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William Schrickel

Welcome to the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra's 35th season and my 17th as the MSO's Music Director! A spotlight on Russian music illuminates our programs, with thrilling symphonic showpieces including Rimsky's *Scheherazade*, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, and the first Twin Cities performance in 40 years of Shostakovich's monumental Fourth Symphony. We will perform the world premiere of young Russian composer Polina Nazaykinskaya's Symphony No. 1 (an MSO commission), and singers Clara Osowski and Jake Endres will perform *A Few Words About Chekhov*, a song cycle by the MSO's beloved Composer Laureate, Dominick Argento. Other highlights of the season include our showcase of Takako Seimiya Senn, MSO Co-Principal trumpet, in Eric Ewazen's First Concerto; symphonies of Beethoven (No. 1) and Haydn (No. 102); and our 85th birthday shout-out to John Williams, the composer of *Star Wars* and the recipient of 50 Oscar nominations.

—*Music Director William Schrickel*

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Brochure acknowledgments: Karen Anderson, King Elder, Jon Lewis, William Schrickel


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Symphony #102, Concerto #1, Overture 1812

Sunday, October 9 at 4pm
Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN

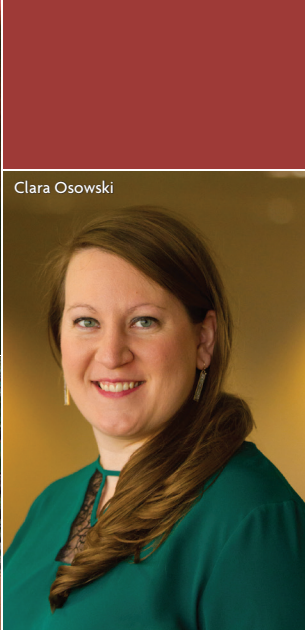
William Schrickel, conductor
Takako Seimiya Senn, trumpet

Franz Joseph Haydn – *Symphony No. 102, Hob. I:102 (The Miracle)*
Eric Ewazen – *Concerto No. 1 for Trumpet and Orchestra*
Modest Mussorgsky – *Introduction to Act I of Khovanshchina*
(orch. Rimsky-Korsakoff)
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky – *1812 Solemn Overture, op. 49*

MSO's 35th season opens with one of Haydn's most sparkling symphonies, No. 102, *The Miracle*. Much of the audience at the 1795 premiere had left their seats to stand closer to the stage to better observe the 62-year-old composer, so no one was killed when a large chandelier broke loose and fell to the floor—a *Miracle*! MSO Co-Principal Trumpet Takako Seimiya Senn assumes center stage for Eric Ewazen's dazzling Trumpet Concerto No. 1, composed in 1995. Following intermission, our season-long salute to Russian music begins with Mussorgsky's gorgeous evocation of dawn on the Moscow River and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.



Takako Seimiya Senn



Clara Osowski



Jake Endres



Argento & Rimsky: Russian Letters & Arabian Nights

Sunday, November 20 at 4pm
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN

William Schrickel, conductor
Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano
Jake Endres, baritone
Dominick Argento, composer

Dominick Argento – *A Few Words About Chekhov*
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff – *Scheherazade, op. 35*

To celebrate the 2016 appointment of Dominick Argento as Composer Laureate of the MSO, mezzo soprano Clara Osowski and baritone Jake Endres return to present the Pulitzer Prize and Grammy® Award-winner Argento's *A Few Words About Chekhov*, a 1994 song cycle that poignantly traces the relationship between the Russian playwright and his wife, actress Olga Knipper, with texts from letters and diary entries of the couple. *Scheherazade*, one of the most popular, lyrical, and dramatic works in all of Russian orchestral music, is a virtuoso showpiece inspired by wondrous tales recounted by the titular Sultana to her husband over 1001 nights.



Dominick Argento

One-Hour Family-Friendly Concerts

Happy 85th Birthday, John Williams!

Sunday, January 29 at 3pm
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
490 Hall Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Sunday, February 5 at 3pm

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

William Schrickel, conductor

John Williams – *Raiders March from Raiders of the Lost Ark*
John Williams – *Adventures on Earth from E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*
John Williams – *Star Wars Suite*

John Williams, who has scored more than 100 films in the course of his career, turns 85 years old on February 8, 2017. To celebrate the illustrious American composer's phenomenal legacy, William Schrickel and the MSO will play selections from three of the most famous movies for which Williams composed the soundtrack music: Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, and George Lucas' *Star Wars*. Listeners of all ages are invited to these special 1-hour concerts to bask in a live performance of these iconic Williams creations in all their original symphonic grandeur.

Shostakovich Symphony No. 4

Sunday, May 14 at 4pm
Roseville Lutheran Church
1215 Roselawn Avenue West, Roseville, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Benjamin Britten – *Russian Funeral (1936) for Brass & Percussion*
Dmitri Shostakovich – *Symphony No. 4 in C minor, op. 43*

Russian Dmitri Shostakovich and Englishman Benjamin Britten enjoyed a close friendship. Britten's Mahler-esque *Russian Funeral* serves as a prelude to this rare performance of Shostakovich's visionary Fourth Symphony. Shostakovich began the symphony in the fall of 1935 when he was the "golden boy" of Russian music, but in January 1936, Stalin published a blistering attack upon Shostakovich's opera, *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. Overnight the composer became an enemy of the state. Shostakovich withdrew the symphony just before its scheduled premiere in Leningrad, and it remained unperformed for 25 years. Inspired by Shostakovich's fascination with Mahler, the work is at turns bombastic, frightening, grandiose, mysterious, and heart-breaking.



Polina Nazaykinskaya



William Schrickel

Beethoven & Nazaykinskaya: Symphonic Firsts

Sunday, April 2 at 4pm
Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis, MN

William Schrickel, conductor
Polina Nazaykinskaya, composer

Ludwig van Beethoven – *Symphony No. 1 in C major, op. 21*
Polina Nazaykinskaya – *Symphony No. 1 April Song*
(World Premiere of MSO Commission)

Beethoven was just 29 years old when his Symphony No. 1 was premiered in Vienna. His initial symphonic foray marked the beginning of his compositional journey that progressed through startling changes in the concept of "a symphony" and culminated 24 years later in his precedent-shattering Ninth Symphony. Polina Nazaykinskaya's First Symphony was commissioned by the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra in honor of William Schrickel. Nazaykinskaya celebrates her 30th birthday on January 20, 2017. This new work, inspired by a Sara Teasdale poem, is the fourth of her compositions to be performed by the MSO.

Concerts are free; donations are requested.
Programs subject to change. For more information:
www.msomn.org or call (612) 567-6724