

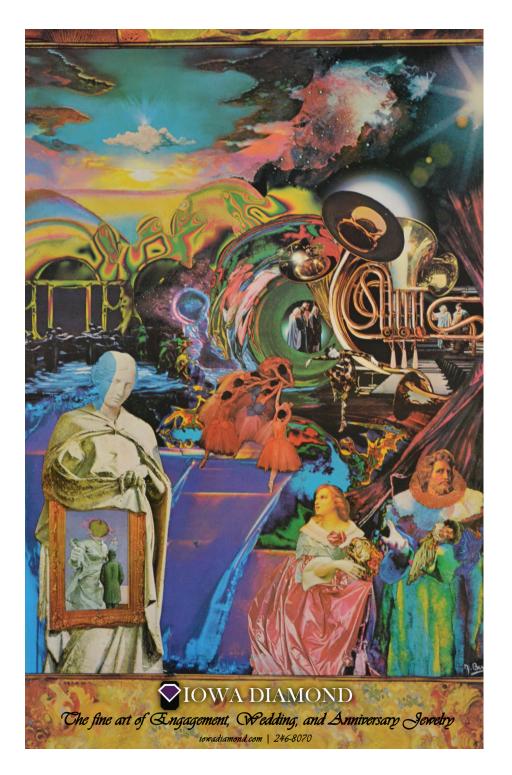
DES MOINES SYMPHONY

JOSEPH GIUNTA MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR THE LINDA AND TOM KOEHN ENDOWED CHAIR

LIVE FROM THE TEMPLE



JANUARY-MAY PROGRAMS



GREETINGS and WELCOME!







MAESTRO JOSEPH GIUNTA

RICHARD L. EARLY

ANGELA R. SANDERS



ear Friends, More than ever in these extraordinary times, we know that music can provide powerful and meaningful moments of inspiration and edification; even joy when the

world around us is challenging. And so we are very grateful and excited to be able to continue to provide live musical experiences through our *Live from the Temple* series.

In answering our audience surveys and with your cards and emails, you have told us that staying connected to our musicians through these livestreamed concerts — the same musicians that you have come to know at our live Civic Center concerts — is important and enjoyable for you. And that connection to our outstanding musicians is perhaps even more intimate and satisfying now that they are filling your video screens in close-ups thanks to our staff's expert score-reading and our production crew's excellent camera work.

Many of you have also commented on the quality of the sound in our livestreams; this is thanks to our hugely beneficial partnership with lowa Public Radio (The Radio Home of the Des Moines Symphony) and their outstanding recording and audio production capabilities. For us, staying connected with you through this amazing live audio and video technology is a most welcome opportunity when so much else in our daily lives is upended.

You will hear and see some of the very best of the orchestral repertoire; music that features your own Des Moines Symphony musicians in virtuosic soloist roles; music that represents some of the very best of our own American culture; great classics from around the world; richly diverse music by several exciting but not so often played composers; and some works we would probably never play on the large stage at



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© Copyright Employers Mutual Casualty Company 2019. All rights reserved. the Civic Center due to the music's uniquely intimate quality — but the Grand Hall at The Temple for Performing Arts is just the right venue. We are on an extraordinary mission to connect with our community in bold new ways — and we are thrilled to have you join us.

Our outstanding, highly-accomplished professional musicians could not be more eager to play for you live again. But until then, together they will share their gifts and continue to create something special for you this winter and spring that has never before existed — these Live from the Temple performances, performed and broadcast directly to your homes.

Again, thank you for choosing to join us for these special and historic concerts. We know our musicians are already "hearing" you taking your seats and opening your program books. They know that rustle of anticipation and they will "hear" your applause.

THE CONCERT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!



MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dichard Early **RICHARD L. EARLY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inala K Saudes

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TICKETS & CONCERT ACCESS

- Tickets for our "Live from the Temple" concerts can be purchased on our website at dmsymphony.org. For questions about your purchase or accessing the concerts, please contact us at info@dmsymphony.org or leave a message at 515.280.4000.
- Instructions for accessing our livestreamed concerts will be delivered to you via email the day of the concert. To ensure the message isn't sorted into your junk/spam folder, please add info@dmsymphony.org to your safe senders list.
- Livestreamed concerts will be available for repeat viewing for 30 days after the original performance.

CONCERT WEEK PROGRAMMING

One week before the concert, check our website and our social channels for our Online Concert Prelude Talks, a free preview of the program and discussion of the music, composers, and artists. These videos, hosted by Dr. Eric McIntyre, can be watched at your convenience before our livestreamed programs. Then, join us all week long leading up to each concert for the following slate of special programming:

- SUNDAY: Symphony with a Twist Maestro's Circle members are invited to join us for Symphony with a Twist, our virtual donor lounge! 7PM, Exclusive to Maestro's Circle Members.
- MONDAY: DMSO Listening Room
 Tune into our social channels and our website for
 a concert-themed episode of the DMSO Listening
 Room! Maestro Giunta offers insight and
 information about the music featured in each
 concert in these short and informative videos.

• TUESDAY: ReMix

Join us on Zoom for ReMix, a fun and free evening that combines a live mixology class with music-themed team trivia. 7PM, free, advance registration required.

- WEDNESDAY: Classical Conversations Led by Dr. Eric McIntyre, this online class combines wine, cheese, and great music in an informal setting. Register for the class and add on optional wine & cheese pairings right on our website! \$15.
- THURSDAY: Live from the Temple

Tune in at 7PM for our Live from the Temple concert broadcast! Each livestream will include special interviews and behind-thescenes footage as well as a live Q&A session with Maestro Giunta after the concert. Enhance your experience by adding on multi-course dinner boxes and wine pairings from our local restaurant partners! For more details including menus and ordering information, visit dmsymphony.org.

AMENITIES

- Subscribers receive complimentary access to additional ticketed events based on their subscription level including additional concerts, Classical Conversations, and more.
- To find out what events you have access to, contact us at info@dmsymphony.org.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

 Interested in hosting a viewing of an upcoming Live from the Temple concert for your school, community organization, or retirement home? Contact us at info@dmsymphony.org for details.

The Des Moines Symphony is a not-for-profit, professional orchestra formed in 1937 to enrich, educate and inspire the community by performing great orchestral music. The Symphony Association, governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees and operating on an annual budget of \$4.2 million, supports the Symphony Academy and its numerous music education programs including five youth ensembles, and supports the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra which performs seven pairs of Masterworks concerts, a Pops series including the traditional New Year's Eve Pops, education, outreach and family concerts, and other special events in its home at the Des Moines Civic Center. The organization also produces and performs a summertime Water Works Pops series as well as the Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops concert in July on the grounds of the Iowa State Capitol, which attracts more than 100,000, the largest single day attendance of any concert event in the State.



DINNER & A SHOW

Want to enhance your experience? Join us for dinner and a show!

We've partnered with local restaurants to pair a custom multi-course dinner box with each of our livestreamed concerts. Dinner boxes are available for \$35/person, with wine pairings from \$15-\$20 per bottle.

Already have your tickets? It's easy to add on a dinner box! Just find the concert you're attending on dmsymphony.org and click "tickets." You'll find the full range of options available for purchase, including multi-course dinner boxes and wine pairings from our partner restaurants. Please note orders must be placed one week before the concert.

- Thursday, January 21: Dance, Rhythm, & Blues / HoQ Restaurant
- Thursday, February 11: Past and Present / Cyd's Catering
- Thursday, March 18: Spring Serenade / Table 128
- Thursday, April 15: Fireworks & Fanfare / Alba Restaurant
- Thursday, May 13: Fantaisie en Français / Aposto Restaurant

NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

How long is a typical concert? Our Live from the Temple performances are just over an hour, and made up of several shorter pieces of music than you might typically hear at the Civic Center.

Can I download the concert videos? Because of our contractual agreement with the American Federation of Musicians, unauthorized audio and video recordings may not be made during this performance.

What am I listening to? You can learn about the pieces we're playing today and the musicians performing them in this program book. Our program notes provide historical context, analysis, instrumentation and performance history.

Prefer to follow along on your mobile device? Our mobile app, EnCue, delivers helpful information about the music as it's being performed live by our musicians. All you need is a smart phone or tablet with internet connectivity (WiFi or cellular) to follow along with our mobile program notes. Visit dmsymphony.org/howtostream for more information!

How do I access the concert livestream?

Visit our website, dmsymphony.org, and find the concert you want to access. Click "Tickets" to

purchase your livestream pass. On the day of the concert, you'll receive an email from the Symphony with full access instructions. There is no software to download. To make sure you receive the email with instructions, add info@dmsymphony.org to your safe senders list. Be sure to search your junk/spam folders for the confirmation email!

Can I watch the concert on my TV? Yes! You can watch our concerts on your home theater system with a smart TV, connected mobile device, or streaming service like Apple TV. In addition, some devices allow you to mirror your computer, tablet, or smartphone to your TV using Apple AirPlay, Roku, Google Chromecast, or similar methods. For further guidance and detailed information, visit dmsymphony.org/ howtostream.

If I miss the livestream, can I watch the

concert later? Yes. If you've purchased a streaming pass, you will continue to have access to the livestream for 30 days after the original broadcast. Just use the same access instructions provided in your confirmation email!

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING AND ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE!



ACADEMY

The Des Moines Symphony Academy aims to provide the very best music education experiences for musicians of all ages. Since its founding in 2003, the Des Moines Symphony Academy has become a musical community of excellence where talented and motivated instrumental students of all ages can learn from renowned professional musicians and educators.







The Symphony Academy is open!

Thanks to creative thinking and clever use of technology, the Academy moved its programs online in March 2020. Through technologies such as Zoom, Facetime, and Skype, faculty members have been able to continue private and group lessons from their own homes. They've even begun teaching new students, some who have yet to step foot inside our doors!

"Being able to continue their violin lessons during this time provided consistency when so much else changed. We appreciate all the hard work that went into making virtual lessons not only possible, but effective." -Reischl Family Marissa Ferro, violin, viola and beginning strings instructor, enjoys the ability to connect virtually with her students. "So many people are working hard to make the best of this situation, and I really do look forward to all my online lessons and classes as a much needed escape from all that's happening around us," said Marissa. "Even though it's not in person, I love being able to connect and learn with all my students!"

"It's been different and we've had a few challenges, but we've had lots of fun overall and I've noticed that this online format requires all of us to be more intentional with how we listen and respond," said Renee Brechtel, violin and beginning strings instructor. "Though I can't wait to see all my students in person again, I'm so glad we can still see each other each week and connect for a few moments with a familiar face amidst all that's going on in the world outside!"

It is an essential to the Academy's mission that we maintain a high quality of music education for our community. Despite the challenges we are all facing, we are thrilled to be able to continue music education through these new and exciting methods in order to provide a sense of normalcy and continuity for young musicians. Our "digital" doors are open for new and returning students!

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MAESTRO JOSEPH GIUNTA

ne of America's most distinguished, versatile and dynamic conductors, Joseph Giunta is a musician of international acclaim. He is recognized as an important American conductor for his innovative programming and for his compelling interpretations of traditional and new music. His musical depth combined with his boundless energy and contagious enthusiasm makes him one of the most respected and successful orchestra leaders in the United States.

Giunta has been the Music Director of the Des Moines Symphony for thirty-two years and is currently riding the crest of the most successful era in the Orchestra's rich history. He has transformed the Orchestra into one of the finest regional orchestras in America. Over the past three decades he held a similar position with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony for fourteen seasons, and has guest conducted many of the great orchestras of the world including the Chicago Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the London Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London. In the United States, he has conducted the orchestras of Indianapolis, Nashville, North Carolina, Charlotte, Florida and Vermont, among others. He has also conducted orchestras in Mexico, South America, Europe, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom.

In 2010, he conducted the lowa debut of Beyond the Score, a partnership between the Des Moines Symphony and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2007, invited to substitute for Kurt Masur, Giunta guest-conducted the Orquesta Sinfonica Brasileira in Rio de Janeiro in the famed Theatro Municipal. The two sold-out performances received multiple standing ovations. He also conducted the SODRE Orchestra in Montevideo, Uruguay to critical acclaim. One



critic wrote "Giunta moves like a ballet dancer. He has a dignified and refined technique with great passion and command for the music. The orchestra sounded energized and unified under Giunta's thoughtful and persuasive baton." In the fall of 2010, Giunta served as a judge at the BNDES International Piano Competition in Rio de Janiero, also conducting several concerto rounds and the Grand Finale Concert.

Highlights of Giunta's tenure in Des Moines include a live recording of all nine Beethoven symphonies and a recording with internationally renowned pianist Earl Wild on the Chesky Records label. The American Record Guide said about this recording that "Wild, Giunta and the Des Moines Symphony play the music to the hilt." And the late Wild in his book, A Walk on the Wild Side — A Memoir by Virtuoso Pianist Earl Wild, said "Joseph Giunta is another fine American conductor, who is... conducting well." The Des Moines Register has praised Giunta's performances as "stirring." His discography also includes world-wide recordings with the London Philharmonic Orchestra featuring the music of Khachaturian and Britten.



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He continues to pursue his life-long goal of exposing as many people as possible to great classical music at all age levels. He inaugurated the Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops, which is now, after 27 years, the largest single day concert event in Iowa, attended by more than 100,000 people each July. In 2003, he developed and launched the Des Moines Symphony Academy, housed in The Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines. The Symphony Academy currently has more than 600 students enrolled in private lessons, chamber music, a Youth Wind Ensemble, and four Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestras. The many honors and distinctions awarded to Joseph Giunta include the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award for adventurous programming and commitment to new American music. He has commissioned 25 works for the Des Moines Symphony by renowned composers Augusta Read Thomas, Michael Torke, Lukas Foss, Libby Larsen, Adolphis Hailstork, David Ott and many others. Recently, he and the Des Moines Symphony commissioned Symphony in Sculpture, a 30-minute work inspired by the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park and written by Emmy Award-winning composer

Steve Heitzeg, in recognition of the Des Moines Symphony's 75th Anniversary Season, DVDs of Symphony in Sculpture and Symphony in Sculpture I, II, and III feature multi-track, five-channel, surround sound recordings of the pieces accompanied by original films created by Blur MediaWorks, plus a behind-the-scenes making-of documentary. He has also received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Simpson College, the 1984 Helen M. Thompson Award presented by the League of American Orchestras to the outstanding young conductor in the USA, and the 2002 Iowa Arts Award for his contributions to excellence in musical performance throughout the world. In 2015, he, along with Simon Estes, became the inaugural inductees into the Mid-America Music Association Hall of Fame.

Giunta is a graduate of Northwestern University and studied conducting with Henry Mazer, John Paynter, William Smith and Bernard Rubenstein. He also worked with Georg Solti, Carlo Maria Giulini, Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy and Klaus Tennstedt and has served as stand-by conductor for many of the world's great conductors including Sir Georg Solti, Carlo Maria Giulini, Charles Dutoit, Klaus Tennstedt, Erich Leinsdorf and Sir Neville Marriner.

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ABOUT THE DES MOINES SYMPHONY

he Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 83rd season in 2020-2021, is one of Iowa's and the Midwest's premiere arts institutions. Led by Music Director Joseph Giunta for the past 32 years, the Orchestra has established an outstanding national reputation as one of the country's leading regional orchestras. In 2016. the Orchestra was hailed by Phillip Nones of Bachtrack as "dazzling, with the Des Moines brass bursting forth with stentorian power ... " and delivering a "soul-satisfying triumph." The Orchestra performs a regular series of Masterworks, Pops, Family and Education Concerts, as well as performing for special events. With the establishment in 2003 of the Des Moines Symphony Academy, the organization is one of only five American orchestras to sponsor an Academy of Music as an integral part of its core mission.

The Symphony, a founding member of the League of American Orchestras in 1942, is the principal resident company of the 40-year-old, acoustically acclaimed 2,662-seat Des Moines Civic Center. The Symphony performs seven pairs of Masterworks concerts there each season, which have included the major works of the orchestral repertoire and collaborations with some of the music world's most prominent soloists including John Browning, Van Cliburn, Alicia De Larrocha, Simon Estes, Sherrill Milnes, Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma, and in 2011, the Martha Graham Dance Company in a special Des Moines Performing Arts presentation.

Under the leadership of Joseph Giunta, the Orchestra received the Bravo Greater Des Moines Encore Award for offering a well-received, highly creative and diverse mix of programming: including commissions and world premieres of 25 new works during the last 27 years. The Orchestra and Joseph Giunta together received the League of American Orchestras' prestigious ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming in recognition of their commitment to contemporary music. Recently, Joseph Giunta and the Des Moines Symphony commissioned Symphony in Sculpture I, II, & III, works inspired by the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park and written by Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzeg. DVDs of Symphony in Sculpture I,

II, and *III* feature multi-track, five-channel, surround sound recordings of the pieces accompanied by original films created by Blur MediaWorks, plus a behind-the-scenes making-of documentary, were released in 2013, 2016, and 2020 respectively. In August 2016, the Des Moines Symphony accepted an invitation by the Iowa State Blue Ribbon Foundation to perform Peter Hamlin's *Symphony On A Stick* on the opening night of the 2016 Iowa State Fair – the very event which had inspired its commission by the Symphony in 2015.

In addition, the Orchestra performs a Pops series, including its annual New Year's Eve Pops at the Civic Center, and has collaborated throughout its history with some of the leading popular artists of the day including Ella Fitzgerald, Roger Williams, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth and Leslie Odom, Jr., among others. In July 2019, the Symphony launched a free summer series, Water Works Pops, at the newly built Lauridsen Amphitheater at Water Works Park. The organization also produces and performs the much anticipated free, annual Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops concert in July on the grounds of the Iowa State Capitol; attracting some years more than 100.000 listeners, the largest single-day attendance of any concert event in the State.

All of the Orchestra's Masterworks programs are broadcast statewide on Iowa Public Radio Classical, the radio home of the Des Moines Symphony, and the Orchestra can be heard on several compact disc recordings with Joseph Giunta conducting, including a collection of all nine Beethoven symphonies recorded as a unique series, and on the Chesky Records label with acclaimed American pianist Earl Wild.

Music education has always been an important commitment, and in 2003, the Des Moines Symphony inaugurated the Des Moines Symphony Academy, housed in the beautifully restored 1913 former Masonic Temple building in downtown Des Moines now called The Temple for Performing Arts. The Symphony Academy, now in its 18th year, is a year-round institution dedicated to providing outstanding music education opportunities for students ages three to adult including private lessons, group classes, chamber music, four outstanding Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestras and a Youth Wind Ensemble, which attract more than 600 accomplished young instrumentalists from throughout Central Iowa each week. The Academy's annual Artist Residency program has hosted violinist Midori, composer Andrew Norman, Symphony Concertmaster Jonathan Sturm, among others, and "Maestro Classes" with quest conductors Gerard Schwarz, Christopher Seaman, JoAnn Falletta, and Peter Oundjian. The Academy continues to grow its unique Beginning Strings Program called "Project Encore" in collaboration with the Bovs & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa. The Academy has continued its outreach by establishing partnerships with Waukee, Urbandale, Ankeny and Johnston School Districts to provide on-site and group lesson instruction. In addition, the Des Moines Symphony performs its school-day Youth Concerts for more than 5.000 schoolchildren each year at the Civic Center.



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Clarence Padilla

E-flat Clarinet

Kariann Voigts

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Bassoons

Kevin Judge

Principal

Timothy Gale

Bret Seebeck

Principal

Wilkins Chair

Peter Kortenkamp

Michael Wilson

Charles Harris

Trumpets

Joshua Johnson

Andrew Bishop

Drs. Robert &

Rehecca Shaw Chair

Principal

Carl Eitzen**

Craig Swartz

Trombones

Casey Maday

Principal

Andrew Classen

Robert E. & Gladvs G.

Assistant Principal

Horns

Contrabassoon

Matthew Ransom

Eileen & Paul Tvler Chair

Principal

83RD SEASON 2020-2021

ORCHESTRA

First Violins

Jonathan Sturm Concertmaster Connie & David Belin Chair Julie Fox Henson Associate Concertmaster Yi-Miao Huang John Helmich Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn Aaron Hanson Linda Pfund Swanson Danna Pins Seaeun Lee Leah Kolner **Christine Johnson** Sara Goplin Hanna Wolle

Second Violins

Misha Rosenker Principal John & Irene Graether Chair Madeline Capistran* Mary Dahlby Lucy Duke Robert Espe** Thomas Juneau, Jr. Matt Meyer Benjamin Munson Gretchen Theesfield **Bethany Washington**

Violas

Yee Ling Elaine Ng** Principal R.W. & Mary Nelson Chair Benjamin Burgdorf Acting Principal Charles Miranda Betty Miller Linda Benoit Nathalie Cruden Abby Hendricks Jonanne Tucker Julia McCormick**

Principal Robert & Gloria Burnett Chair Jesse Nummelin Mary Pshonik Michele Senger George Work Rachael Means Andrew Holm Paul Virgilio

Violoncellos

Julie Sturm

Double Basses

Dominic Azkoul Principal John Merriman & Dr. Barbara Beatty Chair, in Honor of Eva & James Brauninger Kory Johnson Donita McCov Ashlev Eidbo Patricia Silva Weitzel** Michael Van Ryn Brett Wagner Jason Wells

Harp

Frin Brooker-Miller Principal Audrey & Harlan Rosenberg Chair

Flutes

James Blanchard Principal Irene T. Sideman Chair Sonja Giles

Piccolo

Hannah Peterson

Oboes Jennifer Wohlenhaus Principal Meredith Corporation

Foundation Chair Susan Odem **English Horn**

Benjamin Holthaus

Timpani

Michael Geary Principal Kruidenier Family Chair, in Honor of Elizabeth & David Kruidenier

Percussion

Aaron Williams Principal Gardner & Florence Call Cowles Foundation Chair Robert Meunier Thomas Mackey

Orchestra Personnel Manager

Clarence Padilla

Music Librarian Rachel Lowry

* Second Violinists, other than the Principal, are listed in alphabetical order. Seating is on a rotational basis.

** Leave of absence

The Des Moines Symphony Orchestra frequently employs additional musicians to meet the instrumentation requirements and musical demands of the works performed.

The musicians of the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra are represented by Local 75 of the American Federation of Musicians.

William Mann **Bass Trombone**

Matthew Halbert

Tuba

Ravil "Bo" Atlas Principal Gene Wibben Memorial Chair

f in 🖸



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A PAGE FROM OUR HISTORY

Des Moines Symphony Music Directors

FRANK NOYES

30 SEASONS: 1937-1967 **ROBERT GUTTER** TWO SEASONS: 1967-1969

WILLIS PAGE TWO SEASONS: 1969-1971

THOMAS GRISWOLD TWO SEASONS: 1971-1973

YURI KRASNAPOLSKY 13 SEASONS: 1974-1987

SIXTEN EHRLING Music Advisor TWO SEASONS: 1987-1989

JOSEPH GIUNTA 31 SEASONS AND COUNTING:

1989-PRESENT

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1983-1985 Marvin Mazie 1985-1987 Ann Kenworthy 1987-1988 James A. Vickerv 1988-1989 George C. Carpenter, III 1989-1990 John C. Cortesio 1990-1991 Johnny Danos 1991-1992 Robert E. Mannheimer 1992-1993 Edward T. Shonsev 1993-1994 Marilyn Smith 1994-1996 Carleton Zacheis 1996-1997 Robert D. Shaw 1997-1998 Russell W. Calkins, III 1998-1999 Shelley Brody 1999-2000 David S. Strutt 2000-2001 Robert DeWaav 2001-2002 Joyce Chapman 2002-2004 Jim Sandager 2004-2005 Joy Corning 2005-2006 Audrey Rosenberg 2006-2008 Russell J. Bitterman 2008-2010 Stephen C. Smith 2010-2012 Christine L. Hensley 2012-2013 Christine L. Henslev and Steven M. Nadel 2013-2015 Steven M Nadel 2015-2017 Eugene T. Mever 2017-2019 Rebecca D. Shaw, M.D. 2019-2021 Angela R. Sanders

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DR. RICHARD E. RODDA PROGRAM ANNOTATOR



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r. Richard E. Rodda is a native of New Jersev and now lives in Cleveland. Ohio. A graduate of Baldwin-Wallace University and Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Rodda has taught at CWRU and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and provided program notes for the orchestras of Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, Colorado, Washington, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Harrisburg, Tampa, Kansas City, Charlotte and Hartford, as well as the Kennedy Center and Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C., Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Grant Park Music Festival (Chicago), CAL Performances (Berkeley), Princeton University Concerts, Peninsula Music Festival (Wisconsin), Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival and many other ensembles and



organizations across the country. He is a contributor to *Stagebill Magazine*, and has written liner notes for Telarc, Sony Classical, Decca, Angel, Arabesque, Newport Classics, Delos, Azica, Bis and Dorian Records. Dr. Rodda is winner of the 2010 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award.

LEARN MORE! CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS

Jan 20, Feb 10, Mar 17, Apr 14, May 12 from 6:30-8:00PM via Zoom - \$15

Join Dr. Eric McIntyre of Grinnell College to take a deep dive into the music featured in each of our fall concerts in this informal and enjoyable online class held over Zoom. This class is designed for anyone who enjoys music — from long-time Symphony-goers to those interested in attending their first concert.

Want to enhance your experience? Add on an optional wine & cheese pairing! Learn more and sign up online at dmsymphony.org.

Meet the Musicians



JAMES BLANCHARD, PRINCIPAL FLUTE

As early as seventh grade, James Blanchard knew he wanted to play in an orchestra. Using Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan for two summers as a stepping-stone, he attended the Interlochen Arts Academy for his senior year of high school; Rice University in Houston, Texas, for his undergraduate degree; and The Juilliard School for his Master's degree, where he had the opportunity to work with fantastic conductors and other young musicians from around the world. Of this experience, James says, "being surrounded by so much talent and musical conviction elevated the standards I set for myself and developed my musical and expressive sensibilities."

As a musician, James loves losing himself in someone else's emotion and inner world. Being a musician means providing an audience with some measure of wonder, amazement, and break from reality, another one of James' favorite things. "And," he says, "the chance to travel the world to do all of this isn't so bad either."

James was one of the first Des Moines

Symphony Musicians to participate in the DMSO at Home project. James hosted his first ivestream in April, where he performed works by Faure, Rhene-Baton, and Poulenc. The ability to present musical projects to an audience connected by thousands of miles and a computer screen has been an enjoyable and gratifying experience, especially since audiences are almost as starved for live performance as the musicians themselves. James also participated in a woodwind-themed Family Concert in July, where he demonstrated the flute and played the excerpt that made him decide to play the flute, Tchaikovsky's Peter and the Wolf. Most recently, he streamed a recital in November featuring soprano Maya Kherani and accompanied by Christopher James Ray in which he selected five pieces that track music's evolution as an expressive art. He feels lucky that the Symphony has been able to "sur-thrive (survive and thrive)," and is excited to continue this

dedication to the audience throughout the rest of the season.

When James is not playing the flute, he has an abundance of hobbies and interests to keep him occupied. Some of his favorite pastimes include reading, cooking, baking, and playing video games. At the moment, James is re-reading *Jane Eyre*, which he intersperses with playing Super Smash Bros, Zelda, and Rocket League. Like many others over the past year, James has been keeping busy in the kitchen. Some of his most recent cooking and baking adventures include gazpacho, tonkatsu (a Japanese dish consisting of breaded tempura cutlets), tortellini, and fired-roasted jalapeno salsa. His cooking endeavors do not stop there, as he has plans to make hand-filled pasta, tonkotsu ramen, focaccia, Bolognese (using Marcella Hazan's recipe), doughnuts, and much more in the future.

James believes a good coffee shop is invaluable to almost every artist. His favorite spot in Des Moines is Horizon Line, which he cannot recommend strongly enough. You can spot James there when the Symphony has morning rehearsals enjoying a cup of cold brew and one of their delicious pastries.

The ability to share music with people is important to James. To introduce newcomers to classical music, he recommends Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 1.* Prokofiev called this symphony the "Classical Symphony" and composed it as if Haydn were alive and composing during the 20th century. This Symphony embodies everything Haydn and Mozart held dear: form, good structure and proportion, and irreverent charm. After listening to more of his work, listeners can detect Prokofiev's own humor and virtuosic invention. A very digestible and "crazily fun" piece to listen to, this symphony is under 20 minutes long.

Join us on Thursday, May 13 to hear James perform Gluck's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* and Faure's *Fantaisie* in Live from the Temple: Fantaisie en Français.



AARON WILLIAMS, PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION

As a member of both the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and its administrative staff, Aaron Williams is particularly familiar with the music industry. His first encounter with music came from watching the 80s cartoon Alvin and the Chipmunks. He was hooked on all of the singing and harmonizing. Back then, he could even sing along in the same octave! From junior high, Aaron knew he wanted to make a living playing percussion. After sixth grade, he quit playing baseball, started going to music camps every summer, and began taking private lessons with a second percussion teacher. He has been at it ever since.

Continues

Aaron spent his first summer at Interlochen Arts Camp when he was sixteen. In that summer, he got to play *Carmina Burana* for the very first time. As a teenager, this was his ultimate symphonic work and he was thrilled at the opportunity to play the timpani part – the first thing you hear in *Carmina Burana* before the choir comes in. He says, "I will never forget the energy, excitement, and pure elation I felt in that performance. And to this day, I still feel that sixteen-year-old exuberance when I get to perform *Carmina*."

At any orchestra, the Director of Operations oversees the on-stage and backstage logistics for every rehearsal and concert. Depending on the organization, the responsibilities can also include overseeing orchestra personnel, overseeing guest artists, organizing tours, organizing musician auditions, producing outdoor concerts, and much more. Like the rest of the Symphony's administrative staff, Aaron has certainly had to make some adjustments as we launched our Live from the Temple concert series!

Aaron's first season with the DMSO was 2010-2011; a season in which Maestro Giunta had programmed Ravel's *Bolero*. It was also Aaron's first time playing the piece's signature solo snare drum part. At one particularly memorable rehearsal, Maestro Giunta decided to place the snare drum at the very front of the stage, in front of the First Violins. Aaron was terrified, but it's definitely a moment he'll never forget.

Aaron typically begins focusing his practice towards a specific concert two weeks out from a Des Moines Symphony performance (one week out from the rehearsals). During that time, he practices his parts, listens to the music in order to get reacquainted, and plays along with different recordings of the piece. If he has a particularly challenging or exposed solo part in a concert, he begins working on it three or four weeks ahead of the performance. Over the course of last year as his performance schedule has lightened, Aaron's practice routine has shifted towards general maintenance and working on solo pieces for his own enjoyment.

During the launch of our *Live from the Temple* series, Aaron has been focused on logistics as Director of Operations, and has not performed in any of the fall 2020 concerts. He is excited to play his first performance with the Des Moines Symphony this season in *Dance, Rhythm, & Blues.* Because the pieces being performed are for mixed-instrumentation groups of fewer than ten players, Aaron's biggest challenge will be performing multi-percussion parts and on drum set, which he doesn't get to do often with the full orchestra.

Aaron also frequently plays in the pit of touring Broadway shows at the Civic Center, which he says really keeps him on his toes as a performer. Playing in the percussion section with the full orchestra and playing in the pit for a Broadway show are very different experiences, each with their own unique demands. When playing in the pit, Aaron is responsible for playing every single percussion instrument in the score. "I usually end up surrounded, and I mean that literally, by no fewer than 20 different instruments. It's very constant playing, moving rapidly from one instrument to the next. Navigating my way from instrument to instrument is easily the biggest challenge of pit work."

When Aaron is not at the office or on stage, he tries to get outside to ride his bike on the miles and miles of Des Moines bike paths or take his kayak out on a nearby river or lake. Because quarantining has afforded him so much more free time than usual, Aaron spent the warmer months on his bike exploring trails that he had never pedaled. He biked the entire Neal Smith Trail from Des Moines up to Big Creek State Park and back, which had been a goal of his for a number of years. Aaron also enjoys collecting and playing modern designer board games (you can catch a glimpse of his enviable board game collection in his first DMSO at Home video, originally posted in June and available to watch on our website).

We can't wait to hear Aaron featured as soloist in our January Live from the Temple concert, *Dance, Rhythm, & Blues.*

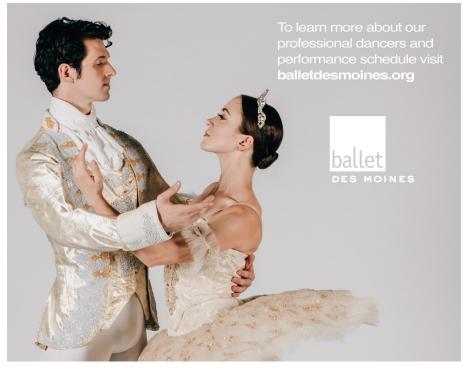


JONATHAN STURM, CONCERTMASTER

Now in his 30th season with the Des Moines Symphony, Jonathan Sturm is its longest serving concertmaster. Despite his long career he still loves the passion and precision this kind of work requires, as well as contributing to the great performances experienced by audiences in this growing city.

When Jonathan was just two years old, he remembers his mother taking violin lessons. Even at that young age, he was interested in trying out the feel of the instrument under his chin and scraping away at the strings. At the age of seven he began his own journey with music and the violin, and has been playing ever since. When Jonathan was eight years old, he experienced his first professional orchestra concert; a memorable experience as Isaac Stern performed the Brahms *Violin Concerto* with the Indianapolis Symphony. His father took him backstage at intermission, and the master violinist said, "I have only one question to ask you, young man: Do you *like* to play the violin?" Jonathan nodded, and the master violinist responded, "That is all that matters." He was right.

As Concertmaster, Jonathan has many behind-the-scenes responsibilities, principal of which is to begin the process of bowing the music so that phrasing and articulations reflect composer's intentions and to ensure that the **Continues**



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Meet the Musicians continued

violin section looks and sounds more coordinated. "Bowing" means to determine which direction a player should pull their bow when playing a particular note, as well as any stylistic notations. You may recognize the Concertmaster as the musician arriving "late" to the stage to tune the orchestra; historically, the Concertmaster was the conductor for early orchestral performances and would lead from the first chair. The Concertmaster still arrives and bows as a representative of the orchestra before welcoming the Conductor or Music Director as a sign of the upcoming collaboration between the orchestra and Conductor to interpret the evening's program.

Jonathan says, "The most fulfilling aspect of serving as Concertmaster must be hearing the full orchestra, and my section in particular, create a compelling performance. When everything clicks and all are playing our hearts out, it is a glorious thing of which to be a part. A recent performance of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* brought me that kind of pride in all of the DMSO strings. It was top class!"

Jonathan has many wonderful memories of playing with the Des Moines Symphony, but a few standouts include performances with Yo Yo Ma, Gil Shaham, Itzhak Perlman, Earl Wild, Emanuel Ax, and Ray Charles. "Some other fun moments have happened when I got to dance onstage with Duke Ellington's granddaughter and got kissed onstage by Kristen Chenoweth. My chair does have a few unwritten benefits!"

Jonathan typically begins working on pieces as soon as he receives them from the Music Librarian – sometimes months in advance of a concert. For those that he has played many times before, he typically begins about 3 weeks in advance. While the pandemic has kept him at home more than usual, he's had the opportunity to practice much more – he teaches music history and private violin lessons at Iowa State University and has served as the President of the faculty senate.

Outside of music, Jonathan loves wine tasting. "There is so much variety between grapes, growing regions, producers, and vintages! It is like a symphony in a glass. Perhaps in retirement I will work in a wine shop." When he's not practicing violin, he also spends time trying to improve his golf game and even better if he gets to travel while doing so (though of course that has curtailed this year). He also periodically scuba dives and loves being in nature – hiking, biking, and canoeing. During quarantine, he has made a little extra time to try doing crossword puzzles and, if they're not too hard, he quite enjoys them.

"It has been the joy of a lifetime to perform with the Des Moines Symphony for 30 seasons, to have made some wonderful friends, met many outstanding musicians, performed the best orchestral music that history has to offer, welcomed several of my talented students into the orchestra, and met my wife there, too. And though the audience must necessarily have some different members in it today than it did when I arrived in 1991, yet you and they are fundamentally the same-you love the sound of great art and love the experience of watching people work hard to realize the best version we can of the elusive, challenging, strenuous, yet perpetually delicious masterpieces that history has left to us all to enjoy."

Jonathan Sturm is featured in our January Live from the Temple concert *Dance, Rhythm,* & *Blues.*



DES MOINES SYMPHONY

JOSEPH GIUNTA MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR THE LINDA AND TOM KOEHN ENDOWED CHAIR

83rd Season

Masterworks Subscription Series 2020–2021 Fifth Program

LIVE FROM THE TEMPLE: PAST AND PRESENT

Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:00pm Streamed Online from The Temple for Performing Arts, Des Moines

Joseph Giunta, conducting

William BOLCOM	Commedia for (Almost) 18th-Century Orchestra (1972)
SAINT-GEORGES	Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 11, No. 2 (1779) I. Allegro II. Andante III. Finale: Allegro
Jessie MONTGOMERY	Banner for String Quartet & Chamber Orchestra (2014)
HAYDN	Two Movements from Symphony No. 83 in G Minor, "La Poule" ("The Hen") (1787) I. Allegro spiritoso IV. Finale: Vivace

MACDOWELL/ Arr. Laughlin "To a Wild Rose" from *Woodland Sketches*, Op. 51. No. 1 (1896)

These concerts are being recorded for later broadcast on **IPR Classical**, 90.1 FM HD-2, The Radio Home of the Des Moines Symphony. Visit dmsymphony.org to find broadcast dates.



PERFORMING AT THIS CONCERT

Violo

Jonathan Sturm *Concertmaster Connie & David Belin Chair* Julie Fox Henson *Associate Concertmaster* Yi-Miao Huang John Helmich Danna Pins Linda Pfund Swanson

Second Violins

First Violins

Madeline Capistran *Acting Principal* Gretchen Theesfield Bethany Washington Matt Meyer Lucy Duke Thomas Juneau, Jr.

Violas

Benjamin Burgdorf *Acting Principal* Charles Miranda Betty Miller Linda Benoit

Violoncellos

Julie Sturm *Principal Robert & Gloria Burnett Chair* Jesse Nummelin George Work Michele Senger

Double Basses

Dominic Azkoul *Principal John Merriman & Dr. Barbara Beatty Chair, in Honor of Eva & James Brauninger* Kory Johnson

Flutes & Piccolo

James Blanchard Principal Irene T. Sideman Chair Sonia Giles

Oboes

Jennifer Wohlenhaus Principal Meredith Corporation Foundation Chair Susan Odem

Clarinet

Gregory Oakes Principal

Bassoons

Kevin Judge Principal Eileen & Paul Tyler Chair Timothy Gale

Horns

Bret Seebeck Principal Robert E. & Gladys G. Wilkins Chair Peter Kortenkamp

Trumpet

Andrew Bishop Principal Drs. Robert & Rebecca Shaw Chair

Timpani

Thomas Mackey Acting Principal

Piano

Nicholas Roth



30 SECOND NOTES: This Des Moines Symphony program offers musical time-travel that is bounded by *Banner*, a nearly new commentary on America's national anthem, and a French symphony that dates from one year before the Declaration of Independence. *Banner* is by Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981), one of the leading creative figures of her generation, whose quickly growing reputation has recently been recognized with major commissions from both the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. The symphony is by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, who was born in 1745 on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe to a French civil servant and a Black islander and became France's leading fencer and one of its most notable composers. The 18th century is further represented by one of Joseph Haydn's finest symphonies, "The Hen," and the following century by Edward MacDowell's *To a Wild Rose*, among the most popular salon pieces of its day. Mediating these two musical eras is *Commedia for An (Almost) 18th-Century Orchestra* by Pulitzer, Grammy and National Medal of Arts-winner William Bolcom, whose piece filters the sounds and styles of Classicism through his late-20th-century creative prism.



WILLIAM BOLCOM Born May 26, 1938 in Seattle.

COMMEDIA FOR (ALMOST) 18TH-CENTURY ORCHESTRA

• First performed in March 1972 by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sydney Hodkinson.

• This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (*Duration: ca. 10 minutes*)

William Bolcom, in many ways, exemplifies the American composer at the start of the new millennium. Bolcom has taken his proper share of native and European training with distinguished (mostly French) teachers, including Milhaud, Messiaen and Boulez. His work has been recognized with commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, and many noted performers and ensembles, as well as by a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for his *Twelve New Etudes for Piano*, recognition as the 2007 "Composer of the Year" by Musical America, multiple Grammy Awards for his settings of Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, National Medal of Arts, Letter of Distinction from the American Music Center, and induction into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. He has taught at leading conservatories (he was on the faculty of the University of Michigan from 1973 until his retirement in Spring 2008, the last fifteen years as Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition), and has served as a critic, composer-in-residence and adjudicator. He is also known as an excellent pianist.

Bolcom wrote, "*Commedia*, commissioned by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, was somewhat inspired (albeit distantly) by things Italian. In the case of *Commedia*, as the title suggests, the influence is the commedia dell' arte — the stock stage characters tossed against each other in a variety of situations, often comic but, as evidenced in the paintings of a Longhi or a Magnasco, not without a dark side. Much of the piece consists of a tarantella or saltarello in fast 6/8 time."

The score calls for flute doubling piccolo, two oboes, B-flat clarinet doubling E-flat clarinet, two bassoons, two horns, timpani, piano and the usual strings consisting of first violins, second violins, violas, violoncellos and double basses.



JOSEPH BOULOGNE, CHEVALIER DE SAINT-GEORGES

Born December 25, 1745 in Baillif, Guadeloupe; died June 9, 1799 in Paris.

SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN D MAJOR, OP. 11, NO. 2 • First performance unknown, but probably in 1779 in or near Paris. • This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (Duration: ca. 9 minutes)

Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, one of music history's most fascinating figures, was born on Christmas Day 1745 on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, where his father, a French civil servant, was stationed as comptroller-general; his mother was a Black islander. The family moved to Paris when the boy was ten. Joseph was enrolled in the academy of Nicolas Texier de La Boëssière, one of France's most renowned fencing masters, and there received a good general education as well as rigorous training in swimming, boxing, horse riding and other physical and social skills: he became one of the finest fencers in Europe. Saint-Georges' musical education was less well documented, though he apparently had shown talent as a violinist even before leaving Guadeloupe and seems to have been a student of the celebrated composer François Gossec for several years. He joined Gossec's orchestra at the Concert des Amateurs in 1769, made his debut there as a soloist three years later (in two of his own violin concertos), and became concertmaster and conductor of the group shortly thereafter.

In 1777, Saint-Georges entered the employ of the Duke of Orléans, and four years later took on the additional position of concertmaster of the Concert de la Loge Olympique, for which Claude-François-Marie Rigoley, Comte d'Ogny commissioned Haydn's "Paris" symphonies. Saint-Georges acted as intermediary in finalizing the arrangements with Haydn, and he presumably directed the premieres of the works. Following the death of the Duke of Orléans in 1785, Saint-Georges spent some time in London, where he gave exhibition fencing matches before the Prince of Wales and other aristocrats, and posed for a portrait by the Boston-born painter Mather Brown that shows him to have cut an extremely handsome figure. Saint-Georges returned to Paris two years later, and resumed his work with the Loge Olympique. That orchestra was disbanded following the upheavals of 1789, however, and he again went to England. He was back in France the next year to demonstrate his revolutionary sympathies and tour as violinist through the northern provinces, and in 1791 he settled in Lille, where he became a captain of the National Guard. The following year he was made a colonel in the Légion des Américains et du Midi, which comprised "citizens of color" (one of whose mulatto officers was the father of the novelist Alexandre Dumas père), but he was accused of misappropriation of regimental funds and imprisoned at Houdainville for more than a year. He was eventually cleared of the charge and released, and made his way back to Paris, where he lived in considerable poverty. He briefly became director of a new musical organization. Le Cercle de l'Harmonie. but died of a stomach ulcer in 1799.

Saint-Georges' two symphonies were published together as his Op. 11 in 1779; the second was re-used as the overture to the opera L'Amant Anonyme ("The Anonymous Lover") the following year. The three movements of the Symphony No. 2 in D Major are arranged according to the familiar fast-slow-fast plan favored by the early Classicists. The opening sonata-form movement takes a bold, striding melody as its main theme and a delicate, trilling strain as its second subject. The central passage is brief and only vaguely concerned with the main theme, which is omitted from the recapitulation so that only the delicate second subject returns. The poignant, lightly imitative outer sections of the Andante are balanced by an animated central episode. The finale is an

unusual sonata structure, with properly contrasting main and second themes in the exposition that are repeated exactly in the recapitulation, with an extended central portion that is derived thematically from the second subject but accompanied by the bounding rhythm of the first theme.

The score calls for two oboes, two horns and the usual strings.



JESSIE MONTGOMERY Born December 8, 1981 in New York City.

BANNER FOR STRING QUARTET & CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

• First performed in September 2014 by the Providence String Quartet and Sphinx Virtuosi at the New World Center in Miami.

• This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (*Duration: ca. 8 minutes*)

Violinist, composer and music educator Jessie Montgomery began her violin studies at age four at the Third Street Music School Settlement in her native New York City. She was composing by age eleven, and while still in high school twice received the Composer's Apprentice Award from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Montgomery went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in violin performance at Juilliard and a Master's from New York University in film scoring and multimedia; she also studied composition with Derek Bermel and Steven Burke and is currently a Graduate Fellow in Music Composition at Princeton University. As a performer and educator. Montgomerv was a co-founding member of PUBLIQuartet (an ensemble made up of composers and arrangers featuring New York-based composers), a member of the Catalyst Quartet and Providence String Quartet (dedicated to using music as a means of social change in underserved communities), a faculty member of the Apple Hill Center in New Hampshire, Music at Port Milford in Canada, and Third Street Music School Settlement in New York, and a long-time affiliated artist with Sphinx, which addresses the underrepresentation of people of color in classical music though training and performance opportunities, in which she was a two-time laureate. As a composer, Montgomery has created works for concert, theater and film, and currently serves as Composer-in-Residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the organization's flagship professional touring ensemble. Jessie Montgomery is currently working on a commission for Project 19. the New York Philharmonic's multi-vear celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, passed by Congress in 1919 and ratified by the states the following year, which granted women the right to vote. The Philharmonic began premiering these new compositions by 19 women composers in February 2020. Among Montgomery's upcoming projects is a commission for a new work from the Metropolitan Opera.

Jessie Montgomery wrote, "Banner, composed in 2014 on a commission from the Sphinx Organization and Joyce Foundation, is a tribute to the 200th anniversary of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, the lyrics of which were written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 [set to a melody written around 1770 by the English composer and organist John Stafford Smith]. Drawing on musical and historical sources from various world anthems and patriotic songs, I've made an attempt to answer the question: 'What does an anthem for the 21st century sound like in today's multi-cultural environment?'

"Banner picks up where Anthem left off by using a similar backbone source in its middle section, but expands further both in the number of references and in the role played by the string guartet as the individual voice, working both with and against the larger community of the orchestra behind them. The structure is loosely based on traditional marching-band form, where there are several strains or contrasting sections, preceded by an introduction, and I have drawn on the drum-line chorus as a source for the rhythmic underpinning in the finale. Within the same tradition, I have attempted to evoke the breathing of a large brass choir as it approaches the climax of the central 'trio' section. A variety of other cultural anthems and American folk songs and popular idioms interact to form various textures in the final section, contributing to a multi-layered fanfare.

"The Star-Spangled Banner is an ideal subject for exploration in contradictions. For most Americans, the song represents a paradigm of liberty and solidarity against fierce odds, and for others it implies a contradiction between the ideals of freedom and the realities of injustice and oppression. It is my opinion that we Americans, as a culture, are perpetually in search of ways to express and celebrate our ideals of freedom — a way to proclaim, 'We've made it!' as if the very action of saving it aloud makes it so. And for many of our nation's people, that was the case: through work songs and spirituals, enslaved Africans promised themselves a way out and built up the nerve to endure the most abominable treatment for the promise of a free life. Immigrants from Europe.

Central America and the Pacific have sought a safe haven here and, though met with the trials of building a multi-cultured democracy, continue to become rooted in our nation and make significant contributions to our cultural landscape. At this time, a tribute to the U.S. National Anthem means acknowledging the contradictions, the leaps and bounds, and the milestones that allow us to celebrate and maintain the tradition of our ideals."

The score calls for solo string quartet, two flutes, one doubling piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, timpani, percussion and the usual strings.



JOSEPH Haydn

Born March 31, 1732 in Rohrau, Lower Austria; died May 31, 1809 in Vienna.

TWO MOVEMENTS FROM SYMPHONY NO. 83 IN G MINOR, "LA POULE" ("THE HEN")

• First performed in Paris in 1787.

• The first and only previous performance by the Des Moines Symphony occurred on February 14, 1982 with Yuri Krasnapolsky conducting. (Duration: ca. 9 minutes)

In 1786, Claude-François-Marie Rigoley, Comte d'Ogny, one of the directors of Les Concerts de la Loge Olympique in Paris, sought to capitalize on Haydn's stellar European popularity by commissioning from him a series of six symphonies for his ensemble's performance. In fulfilling the commission from d'Ogny for what became known as the "Paris" Symphonies (Nos. 82-87), Haydn seems to have drawn on two already finished works (Nos. 83 and 87) and complemented them with four pieces expressly written for the Olympique concerts. These masterful creations, then, are products of 1785 and 1786, years when Havdn had little time for composition because of his hectic schedule as Prince Esterházy's opera producer and director in Hungary — he prepared and conducted at least 125 opera performances in 1786 alone. The superb quality of the "Paris" Symphonies is as great a testimony to Havdn's stamina and energy — he was 53 when the commission arrived — as to his wondrous musical talent. The Symphonies were apparently first played in Paris in 1787, and published there the following January by Imbault. Haydn, having learned during the preceding decade how to play the challenging but lucrative game of music publishing in those pre-copyright times, also sold the scores for publication to William Forster in London and Artaria in Vienna.

The sobriquet of the Symphony No. 83 ("La Poule" — "The Hen") was attached to the music by its first Parisian audiences, who detected a reflection of avian strutting and halting motion in the second theme of the opening movement. The Symphony begins in the rather ominous key of G Minor, but then comes the second theme — the stuttering farmyard motive — as a teasing rejection of such pomposity. The music circles back through the dark reaches of G Minor, but eventually tosses away completely the façade of solemnity and ends in the perky tonality of G Major. The finale is a galloping, outdoor affair, rousing music that would not be out of place at a hunting picnic or a festive garden party.

The score calls for flute, two oboes, two bassoons, two horns and the usual strings.



EDWARD MACDOWELL Born December 18, 1

Born December 18, 1860 in New York City; died there on January 23, 1908.

"TO A WILD ROSE" FROM *WOODLAND SKETCHES*, OP. 51, NO. 1

• First public performance unknown, but composition occurred in 1896 in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

• The first and only previous performance by the Des Moines Symphony occurred on November 17, 1960 with Frank Noyes conducting. *(Duration: ca. 3 minutes)*

New York-born Edward MacDowell, the first American composer whose music received wide international acclaim, studied in Paris, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, and was encouraged to devote himself to creative work by Franz Liszt. MacDowell was appointed to the faculty of the Darmstadt Conservatory in 1881, but left that position after just one year to concentrate on composing, concertizing and teaching private students. Among his piano pupils was Marian Nevins, an American, with whom he fell in love. In 1884, they returned to the United States to be married, but went back to Germany almost immediately after the wedding. MacDowell's reputation in both Europe and America grew steadily thereafter. In 1888, the MacDowells moved to Boston, where Edward published many of his piano compositions and appeared frequently as pianist in concerts of his own music until 1896, when he became the first professor of music at Columbia University, a post he held until 1904. After leaving Columbia, he taught privately in New York City and remained active in several professional societies. Among

MacDowell's lasting contributions to American cultural life was founding a retreat for artists at his summer home in Peterborough, New Hampshire, a dream that his wife realized in 1907, one year before her husband's death.

MacDowell's most familiar piece is the tender To a Wild Rose, the first of the ten Woodland Sketches for piano that he composed in 1896 at his country home in Peterborough. In her reminiscences of her husband (Random *Notes*, 1950). Marian MacDowell wrote that one morning she came upon a "scrap of paper [on his desk], looked at it, and said to him, 'Really, this is a charming melody.' It was the Wild Rose theme. He played it over, smiled and said, 'It is not bad - very simple. It makes me think of the wild roses near the Log Cabin [MacDowell's composing hut]." The music's gentle nostalgia may also have been touched by a poem titled To a Wild Rose Found in October by the American writer Ednah Proctor Clarke Hayes that had appeared in the January 1893 edition of the venerable Atlantic Monthly, published in Boston since 1857. The closing verse speaks of the irresistible life force embodied in the poem's late-blossoming flower: What matter if to-night come swirling snow/And Death? The Power that makes, that mars, is One./I know nor care not: when that Power bids blow/I ope my curlëd petals to the sun.

Originally for solo piano, this arrangement calls for flute, clarinet, bassoon and the usual strings.



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