



METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2017-18 SEASON

Welcome to the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra's 36th season and my 18th as the Music Director of the MSO. In celebration of MSO Composer Laureate Dominick Argento's 90th birthday, our opening concert features a semi-staged production of *The Boor*, Argento's one-act opera composed 60 years ago while he was a student of Howard Hanson, and we close our season with Hanson's own Second Symphony. We honor the memory of Stanislaw Skrowaczewski with his *Music at Night*, and we showcase the Concerto for Orchestra of his Polish compatriot, Witold Lutoslawski. A program of Gunther Schuller and Mussorgsky highlights the close connection between visual and symphonic arts, and nestled between concerts with music of Bernstein, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, and Tchaikovsky is the local premiere of a P.D.Q. Bach Piano Concerto with pianist Jeffrey Biegel. Other soloists include MSO principal viola Heather Phillips and our returning MSO friends, singers Maria Jette, Jake Endres, and Vern Sutton. I invite you to delve into the concert descriptions below; then please join us for each and every concert. Open your mind to this international musical excursion. We are anxious to get started! Thank you for your support.

– *William Schrickel, MSO Music Director*

Concert #1

Argento at 90; Bernstein at 100

Sunday, October 15, 2017 - 4pm
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN

William Schrickel, conductor
Dominick Argento, MSO Composer Laureate
Maria Jette, soprano
Jake Endres, baritone
Vern Sutton, tenor & staging director

Leonard Bernstein - Suite for Orchestra from *Candide*

Dominick Argento—*The Boor* (Semi-staged production of the opera)

Maria Jette, soprano
Jake Endres, baritone
Vern Sutton, tenor & staging director

Early in 2017 William Schrickel asked Dominick Argento which of his works he would most like performed in honor of his 90th birthday on October 27, 2017. His immediate answer was *The Boor*, a one-act comic opera based on a play by Chekhov that Argento wrote in 1957 while he was a composition student of Howard Hanson at the Eastman School of Music. The MSO opens its 36th season with a semi-staged performance of *The Boor* that features soprano Maria Jette, baritone Jake Endres, and tenor Vern Sutton, who also directs the production. The concert begins with Leonard Bernstein's Suite from *Candide* in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Bernstein's birth on August 25, 1918.

Concert #2

The Musical Picture

Sunday, November 19, 2017 - 4pm
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Gunther Schuller – *Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee*

Modest Mussorgsky/Maurice Ravel – *Pictures at an Exhibition*

The MSO performs music of American composer Gunther Schuller and Frenchman Maurice Ravel in a synergistic program bridging the worlds of symphonic music and visual art. Works by Swiss artist Paul Klee inspired Schuller to write his *Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee* in 1959 on a commission from the Minneapolis Symphony and conductor Antal Dorati. Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky created *Pictures at an Exhibition* in twenty days in 1874 as a suite of ten pieces for solo piano, linked by a recurring *Promenade* theme. He wrote the music after attending a memorial exhibition of more than 400 works by artist Viktor Hartmann, his close friend, who died suddenly the previous year at the age of 39. Ravel's arrangement, commissioned by conductor Serge Koussevitsky in 1922, is the best known of the more than 25 orchestral transcriptions of *Pictures* made over the past 130 years.

Concert #3

Snowblower Ballet

Sunday, January 28, 2018 - 2 PM

St. Paul, MN

Mischa Santora, conductor
St. Paul Ballet, Zoé Emilie Henrot, Artistic Director

Leroy Anderson - *Sleigh Ride*

Leo Arnaud – *Bugler’s Dream*

John Williams – *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*

John Williams – *Superman: Main Title*

John Williams – *Star Wars Suite: Main Title*

Pyotr Tchaikovsky – *The Nutcracker, op. 71 (selections)*

Floyd Hutsell - *The Minnesota Rouser*

You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime event! Join the St. Paul Ballet and the MSO at the Harriet Island Pavilion and marvel as the dancers perform ballet outside in the snow to live music performed by the MSO under the direction of Mischa Santora. Snowblowers, ice scrapers, and shovels will all make appearances. The world of dance will never be the same, and you will never again hear Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* without recalling the spectacle of snowsuit-and-tutu-clad dance partners pirouetting through the snow and jetéing over the ice. Dress warmly to watch the ballet outdoors and thrill to the sound of the MSO performing some of the world's most famous dance, film, and TV scores.

Concert #4
One-Hour Family-Friendly Concerts
The Music of Heroes

Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 3 PM
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
490 Hall Avenue, St. Paul, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Dmitri Shostakovich - *Festive Overture*, op. 96

Leo Arnaud - *Bugler's Dream*

John Williams - *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*

John Williams - *Star Wars Suite: Main Title*

John Williams - *Quidditch from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

John Williams - *Superman: Main Title*

Klaus Badelt - *Pirates of the Caribbean*

Pyotr Tchaikovsky - *1812 Solemn Overture*, Op. 49

This 1-hour family-friendly concert celebrates heroes, both real-life and fictional. John Williams' film scores reflect the heroic characters from *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and *Superman*, and his *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*, composed in 1984 for the Los Angeles Olympics, is still heard today whenever the Olympics are televised. Klaus Badelt composed film music to underscore the exploits of the *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Russian composers Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky commemorated anniversaries of important events in their country: Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* to honor the 37th anniversary of the October Revolution in 1954, and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* for the 1882 dedication of a new cathedral in Moscow, built to honor the 70th anniversary of Russia's victory over Napoleon and the French in the War of 1812.

Concert #5

P.D.Q. Bach Premiere; Lutoslawski Showpiece

Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 4 PM

Roseville Lutheran Church

1215 Roselawn Avenue West, Roseville, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Jeffrey Biegel, piano

P.D.Q. Bach - 1712 Overture

P.D.Q. Bach - Concerto for Simply Grand Piano and Orchestra (Twin Cities premiere)

Jeffrey Biegel, piano

Witold Lutoslawski—Concerto for Orchestra

Pianist Jeffrey Biegel joins the MSO for a concert that straddles musical polar opposites: the worlds of hilarious, parodic humor and profound, granitic depth. Biegel is the featured soloist in the local premiere of the concerto whose discovery he recently commissioned from Ames, Iowa's own Prof. Peter Schickele: the P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742)? *Concerto for Simply Grand Piano*. The program opens with P.D.Q. Bach's well-known "musical assault," the *1712 Overture*. After intermission, William Schrickel and the MSO turn to Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski's weighty and virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra, a dazzling symphonic showpiece composed between 1950 and 1954 and given its American premiere in 1958 under the baton of conductor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, former Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Concert #6

Germany to England to Poland to the USA

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 4 PM

Southwest High School

3414 West 47th Street, Minneapolis, MN

William Schrickel, conductor

Heather Phillips, viola

Johannes Brahms - Academic Festival Overture, op. 80

**Ralph Vaughan Williams - Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra
(Selections)**

Heather Phillips, viola

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski - *Music at Night*

Howard Hanson - Symphony #2, op. 30 (“Romantic”)

For their season finale, William Schrickel and the MSO perform a program incorporating music by four composers from different countries. Johannes Brahms, born in Hamburg, Germany, composed his *Academic Festival Overture* in 1880 as a musical “thank you” to the University of Breslau, which had conferred an honorary degree upon him. MSO principal violist Heather Phillips assumes the soloist’s spotlight to play selections from English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Suite for Viola and Orchestra*. Poland’s Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, the brilliant composer and conductor who moved to the Twin Cities to lead the Minneapolis Symphony in 1960 and passed away in February of 2017 at the age of 93, wrote *Music At Night* in 1948. The MSO brings down the curtain on the 2017-2018 season with music by American Howard Hanson, one of MSO Composer Laureate Dominick Argento’s composition instructors. Hanson created his *Symphony #2* (“Romantic”) in 1930 on a commission from Serge Koussevitsky that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Boston Symphony. At turns bracingly powerful and sublimely lyrical, it is no surprise that it found its way (without the composer’s permission) into the closing moments of the film soundtrack of 1979’s *Alien*

Concerts are free. Donations are requested.
Programs are subject to change.

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