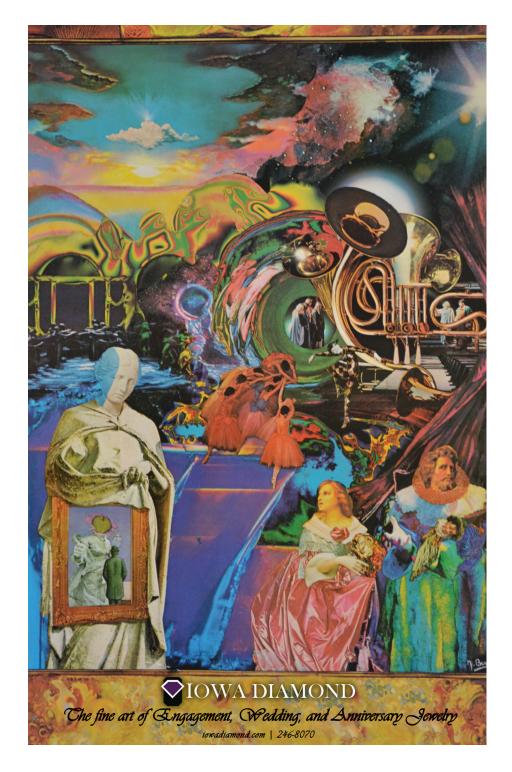


LIVE FROM THE TEMPLE

2020-2021 83RD SEASON

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



Dedication. Focus. Expertise.



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.

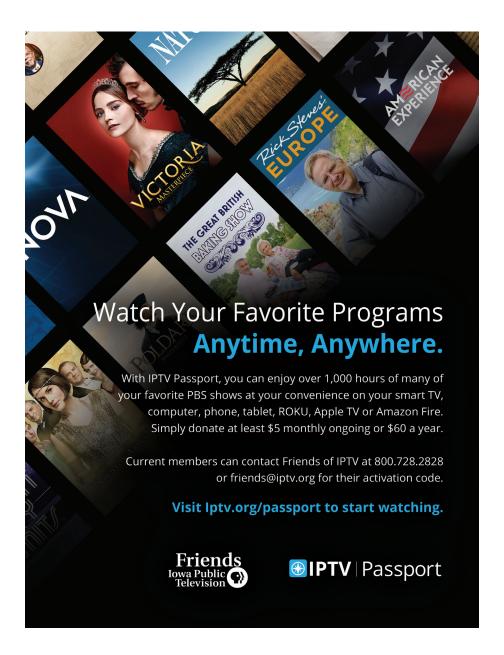
THE CONCERT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

JOSEPH GIUNTA

MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dichard Early EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESIDENT. DES MOINES SYMPHONY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PATRON INFORMATION

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-the-scenes 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 lowa 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



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!



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.





BRAVOGREATERDESMOINES.ORG

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 lowa, 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.





ABOUT THE DES MOINES SYMPHONY

he Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 83rd season in 2020-2021, is one of lowa'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 lowa State Blue Ribbon Foundation to perform Peter Hamlin's Symphony On A Stick on the opening night of the 2016 lowa 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 Boys & 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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DES MOINES SYMPHONY

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

Violoncellos Julie Sturm

Principal Robert & Gloria Burnett Jesse Nummelin Mary Pshonik Michele Senger George Work Rachael Means

Andrew Holm Paul Virgilio

Double Basses Dominic Azkoul

> Principal John Merriman & Dr. Barbara Beatty Chair, in Memory of Eva & James Brauninge

Kory Johnson Donita McCov Ashlev Eidbo Patricia Silva Weitzel** Michael Van Ryn **Brett Wagner**

Harp

Jason Wells

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

Clarinets

Gregory Oakes Principal Clarence Padilla

E-flat Clarinet Kariann Voigts

Bass Clarinet

Joyce Wheeler

Bassoons

Kevin Judge Principal Eileen & Paul Tyler Chair Timothy Gale

Contrabassoon

Matthew Ransom

Horns

Bret Seebeck Principal Robert E. & Gladys G. Wilkins Chair Michael Wilson Assistant Principal

Peter Kortenkamp Charles Harris Joshua Johnson

Trumpets

Andrew Bishop Principal Drs. Robert & Rehecca Shaw Chair Carl Eitzen** Andrew Classen Craig Swartz

Trombones

Casey Maday Principal William Mann

Bass Trombone

Matthew Halbert

Tuba

Ravil "Bo" Atlas Principal Gene Wibben Memorial Chair

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.



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DES MOINES SYMPHONY

JOSEPH GIUNTA MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR THE LINDA AND TOM KOEHN ENDOWED CHAIR 83RD SEASON 2020-2021

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Supporting the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, the Des Moines Symphony Academy and the Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestras.

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Rachel Lowry

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DES MOINES SYMPHONY

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

83RD SEASON 2020-2021

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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DR. RICHARD E. RODDA PROGRAM ANNOTATOR

r. Richard E. Rodda is a native of New Jersey 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.

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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

Meet the Musicians continued

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 lowa 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.*



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

83rd Season Masterworks Subscription Series 2020–2021

Eighth Program





LIVE FROM THE TEMPLE: FANTAISIE EN FRANÇAIS

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00pm Streamed Online from The Temple for Performing Arts, Des Moines

Joseph Giunta, conducting James Blanchard, flute

MARTINES Music from Sinfonia in C Major (1770)

I. Allegro con spiritoIII. Allegro spiritoso

GLUCK Dance of the Blessed Spirits from Orfeo and Euridice (1762)

Mr. Blanchard

GRIEG Music from *Holberg* Suite, Op. 40 (1885)

I. Praelude: Allegro vivace

II. Gavotte: Allegretto – Musette: Poco più mosso – Gavotte

V. Rigaudon: Allegro con brio

FAURE Fantaisie for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 79 (1898)

Mr. Blanchard

STILL Two Movements from from Danzas de Panama (1948)

Tamborito: Moderato

III. Cumbia y Congo: Allegro con moto

MOZART Finale: "Allegro" from Symphony No. 31 in D Major, K. 297 ("Paris") (1778)

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

First Violins

Jonathan Sturm

Concertmaster

Connic & David Balin Cha

Connie & David Belin Chair

Julie Fox Henson

Associate Concertmaster

Yi-Miao Huang John Helmich

Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn

Aaron Hanson

Second Violins

Gretchen Theesfield

Acting Principal

John & Irene Graether Chair

Madeline Capistran

Matt Mever

Bethany Washington

Lucy Duke

Benjamin Munson

Violas

Benjamin Burgdorf

Acting Principal

R.W. & Mary Nelson Chair

Charles Miranda Betty Miller Linda Benoit **Violoncellos**

Julie Sturm Principal

Robert & Gloria Burnett Chair

Jesse Nummelin

Andrew Holm

Paul Virgilio

Double Basses

Dominic Azkoul

Principal

John Merriman & Dr.

Barbara Beatty Chair, in

Memory of Eva & James

Ashley Eidbo

Brauninger

Flutes & Piccolo

James Blanchard

Principal

Irene T. Sideman Chair

Sonja Giles

Oboes

Jennifer Wohlenhaus *Principal*

Meredith Corporation Foundation Chair

Susan Odem

Clarinets

Gregory Oakes *Principal*

Clarence Padilla

Bassoons

Kevin Judge Principal

Eileen & Paul Tyler Chair

Timothy Gale

Horns

Bret Seebeck Principal

Robert E. & Gladys G.

Wilkins Chair

Peter Kortenkamp

Trumpets

Andrew Bishop

Principal

Drs. Robert & Rebecca Shaw Chair

0......

Andrew Classen

Timpani

Robert Meunier

Acting Principal

Krudenier Family Chair,
in Memory of Elizabeth &
David Kruidenier

May 13 LIVE FROM THE TEMPLE: FANTAISIE EN FRANÇAIS

JAMES BLANCHARD FLUTE

James Blanchard is the Principal Flutist of the Des Moines Symphony and Principal Flutist of the Opera San Jose Orchestra. James has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Silicon Valley. As part of a collaboration between Music Academy of the West and the London Symphony Orchestra, James will travel to London and participate in masterclasses, lessons, chamber music and orchestral performances alongside members of the LSO.

James is a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico. After receiving his high school diploma from the Interlochen Arts Academy, he received his Bachelor of Music degree from Rice University where he studied with Leone Buyse at the Shepherd School of Music. While at Rice, James founded the Prismatics Woodwind Quintet, which went on to win the Bronze medal at the 2015 Fischoff International Chamber Music Competition.

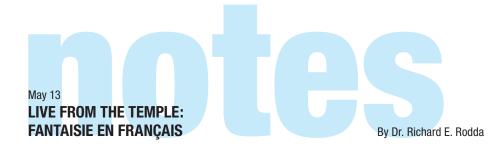
After graduating from Rice, James received his Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School where he studied with Robert Langevin. During his time in New York City, James won



second prize at the 2017 New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition. He also founded Tangent Winds, another woodwind quintet that won the Bronze medal at the 2018 Fischoff International Chamber Music Competition. James has attended the Aspen Music Festival as a member of the Contemporary Ensemble, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Texas Music Festival and Music Academy of the West.

James lives in San Jose, California with his partner.

This is Mr. Blanchard's first solo appearance with the Des Moines Symphony.



30 SECOND NOTES: This Des Moines Symphony concert is framed by music of one of the best- and one of the least-known Viennese Classical composers. The remarkable Marianna Martines was gifted as a composer, singer and pianist and produced compositions of craft and elegance, and is now finding renewed attention after more than two centuries of obscurity. Her friend (and occasional piano-duet partner) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart tailored his "Paris" Symphony to the particular tastes of that musically sophisticated city. Complementing those works on this program are the serene Dance of the Blessed Spirits that Christoph Willibald Gluck used to evoke the mythical underworld, selections in olden style by Edvard Grieg celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Danish writer Ludwig Holberg, two vibrant movements by American composer William Grant Still modeled on Latin dances, and the lovely Fantasy for Flute that Gabriel Fauré composed for the student competitions at the Paris Conservatoire.



MARIANNA MARTINES (MARIANNE MARTÍNEZ) Born May 4, 1744 in Vienna; died December 13, 1812 in Vienna.

MOVEMENTS I AND III FROM SINFONIA IN C MAJOR

- First performance ca. 1770.
- This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (Duration: ca. 8 minutes)

Friend of Mozart, Haydn and Metastasio; amateur composer who established an international reputation without ever leaving her native Vienna; gifted singer and harpsichordist who played her own works at court; author of the only symphony written by a woman during the late 18th century; fluent in four languages and superbly educated; hostess of one of the city's most fashionable musical salons; bachelorette at a time when a woman's life was defined by her marriage. Marianna Martines was one of the most talented and anomalous figures of Viennese Classicism. (She was born Anna Katharina Martínez, but took the name Marianna and preferred the surname "Martines" because it softened the German pronunciation to something closer to that of her Spanish heritage. She is known equally as Marianne Martínez.)

Martines was the daughter of a Neapolitan who was secretary to the papal *nuncio* (ambassador) to the Habsburg Empire. Before he left Naples, her father, Nicolo, had befriended

the poet Pietro Trapassi, who was named Poet Laureate to the Habsburg court in 1730 and became celebrated across Europe for his opera librettos under the pen name Pietro Metastasio. He moved in with Nicolo when he arrived in Vienna and spent the rest of his life as a virtual member of the Martines family. Metastasio, who never married, oversaw the general and musical education of the ten Martines children with the best available teachers, and found a special protégé with Marianna, born in 1744. There was hardly a better place in Europe for Marianna to learn about music. Also living in their large apartment building, directly across a plaza from the Hofburg, the seat of Habsburg power, was the greatly admired voice teacher Nicolò Porpora and, in a cold and drafty attic, an impoverished young musician named Joseph Haydn. When Marianna showed remarkable musical abilities. Metastasio engaged Porpora to give her voice lessons and Haydn to accompany them and instruct her on keyboard; she studied composition with the Imperial court composer Giuseppe Bonno and Johann Adolph Hasse, then the leading composer of opera seria in Europe, who set more than forty of Metastasio's texts.

When Martines was sixteen, her first Mass was performed at the court chapel. She was summoned by Empress Maria Theresa a year later to appear as a singer and keyboardist and was frequently invited to return throughout her life, often performing her own compositions, whose virtuosity attests to her vocal skills. Martines continued to compose and perform steadily and enjoyed numerous public and private performances of her compositions, but she never considered doing either professionally, something that would have been frowned upon by her noble class. In 1773, Metastasio sent several of her scores to his friend Padre Giovanni Battista Martini, that era's most famous teacher of composition, who proposed her for

membership in the Bologna Accademia Filarmonico: she was the first woman ever inducted into that venerable society. (Three years earlier, Mozart, then fourteen, studied with Martini on his third Italian tour and also became a member of the Accademia.) When Metastasio died, in 1782, he left Marianna 20,000 florins (several million dollars today), his harpsichord and music library, and in subsequent years she hosted weekly musical soirées attended by Havdn. Mozart (with whom she played four-hand duets), Irish tenor Michael Kelly (Don Basilio and Don Curzio in the May 1786 premiere of *The* Marriage of Figaro) and other notables: in the 1790s, she started a successful singing school. Her last public appearance was on March 27, 1808 at a performance of Haydn's oratorio *The* Creation in honor of his 76th birthday. In a biographical symmetry that would have pleased the rational thought of that humanistic era, that event was also the last public appearance of Joseph Haydn, Marianna's first teacher, when he was lionized by nobility, music lovers and another of his students. Ludwig van Beethoven. Marianna Martines died in Vienna of tuberculosis on December 13, 1812.

Martines is thought to have composed some 200 works, though many of her manuscripts were destroyed in a fire in 1927. Her extant compositions include four Masses, sacred works for chorus and for solo voice. Italian arias (all on texts of Metastasio), secular solo cantatas, four harpsichord concertos, three harpsichord sonatas and one symphony. Other than two keyboard sonatas, none of these works were published during Martines' lifetime. Despite the skill with which they were created and the acceptance they received, her works faded quickly from notice after her death, when her conservative idiom was superseded by the heightened expression of the Romantic Age. She was rediscovered by scholars in the 1990s, and

in recent years many of her works have been published (most notably by Furore-Verlag, a German publisher specializing in works by women composers), several have been recorded, and a full-length study of her life and music by Indiana University of Pennsylvania professor Irving Godt was published in 2010.

Martines' Sinfonia in C Major is modeled on the compact fast–slow–fast form of the Italian opera overture. (The manuscript is titled "Ouverture.") The first movement is in a sonata form modified in that the vigorous main theme is omitted from the recapitulation, which includes just the delicate, trilling second subject from the exposition; a brief developmental episode using both ideas occupies the middle of the movement. The finale is in two parts, each repeated. The beginning of the second part recalls the spirited opening theme but with a darker expressive character.

The score calls for two flutes, two oboes, two horns, two trumpets, timpani and the usual strings consisting of first violins, second violins, violas, violoncellos and double basses.



CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK Born July 2, 1714 in Erasbach, Germany; died November 15, 1787 in Vienna.

"DANCE OF THE BLESSED SPIRITS" FROM ORFEO AND EURIDICE

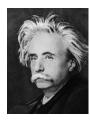
- First performed on October 5, 1762 in Vienna,
- The first and only prior performance by the Des Moines Symphony was on February 23, 1969 with Robert Gutter conducting. (Duration: ca. 6 minutes)

By 1760, Baroque grand opera had become so encrusted with spectacle, ego and flambovant vocalism that the drama itself was swamped beneath it. Though Gluck had been writing just such works for twenty years, he had a vision of a more pure operatic style, one, he wrote, "that strives toward the utmost expressiveness and seeks to reinforce the meaning of the underlying poetry." In 1761, in collaboration with Count Giacomo Durazzo, manager of the Court Theater in Vienna, he produced a ballet on the legend of Don Juan that achieved the "noble simplicity" and dramatic veracity he sought. That same year, Gluck met Raineri de' Calzabigi, native of Livorno, adventurer, womanizer, inventor of a lottery system in Paris, and man of letters, who was a devotee of French tragédie lyrique and an advocate of Rousseau's philosophy of natural expression and realism in the theater. Gluck. Calzabigi and Durazzo determined to realize their mutual vision of a reform opera, one that revived the concept of the Florentine inventors of the genre that the chief use of music was not as an end in itself but that it enhance the narrative thrust and emotional impact of the story. They took as their subject the ancient myth of the musician Orpheus, whose song tamed the very Furies of Hades, the same plot used for many of the earliest operas 160 years before. Their Orfeo ed Euridice was premiered at the Court Theater on October 5, 1762 and created a sensation.

Persistent calls came from France to hear this remarkable new work, and Gluck finally went to Paris in 1773. *Orfeo* was thoroughly revised: its title part was changed from a castrato to a tenor (the Parisians found eunuch singers not to their taste); the original Italian text was meticulously reworked into French; and considerable ballet music was added. Its success was complete. "Since it is possible to spend two hours so pleasurably I feel that life can be worthwhile," wrote Rousseau. Baron

Grimm, one of Mozart's Parisian patrons, believed that *Orphée et Euridice* was "probably the most sublime music that has ever been heard in France." The *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* accompanies the surprising serenity of the afterlife of the ancients in Elysium.

The score calls for flute and the usual strings.



EDVARD GRIEG

Born June 15, 1843 in Bergen, Norway; died September 4, 1907 in Bergen.

MOVEMENTS I, III AND V FROM *HOLBERG* SUITE, OP. 40

- First performed in March 1885 in Bergen, conducted by the composer
- The first and only prior performance by the Des Moines Symphony was on April 5 & 6, 1994 with Joseph Giunta conducting. (Duration: ca. 12 minutes)

In 1884, Grieg was approached by the commission organizing the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Holberg, the writer generally acknowledged as the founder of the Danish-Norwegian school of literature, to make a musical contribution to the proceedings. Holberg (1684-1754), a native of Grieg's hometown of Bergen, Norway, gained fame with his satiric comedy *Peder Paars* of 1719, a work with sufficient social barbs to rouse the ire of the authorities. His recognition continued to grow, however, and in 1722 he was named playwright to the newly formed Danish National Theater. His comedies were the first original plays written in the Danish language.

After 1727, he wrote several volumes of history and biography, but his early plays always remained his most popular works. The center of the 1884 Holberg celebration was in Bergen, where the playwright was born. A new statue of him was to be unveiled on the waterfront, and a series of concerts was planned to commemorate the event, to which Grieg contributed a cantata for men's voices and the piano suite *From Holberg's Time*, which he arranged the following year in a suite for string orchestra. In the suite, a vivacious *Praelude*, a miniature sonata-form movement, is followed by a series of dances, including a perky *Gavotte* and a lively closing *Rigaudon*.

The score calls for the usual strings.



GABRIEL FAURÉ

Born May 12, 1845 in Pamiers, Ariège, France; died November 4, 1924 in Paris.

FANTAISIE FOR FLUTE AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 79

- First performed on July 28, 1898 in Paris by flutist Gaston Blanquart.
- This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (Duration: ca. 5 minutes)

Gabriel Fauré was among the most important musical personalities in *fin de siècle* France. Though it was nearly a decade after he produced the lovely *Requiem* in 1887 before his music began to receive wide-spread attention, he came to enjoy a solid reputation during his later years as a composer, as well as in other musical fields. Like his teacher, Camille Saint-Saëns, Fauré was

a master organist who held some of the most important church positions in his country. In 1896, he was appointed professor of composition at the Paris Conservatoire, where he helped train such distinguished musicians as Ravel, Enesco, Koechlin, Florent Schmidt and Nadia Boulanger. He succeeded Théodore Dubois as director of the Conservatoire in 1905. a post he held until ill health and almost complete deafness forced him to resign in 1920. He also wrote music criticism for *Le Figaro* for the two decades after 1903. The compositions for which he is known today are, according to American musicologist Milton Cross, exquisite examples of "the art of understatement. The pure and classic beauty that pervades his greatest works is derived from simplicity. restraint, delicate sensibility, refinement and repose. It is the kind of beauty that lends itself best to smaller forms and the more intimate mediums of musical expression."

One of the great traditions of the Paris Conservatoire is the school's annual series of competitions for student instrumentalists. Many of France's finest composers have written pieces for these yearly events, and during Fauré's tenure on the Conservatoire's composition faculty, from 1896 to 1905, he contributed examples for cello, flute, violin and harp. For the flute competition of July 1898, directed by his friend and faculty colleague Paul Taffanel, the most highly regarded flutist of his day, Fauré wrote a *Fantaisie* as the prepared work and a brief Morceau de Lecture for sight-reading. That vear's winner, Gaston Blanquart, gave the formal premieres of both compositions on July 28th. The *Fantaisie* opens with a lyrical sicilienne melody for the soloist over a gently rocking accompaniment. The faster section that follows provides the soloist with ample opportunity for mercurial virtuosity.

The score calls for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, the usual strings, and solo flute.



WILLIAM GRANT STILL

Born May 11, 1895 in Woodville, Mississippi; died December 3, 1978 in Los Angeles.

MOVEMENTS I AND IV FROM *DANZAS DE* PANAMA

- First performed on May 21, 1948 at the Los Angeles County Museum by the Waldo Latin American String Quartet.
- This concert marks the first performance of this piece by the Des Moines Symphony. (Duration: ca. 8 minutes)

William Grant Still was born in Woodville. Mississippi, where his father was town bandmaster. At sixteen, Still matriculated as a medical student at Wilberforce University in Ohio, but soon switched to music. He graduated in 1915, and two years later entered Oberlin College. In 1921, he moved to New York as oboist with the orchestra of the Noble Sissle-Eubie Blake revue Shuffle Along. There he studied with Varèse and ran Black Swan Records. In 1928, Still received the Harmon Award for the most significant contribution to Black culture in America. While continuing to compose large-scale classical pieces, he also arranged for radio, for Broadway shows, and for Paul Whiteman, Artie Shaw and other popular bandleaders. After moving to Los Angeles in 1934, he wrote for films (Lost Horizon) and television (Gunsmoke, Perry Mason). Still continued to hold an important place in American music until his death in 1978.

Still received many awards for his work: seven honorary degrees: commissions from CBS, New York World's Fair, League of Composers, Cleveland Orchestra and other important cultural organizations; the Phi Beta Sigma Award; a citation from ASCAP noting his "extraordinary contributions" to music and his "greatness, both as an artist and as a human being"; and the Freedom Foundation Award. Not only was his music performed by most of the major American orchestras, but he was also the first Black musician to conduct one of those ensembles (Los Angeles Philharmonic, at the Hollywood Bowl in 1936) and a major symphony in a southern state (New Orleans Philharmonic in 1955). In 1945, Leopold Stokowski called William Grant Still "one of our great American composers. He has made a real contribution to music."

Elisabeth Waldo (1918-2020) was a classical violinist and composer who studied at the Curtis Institute of Music (on the recommendation of Jascha Heifetz), but she was most widely known for her research and dissemination of the music and instruments of pre-Columbian Latin-American cultures, making commercial recordings of her compositions that incorporated the instruments, techniques and ethos of indigenous music, and establishing the New Mission Theatre in Northridge, California as a performance venue promoting Latin music. Still learned of Waldo's ethnomusicological work when both were living in Los Angeles in the 1940s and made several melodies she had collected the basis of his 1948 Danzas de Panama.

The four *Danzas de Panama* not only suggest the music of Latin America but also evoke the sounds of some indigenous instruments, such as with the percussive taps in the fourth movement. The *Tamborito* (*"Little Drum"*), the national folk song and dance of Panama, is performed, often during Carnival, by

couples accompanied by female chorus and small percussion ensemble. *Cumbia* pervades much of Latin America. It has been traced to *cumbé*, a dance from Equatorial Guinea, and legend holds that it migrated from Africa with the slave trade and its short, simple steps originated as the only moves possible because of the chained ankles of the slaves. The *Congo* is a women's dance with candles performed in multi-colored dresses.

This score calls for the usual strings.



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg; died December 5, 1791 in Vienna.

FINALE: "ALLEGRO" FROM SYMPHONY NO. 31 IN D MAJOR, K. 297 ("PARIS")

- First performed on June 18, 1778 in Paris, directed by Joseph Le Gros.
- First performed by the Des Moines Symphony on February 22, 1970 with Willis Page conducting. Subsequently performed two times, most recently on October 3 & 4, 1998 with Joseph Giunta conducting.

(Duration: ca. 4 minutes)

In the spring of 1778, Mozart was chaperoned by his mother to Paris to look for a job suited to his gifts and his ambition. In May, Jean Le Gros, director of the famous Concert Spirituel, asked him to write a symphony for his series, and Mozart determined to concoct something exactly suited to the Parisian taste. The audience's response to the new piece when it was premiered on June 18th was so favorable that Mozart treated himself afterwards to "a large ice at the

Palais Royale," and Le Gros called it "the best symphony" in his repertory. Mozart's stay in Paris grew sad. His mother fell ill in June, just as the "Paris" Symphony was completed, and she died the next month. He lingered, sorrowful and alone, in Paris until September 26th, when, having failed to obtain the position he sought or the opera commission he longed to fill, he left for home.

For the Symphony's finale, Mozart sprang a surprise on his Parisian audience. "I began with the violins alone, piano for eight measures, followed at once by a sudden forte," he recounted to his father in a letter. "The audience (as I had anticipated) cried 'Hush!' at the piano,

but directly the forte began, they took to clapping." The contrast and balance provided by the juxtaposition of soft and loud passages generates much of the excitement of this finale, whose other unexpected quality is the large amount of contrapuntal texture that it contains. The "Paris" Symphony is at once one of Mozart's most festive works and a brilliant musical statement declaring that the young composer was on the threshold of his artistic maturity.

The score calls for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, timpani and the usual strings.







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