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Minnesota Treasures

Notes on the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra's 33rd season by Music Director William Schrickel



William Schrickel

www.msomn.org

Acknowledgments: Karen Anderson, King Elder, Jon Lewis, Tim Rummelhoff, William Schrickel

Welcome to the Metropolitan Symphony's 2014-2015 season. This will be my fifteenth year as the MSO's Music Director, and I have never been more excited about our lineup of programs, soloists and venues. Every concert includes a work by a living Minnesota composer. We begin and end the season with music by Dominick Argento, opening with the world premiere of his very first orchestral piece, *Ode to the West Wind*, spotlighting soprano Maria Jette, and finishing with mezzo soprano Clara Osowski performing *Casa Guidi*, Argento's Grammy-winning song cycle. Kevin Kling will narrate his own humorous story of *The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool*, set to music by Children's Theater Company's Victor Zupanc and featuring Tom Klein on the Irish bagpipe. Libby Larsen's *A Child's Garden of Monsters* is a setting of Pamela Hill Nettleton's whimsical tale of a young boy's encounter with Count Dracula, and Jake Endres brings his prodigious acting skills back to the MSO to recount the story, as well as to perform Nettleton's new narration for Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Composer Daniel Erdmann, a member of the MSO, performs as soloist in the world premiere of his own Concerto for Viola. Other notable first performances include the Twin Cities premieres of Polina Nazaykinskaya's *Reading the Wind* and Alexandre Guilmant's Organ Symphony No. 2, with soloist Kathrine Handford playing the fantastic organ at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi.

The MSO and I are primed to explore some of the greatest works of the symphonic repertoire, including Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, Mahler's Fourth Symphony, Stravinsky's *Firebird*, Barber's First Essay and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. You won't want to miss a note. See you there!



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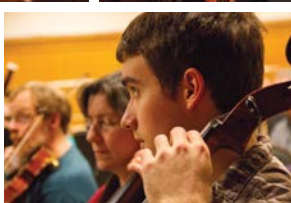
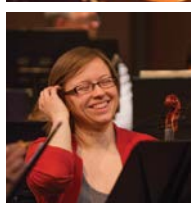
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2014-2015
THE 33RD SEASON OF THE
**Metropolitan
Symphony
Orchestra**
WILLIAM SCHRICKEL
MUSIC DIRECTOR



The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra

William Schrickel, Music Director

2014-2015

Dominick Argento World Premiere

Sunday, October 19 at 4pm

Central Lutheran Church, 333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Maria Jette, soprano

Dominick Argento – *Ode to the West Wind (1956) for Soprano & Orchestra*
Sergei Rachmaninoff – *Symphonic Dances, op. 45*

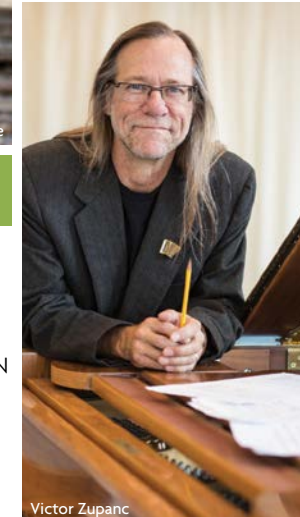
The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Music Director William Schrickel celebrate the start of the MSO's 33rd season with the world premiere of Dominick Argento's *Ode to the West Wind*. Subtitled *Concerto for Soprano and Orchestra*, the *Ode* is the Pulitzer Prize-winning Minneapolitan's setting of Shelley's 1819 poem. Maria Jette is the soloist in this premiere of Argento's first orchestral work, written in 1956 when he was completing his doctoral studies at The Eastman School of Music. Argento's first symphonic work is followed by a performance of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff's final composition, his brilliantly intense *Symphonic Dances*, first performed in 1941.



Maria Jette



Dominick Argento



Victor Zupanc



Linh Kauffman



Kevin Kling

Humorous Kevin Kling, Heavenly Mahler

Sunday, November 23 at 4pm

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Kevin Kling, narrator; Tom Klein, Uilleann pipes; Linh Kauffman, soprano

Percy Grainger – *Londonderry Air*

Victor Zupanc – *The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool*

Gustav Mahler – *Symphony No. 4*

The MSO's first appearance at St. Philip the Deacon will feature playwright Kevin Kling telling his story of *The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool*, with music written by Victor Zupanc, Music Director/Composer of the Children's Theatre of Minneapolis. Zupanc's score spotlights the sweet sound of the Irish bagpipe, played by Tom Klein. As a prelude, William Schrickel will lead the strings in Percy Grainger's arrangement of *Danny Boy*. The concert finishes with Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*, a work whose musical journey begins with the charming sound of sleigh bells, moves to a macabre portrait of Death fiddling on a mis-tuned violin, progresses through variations on heartbreakingly beautiful themes, and concludes with soprano Linh Kauffman singing Mahler's beguiling setting of a child's view of Heaven.



Tom Klein



Pamela Hill Nettleton



Jake Endres

Count Dracula & The Firebird Meet the MSO

Special 1-Hour Family-Friendly Concerts

Sunday, February 1 at 3pm

Warren E. Burger Auditorium, Johnson Senior High School, 1349 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN

Sunday, February 8 at 3pm

St. Joseph campus of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, 1310 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Jake Endres, narrator

Igor Stravinsky – *The Firebird: Suite (1919 version)*

Libby Larsen/Pamela Hill Nettleton – *A Child's Garden of Monsters: Dracula's Blues*

Benjamin Britten/Pamela Hill Nettleton – *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

Igor Stravinsky's suite from his ballet *The Firebird* opens these special 1-hour concerts. The enchanting music tells the Russian tale of heroic Prince Ivan, who rescues thirteen princesses imprisoned by Kashchei, an evil ogre. Jake Endres narrates Minneapolis composer Libby Larsen's *A Child's Garden of Monsters*, a setting for wind octet of Pamela Hill Nettleton's charming story of a young boy's encounter with Count Dracula. William Schrickel and the MSO complete the program with Benjamin Britten's brilliant *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, a symphonic showpiece featuring Jake Endres performing Pamela Hill Nettleton's sparkling new narration.

Beethoven's Fifth!

Sunday, March 29 at 4pm

Roseville Lutheran Church

1215 Roselawn Avenue West, Roseville, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Daniel Erdmann, viola

Samuel Barber – *Essay No. 1 for Orchestra, op. 12*

Daniel Erdmann – *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*

Ludwig van Beethoven – *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, op. 67*

Samuel Barber composed his melodic and ruminative First Essay for Orchestra at the request of Arturo Toscanini, who premiered the work in 1938 with the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Composer Daniel Erdmann, violist in the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the winner of the MSO's 2014 concerto competition, performs the world premiere of his Concerto for Viola and Orchestra. William Schrickel and the MSO close the concert with a performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, a work that opens with the four most recognizable notes in all of music and concludes with a finale that triumphantly completes the symphony's epic journey from darkness to light.

21st Century Classics & Organ Fireworks

Sunday, May 17 at 4pm

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano; Kathrine Handford, organ

Polina Nazaykinskaya – *Reading the Wind*

Dominick Argento – *Casa Guidi*

Alexandre Guilmant – *Symphony No. 2 for Organ & Orchestra, op. 91*

Polina Nazaykinskaya, the young Russian composer championed by the MSO over the past three seasons, composed her *Reading the Wind* in 2013 for a concert exploring the influence of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. Minneapolis composer Dominick Argento won a Grammy Award in 2004 for *Casa Guidi*, his 5-movement song cycle setting texts from letters written by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Mezzo soprano Clara Osowski is the soloist in Argento's touching, poignant work. Schrickel and the MSO bring down the curtain on the 2014-2015 season in spectacular fashion with the Twin Cities premiere of Alexandre Guilmant's *Organ Symphony No. 2*, featuring Kathrine Handford as organ soloist.



Daniel Erdmann



Clara Osowski



Polina Nazaykinskaya



Kathrine Handford