous awards in prestigious solo competitions including the Myrna Brown Artist Competition, as well as solo performances with orchestras across the country. He is currently the principal flutist of the Dubuque Symphony. Hagen's compositions have frequently won awards from the National Flute Association.

Timothy Hagen was commissioned to write a celebratory work for flute choir to be performed at Floot Fire Workshops during 2018. At the time, the organization was in its 25th year, under the leadership of the exceptional Texas flutist/educators Kimberly Clark and Claire Johnson. The dramatic entrances by section symbolize the letters of the founders' names. Both the title and the thematic material are derived from the popular tune, Deep in the Heart of Texas.

[R. Cavanaugh]

PHILHARMONIA

Aaron Kaplan, conductor

Hymn for Everyone

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Jessie Montgomery was born in New York City in 1981 and is one of the leading voices in the cross sections between classical music and its relevancy to the 21st century. Raised in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, she began studying the violin at an early age and received her bachelor's degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School and then a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia from New York University. Her compositional oeuvre boasts dozens of pieces for orchestra, chamber ensemble, and instrumental and vocal solo—all with a focus on improvisation, language, and social justice. In 2021, she was appointed by Riccardo Muti, Zell Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as the ensemble's Mead Composer-in-Residence for a three-year term, ending this past June 2024. As the CSO's composer-in-residence, Montgomery received commissions to compose 3 new orchestral works



Jessie Montgomery after the world premier of *Hymn for Everyone*. Performed by Chicago Symphony Orchestra, April 28, 2022.

for the CSO, curated the CSO's MusicNOW program, and worked with the Negaunee Music Institute to oversee the orchestra's educational and community activities.

Her first commission for the CSO, along with a co-commission from the National Symphony Orchestra and Music Academy of the West, resulted in the creation of this piece: Hymn for Everyone. Written against the backdrop of the social upheaval during the summer of 2020 along with the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic still raging strongly 18 months after it first began, Hymn for Everyone begins with a simple hymn-like melody in the solo horn and viola section, before growing into more complex and chromatic layers.

In her own program note, Montgomery writes:

Hymn for Everyone is based on a hymn that I wrote during the spring of 2021 that was a reflection on personal and collective challenges happening at the time. Up until that point, I had resisted composing "response pieces" to the pandemic and social-political upheaval, and had been experiencing an intense writer's block.

But one day, after a long hike, this hymn just came to me — a rare occurrence. The melody traverses through different orchestral "choirs" and is accompanied by the rest of the ensemble. It is a kind of meditation for orchestra, exploring various washes of color and timbre through each repetition of the melody.

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

- III. Allegretto grazioso—Molto vivace
- Allegro con brio

In today's performance, the order of movements will be reversed. Return in May for the full symphony in order.

Antonín Dvořák was revered, both in his time and today, as one of the most versatile of the Romantic composers. The Romantic Era of music (ca. 1830s-1910s) has many characteristics: larger orchestras, longer pieces of music, increased orchestral virtuosity, a rise in programmatic music (music written to express a specific idea, story, etc.), and perhaps one of the most consequential movements: the rise of nationalistic music from different European

countries. For the majority of the Baroque and Classical periods, the center of the classical music world was Germany and Austria, but the Romantic period not only saw musical advances from these two countries, but also composers from many different European countries bringing their own cultural melodies and idioms into the Western European style of classical composition. Russia had Tchaikovsky, Finland had Sibelius, Norway had Grieg, Poland had Chopin, Britain had Elgar, France had Berlioz, and the Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) had the likes of Smetana, Janacek, and Antonín Dvořák.

No composer married the aspects of their folk music with the European symphonic tradition better than Dvořák, infusing his compositions with melodic and rhythmic aspects of the music from his native Bohemia. Dvořák was a prolific composer, writing nine symphonies, choral music, symphonic poems, concerti, chamber music, opera, and the ever-popular *Slavonic Dances*. In 1885, Dvořák premiered his Seventh Symphony to great acclaim; a dark and stormy symphony that was held up as an example of the next great romantic symphony, following in the footsteps of Beethoven and Brahms. For his Eighth Symphony, Dvořák made the conscious choice to write something warmer and lighter in tone.

Symphony No. 8 was written in the late summer of 1889 on the occasion of Dvořák's election to the Bohemian Academy of Science, Literature and Arts. Moreso than his other symphonies, Dvořák drew inspiration from his roots and most of the melodic material that occurs in the symphony is inspired and quoted from Bohemian folk music. In addition to the melodies, many of the rhythmic motifs throughout the piece are also from Bohemian dance music traditions. Throughout the course of the *Soundscapes* season, Philharmonia will be examining, preparing, rehearsing, and performing movements from the Eighth symphony on each concert cycle, culminating in a performance of the entire symphony in May. Today, we present to you two movements: the third and then the first.



Dvořák's summer home in Vysoká u Příbramě where he composed Symphony No. 8

III. Allegretto grazioso

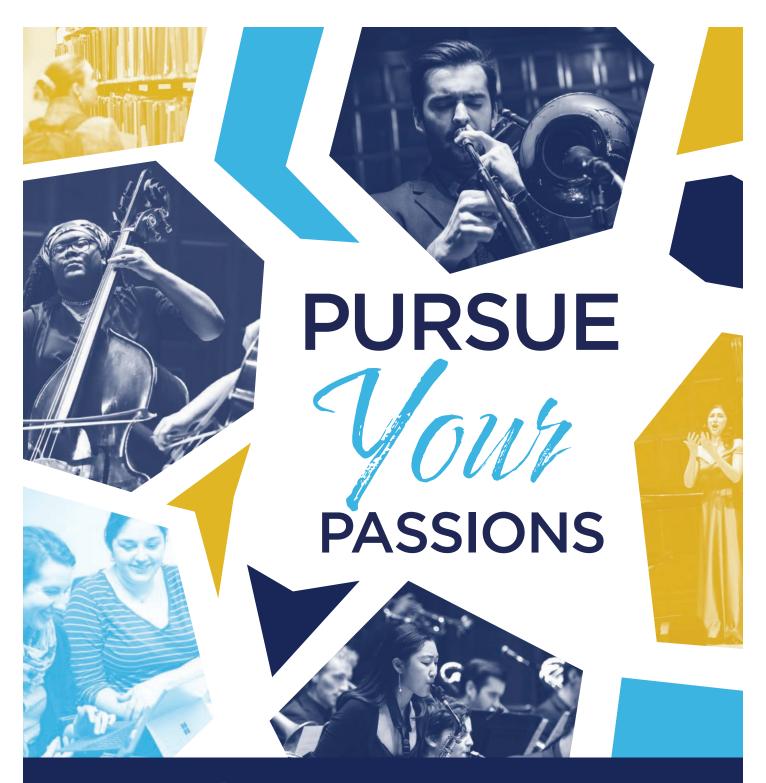
For centuries, classical symphonic composers used the following structure for the four-movement symphony:

- · Movement I: slow introduction, moving to Allegro (fast)
- Movement II: Adagio (slow)
- · Movement III: Dance movement
- · Movement IV: Journey to a triumphant ending in a major key

The third movement in the time of Mozart and Haydn was typically a dance movement: a minuet and trio. Minuets were common dances of the time and usually had a faster minuet section in $\sqrt[3]{4}$ time, followed by a slightly slower trio section, and then a repeat of the minuet section, creating an A-B-A form. In the early 19^{th} century, Beethoven altered the third movement dance form from a Minuet-Trio to a Scherzo, another dance in $\sqrt[3]{4}$ time, but with mischievous intent. A scherzo, meaning joke or prank, is a fast and lively composition with a fast A section, followed by a contrasting B section, before restating the A section again, continuing the A-B-A form. Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 scherzo movement is more of a melancholy waltz, with a lyrical and sweeping melody in the violins, accompanied by hurried and rustling triplets in the flutes and clarinets in G minor. The B section occurs in G major with a sighing musical figure that goes up and comes down, all against a hemiola "2 against 3" pattern in the cello and bass. Dvořák repeats the A section again, thus completing the A-B-A form, but then jumps to a bombastic coda at the end providing new melodic material and excitement to close out the waltz movement.

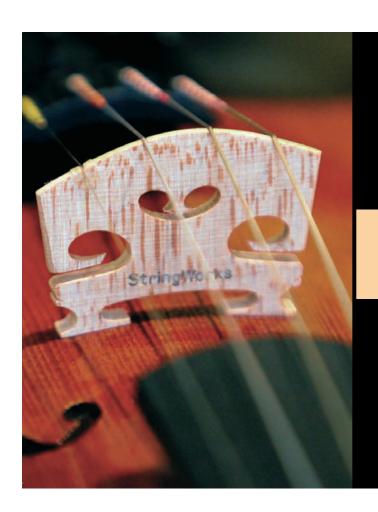
I. Allegro con brio

The opening statement of the symphony is both a yearning cry and an optimistic call in the cellos, clarinets, bassoons, and horns that takes us on the journey from G minor to G major within the first 17 measures of the piece. Followed by a bird call in the flute, the energy and inertia builds into something of a G major celebration with muscular rhythms and jubilant excitement before the second theme is introduced by the violas and cellos. The movement deals with the juxtaposition of duality: minor vs. major, duple vs. triple, staccato vs. legato, and soft vs. loud. These ideas are expanded upon in the tumultuous development, leading to a stormy and chromatic climax that ultimately subsides back into G major when clouds clear away and the bird call is heard again, this time on an English horn. The Coda is another wild celebration that uses repeated rhythms to build excitement to a very robust and abrupt ending.





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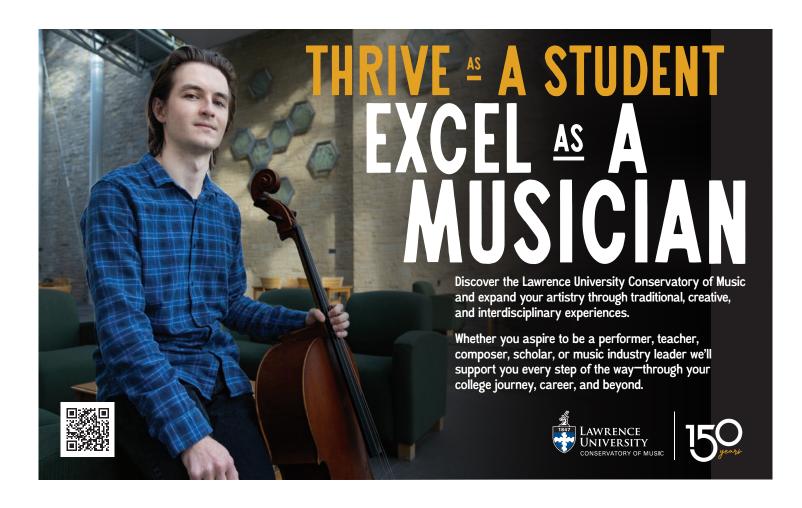




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PROGRAM / 7:00 CONCERT YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) orch. Leopold Stokowski

What's the difference between an organ and an orchestra?

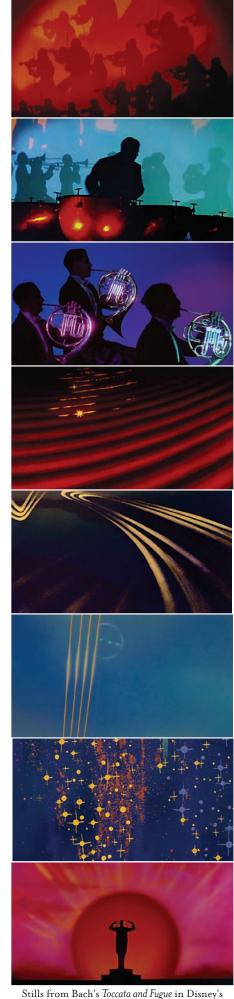
If that sounds like the setup to a joke...well, it isn't. Rather, that is the question at the core of a musical exploration of the magnificent *Toccata and Fugue*. Made famous in part by Leopold Stokowski's masterful orchestral transcription, the *Toccata and Fugue* was written in the mid-1730s by Johann Sebastian Bach. Or at least, we think it was: scholars are split on whether it was written by Bach or was mistakenly attributed to him after the fact by Johannes Ringk, Bach's faithful but error-prone copyist.

There is no doubt, however, that Stokowski's transcription is part of what launched it from relative obscurity (an organ piece among many by Bach) into absolute stardom and near-instantaneous recognition from afficionados and newcomers to classical music alike. (If you aren't sure you know the piece, just wait until the opening few measures: this is music you know.) In 1937, Walt Disney was experimenting with ways to move from utilizing classical music as a slapstick-esque accompaniment into centering it as a narrative force within an animated feature of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. A chance encounter between Stokowski and Disney left Stokowski intrigued enough that he offered to conduct the orchestra for free, recognizing the potential impact of this visual and auditory collaboration. (His agent wrote to Disney, saying that Stokowski was "really serious in his offer to do the music for nothing. He had some very interesting ideas on instrumental coloring, which would be perfect for an animation medium.") Quickly, the potential of the project ballooned, and Stokowski was contracted to be an integral part of the entire creative process for the film we know today.

To make the strongest possible statement from the outset, that creative team chose to begin Fantasia, their visionary new link between animation and music, with the Toccata and Fugue. But why? What about the music lent itself to animation? As Youth Symphony students explored Stokowski's transcription through Disney's interpretation, they analyzed the animation techniques and, importantly, considered how the animators' decisions contributed to their own understanding and interpretation of the music. Ultimately, they came to the conclusion that Disney's interpretation was exactly that: an interpretation of Stokowski's interpretation of Bach's original work. It wasn't the "right" visualization, but rather one way of framing the work and bringing it to life—of making the notes leap off the page and come alive in a specific way. And, ultimately, that was our job as performers, too: to use Stokowski's score as a canvas, but to recognize that we as the orchestra had a critical role in the next step of crafting an image.

Our Youth Symphony interpretation of *Toccata and Fugue* centered around two main concepts. The first—which they felt the Disney animators aimed to capture, too—was the pivot from "stillness" as a musical concept in the Toccata (the first half of the work) to "motion" in the Fugue. These had serious timbral and tonal implications on us, as we had to adjust our sound and our approach to create the feeling of stillness as time rolled forward, or to instill a vibrancy of motion through long repeated passages. The second concept was the idea of space. Could we utilize literal space—our rehearsal room, and this Blizzard Theatre—to emulate and channel the immensity of a cathedral organ with all the stops pulled out…but with the tremendous color palette of an orchestra?

What's the difference between the two? Listen and decide.



Stills from Bach's *Toccata and Fugue* in Disney's *Fantasia*

YOUTH SYMPHONY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Joe Beribak, director

Carpe Diem

Susan K. Powell (b. 1971)

A canvas is a starting point for a painting. It is the surface upon which a new creation is placed. One such musical canvas is the form of a piece—the structure that both organizes the notes and allows for creative freedom within it. Composers often start with a traditional form in mind and place their notes in that form. While they may alter the form for creative reasons, it gives them a tried-and-true framework in which to develop musical themes.

Carpe Diem employs the sonata-allegro form, made popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. This form was originally conceived in terms of harmony. That is, the form took its shape from playing a pair of themes in different keys, developing those themes through various key areas, and ultimately reconciling those themes in the same home key from which the piece began. Carpe Diem, however, uses only non-pitched percussion instruments. This is a radical departure for his canvas: instruments requiring a total avoidance of harmony matched with a form built on it! Here's how Powell "paints" on the "sonata-allegro canvas."

A powerful slow introduction immediately grabs the listener's attention, framing the sonic picture. Next, a five-beat pattern is built up atop an ostinato: this is the primary theme. The transition section that follows intersperses drum fills with this primary theme, until the striking timbral change of engaged snares signals to the listener that the secondary theme is approaching. This secondary theme features rapid virtuosic snare drum playing accentuated by loud "piggyback cymbal" crashes. These two themes (and the transitional material) are developed in a conversational manner, in which the players complete each other's gestures. After returning to the primary theme for the recapitulation, Powell gives the listeners a surprise: instead of returning to the secondary theme, she continues with the conversational playing from the development, but now much busier. A raucous coda section rounds out this virtuosic celebration of drums and life that has helped lift our Youth Symphony percussionists to new heights of groove, pocket, and ensemble cohesion.

[J. Beribak]



We [Toby and Jessie] would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of Mr. Jeff King. Mr. King was a percussionist, performer, and private lesson instructor, and taught countless EYSO percussionists over the past twenty years; ourselves included. He facilitated incredible growth in both of us, and developed our technique and passion for music. Our favorite memories with Mr. King were our unofficial jazz trio jam sessions. On multiple occasions, we met with Mr. King together in his studio to play the twelve-bar blues on the drumset and marimba while Mr. King played keyboard. These improv sessions were spaces where we could experiment with new rhythms and melodies, and we cherished the time we spent making "sick beats" in the studio. Mr. King also encouraged us to perform our first duet together, and greatly enhanced not only our rhythmic abilities but the cooperation and nonverbal communication that will prove to be crucial in Percussion Ensemble performances such as this one. After his passing of cancer in October, we decided to perform this piece, Carpe Diem, in honor of his dedication to percussion and to his students. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all he has done for us, as neither of us would be where we are today without him. He will be greatly missed by his friends, family, and all of us students whom he impacted so deeply.

YOUTH SYMPHONY

Matthew Sheppard, conductor

Symphony No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 70

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

- I. Allegro
- II. Moderato
- III. Presto
- IV. Largo
- V. Allegretto—Allegro

The last three movements are performed without interruption.

The year was 1945. After six years of war, the world was beginning the arduous process of peace, with countries and communities hoping to recover some sense of normalcy. Many turned to arts and culture in hopes of invigorating their battle-weary populace and re-engaging national pride and unity in the light of such devastation. Expecting greatness, Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union turned to its pre-eminent composer Dmitri Shostakovich, who had inspired hope with his seventh symphony written for the siege of Leningrad during the war. Shostakovich had

long abandoned the 'dangerous' atonality of the I930s in conformity with the governmental 'just [fair] criticism' of his opera Lady Macbeth, and he was on the cusp of composing his ninth symphony. The shadow of Beethoven loomed large over any composer reaching toward their own ninth, as "The Ninth" had long been synonymous with majesty, fraternal unity, and the most elevated and noble of sentiments. There could hardly have been a better and more appropriate time for him to reach this, what was expected to be his magnum opus.

Instead, he gave us *this* ninth symphony.

With his sharp wit, biting irony, and quirky humor, Shostakovich did anything but follow in the grand tradition of Beethoven's ninth. Painting well-outside the lines of conventional expectations for a ninth symphony, he peered behind Beethoven's monumental work all the way back to the traditional symphonic forms of the 18th century, utilizing not Beethoven's composition as his template but rather



Soviet soldiers marching in Red Square, Moscow during a victory parade on June 24th, 1945

that of Beethoven's teacher, Franz Joseph Haydn. Reveling in the joy of thwarted expectations, he combined these anachronistic forms and idioms with his own characteristic wit in this delightful musical joke of a symphony.

From its very opening phrase, the symphony giggles at itself. Hiding behind the appearance of a balanced and predictable Classical phrase, it is filled with quirky moments—little jolts of the 20th century bursting through its disguise. The opening four measures could be from a lost Haydn symphony but for one thing: the surprising and unexpected G^b with an impolite trill and accent giving the listener a jab in the ribs.



Shostakovich spins away quickly, as if to give cover to his joke: nothing to see here! But throughout the first movement—and the entire symphony—he playfully sets up and deviates from expectations. In Youth Symphony, we dove into the humor of the music, taking advantage of a certain playful sarcasm that these young artists embody to activate moments of delight and spontaneous joy.

As always, though, Shostakovich has more in store. While the overall mood of the symphony is buoyant and joyful, the historical canvas on which it was painted rips through the façade at times, lurching, stumbling, and screaming its way into the foreground with moments of overwhelming terror or debilitating depression. These quicksilver changes between brilliant humor and devastating truth show an enormous palette for color and emotion—one that Youth Symphony musicians use to incredible effect.

Each individual movement contains moments of both worlds, as does the entire arc of the symphony. The first movement is mostly joyful and charming, whereas the second lives in a darker, more subtly terrifying world. Predictably, the third movement is a brilliant scherzo, throwing joke after joke at the orchestra and audience with notes almost too fast to hear (or play!), pivoting from traditional symphonic music to a Spanish fandango, and with hocket (hiccupping) rhythms abounding. But in the end of its short four minutes, something happens, and the music unravels, falling down a rabbit hole into something that is, perhaps, more sinister.

The fourth movement confirms this suspicion with a stentorian pronouncement from the low brass, alternating with a recitative-like solo from the bassoon, one of the instruments most capable of imitating the human voice. Has Shostakovich finally realized the momentousness of the ninth, and of this specific symphony's place in history? Nope.

After playing at seriousness, Shostakovich confirms the joke in the finale, stringing us along until exploding into laughter with its riotous conclusion. In exploring this masterpiece of musical humor, Youth Symphony explored its context—its canvas—to help better appreciate Shostakovich's little jokes with a wry smile, as well as hear the moments when darker sentiments threaten to overcome the humor...but never quite do.

[M. Sheppard]



Dmitri Shostakovich with Yevgeny Mravinsky. Mravinsky conducted the world premier of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9.

Mravinsky gave world premieres of seven of Shostakovich's symphonies: 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. He refused to conduct Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 'Babi Yar', which caused a rift between the composer and conductor.

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Paige Xu, Naperville

CELLO

Nolan Bluhm, Carpentersville Luca Cangelosi, Lake in the Hills Autumn Davis, St. Charles Lilia Gao, Naperville Natalie Juan, Geneva Sarah Krohn, St. Charles Christopher Lipscomb, Oswego Kieran Murray, Glen Ellyn * Kate Orozco, Carol Stream Eliza Puntuzs, Wheaton Luz Rodelo-Bristol, South Elgin * Maleyah Rodriguez, Naperville Tenley Samson, Naperville Anagha Sheethal, Naperville Jordan Slovik, Bartlett Molly Smith, Elgin *

BASS

Shawn Chen, Naperville Kathryn Davison, Geneva * Lauren Hermany, Barrington *

FLUTE

Faith Heine, Carpentersville Jenna Mack, Elgin Katelyn Manoj, Algonquin Gwenneth Nika, West Chicago Divija Ram, Hoffman Estates Shriya Rao, Aurora

OBOE

Taylor Long, St. Charles Ainsley William, Elmhurst

CLARINET

Nathan Barrett, Chicago *
Cassandra LoVerde, Tinley Park
Sophia Rubin, St. Charles *
Lily Wennemar, Elburn

BASSOON

Jonah Rurack, Hampshire Adam Schwaegler, Naperville

HORN

Brooke Bieker, Aurora Tyler Hashem, Batavia

TRUMPET

Morgan Doyle, Oswego Carl Henricksen, Bartlett

TROMBONI

Kendall Sweet, Hampshire *
Noah Ventura, Elgin

EUPHONIUM

CJ Russo, Crystal Lake

TUBA

Calder Gagne, St. Charles

PERCUSSION

Cari Techter, South Elgin Gabriela Radovic, St. Charles

- + Concertmaster
- Assistant Concertmaster
- * Principal
- * Chamber Music Institute

YOUTH SYMPHONY

VIOLIN

Jason Allen, Elgin Ella Britton, Crystal Lake Jacob Cho, Hampshire ^ Luca Edsall, Campton Hills Cooper Frolich, St. Charles Marilyn Gans, Batavia Emily Goodin, Glen Ellyn Sarah Goodin, Glen Ellyn * ∞ Zachary Green, Hampshire @ * ** Kyle Hibben, Elburn Alex Huang, Naperville Claire Jeong, Winfield Kaitlyn Kreeger, St. Charles Amari Kukreja, Algonquin Ezra Maras, Algonquin * ∞ Hanna Marszalek, Algonquin Bobby Meinig, St. Charles Maria Olache, Batavia Aleksandra Radovic, St. Charles Rohini Sliwa, Bartlett Neil Soriano, Algonquin Vitaly Starkov, Geneva + ** Jacob Valentino, Wheaton Reno Varalli, Batavia * Ayaka Vieira, Streamwood * * Ameya Yammanuru, St. Charles

VIOLA

Hannah Brazis, Deer Park * * * * Kinsey Doolin, South Elgin
John Drew, Hoffman Estates
Alyssa Dzien, Bartlett ^ *
Kyler Gao, Naperville *
Delaney Gerard, St. Charles
Emm Godinez, Elgin
Teagan Hagemeyer, Sycamore
Charles Malohn, Lake Zurich
Ollie Mecum, Batavia *
Valerie Monroy, Schaumburg *
Uche Oguejiofor, Bartlett *
Vivaan Venkat, Naperville * ∞

CELLO

Kenneth Chang, St. Charles ^
Camryn Clark, Algonquin
Gideon Crognale, Elgin
Griffin Egan, Geneva * ♦ **
Gretchen Grossert, Batavia * ∞
Evan Luxton, St. Charles
Millan Mallipeddi, Bartlett
Ainslie McKenna, Arlington Heights
Mithali Obadage, Batavia *
Benjamin Suarez, Peru
Tyler Thymian, Barrington
Michelle Zhao, Naperville

BASS

Olivia Beach, Wayne Max Blanco, Palatine * (**) Iain Goetz, Elgin **

FLUTE

AnnMarie Ellison, Naperville Erick Morales, Streamwood Niva Murali, Naperville Jesse Perez, Carpentersville Amy Yang, Hoffman Estates

PICCOLO

Erick Morales, Streamwood Niva Murali, Naperville Jesse Perez, Carpentersville

OB0E

Jonathan Folkerts, Batavia Adam Kararo, Oswego * Anna Schwaegler, Naperville

ENGLISH HORN

Jonathan Folkerts, Batavia

CLARINET

Abigail Edwards, Glen Ellyn Clay Kabbe, Naperville * Mason Madej, Yorkville Alexander Sjullie, Elmhurst *

BASS CLARINET

Mason Madej, Yorkville

BASSOON

Lars Dudley, Yorkville James Lusk, Geneva Ben Meisenger, Batavia

CONTRABASSOON

Ben Meisenger, Batavia

HORN

Alex Gagne, St. Charles * \$ Emily Hart, Yorkville * Maria Serban, South Elgin Naomi Virgil, St. Charles

TRUMPET

Melody Alonso, Crystal Lake * *
Olivia Burgan, South Elgin * *
Olivia LaCerra, Chicago
Norah Quinn, Batavia

TROMBONE

Noah Fleck, Bartlett Sam Kagan, Naperville Aidan Klapperich, Elgin * %

TUBA

Samuel Lorentz, Crystal Lake * %

PERCUSSION

Amelia Baran, Bartlett Toby Morden, Batavia Jessie Myers, West Chicago

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Amelia Baran, Bartlett

- + Concertmaster
- Assistant Concertmaster
- * Principal
- Assistant principal
- Co-Principal
- Chamber Music Institute
- → Maud Powell String Quartet
- Sterling Brass Quintet
- Hanson String Quartet

The Van Nortwick Family Principal Bass Chair is supported in honor of the memory of Bill Van Nortwick. Bill was a lifelong lover of music even though he professed to have no musical talent. Both of his sons attended Kindermusik classes, began playing instruments in elementary school and continued through high school. Bill's appreciation for classical music was greatly enhanced by that of his son, Peter, who played bass for 5 years in EYSO. Bill became an enthusiastic supporter of EYSO having witnessed the musical and personal growth that Peter experienced due to his participation. The Van Nortwick Family is happy to support this chair so other students can benefit from the amazing experience that is EYSO.



Sunday November 10 • 10:30am-9:30pm Oberweis Dairy • 400 S. Randall Rd, Elgin

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OUR 49TH SEASON // NOVEMBER 10, 2024 // SOUNDSCAPES





OUR 49TH SEASON // 2024-2025

SOUNDSCAPES

- I. Canvas // November 10, 2024
- II. Palette // March 9, 2025
- III. Image // May 11, 2025

CMI Fall Concerts // November 3, 2024 CMI Spring Concerts // March 30, 2025 Fall Camp // August 23-25, 2024

EYSO.ORG

EYSO is an In-Residence Ensemble at the Elgin Community College Arts Center.