



THE METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DR. JEFFREY STIRLING, GUEST CONDUCTOR
SIMON PLUM, CLARINET

“IN GOOD COMPANY - NAVARRO’S CLARINET VIRTUOSITY”

*Maurice Ravel,
Rapsodie espagnole*

*Óscar Navarro,
Concerto No. 2 for Clarinet and Orchestra*

*Edward Elgar,
Enigma Variations*

February 11, 2024 at 3pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Making beautiful music in good company for an appreciative audience. What better description could there be for an MSO concert? The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to accompany one of their own, clarinet player Simon Plum, in Spanish composer Óscar Navarro's vivacious Concerto No. 2. Simon is the winner of the MSO Concerto Competition and his colleagues are proud to be supporting him as he steps into the spotlight!

Maurice Ravel's mother was Spanish and one of his earliest memories was the sound of Spanish folk song. Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole* (Spanish Rhapsody) contrasts the languid atmosphere of a Spanish night with infectious dance rhythms in a virtuosic display of orchestral color.

Edward Elgar dedicated his *Enigma Variations* "To my friends pictured within." Elgar's own theme is followed by a series of musical character sketches based on his close circle of friends and family. These include his wife, who encouraged him to write the piece, amateur musicians with whom Elgar played chamber music, and his music publisher, the subject of the well-known "Nimrod" variation. (There's even an affectionate "portrait" of a bulldog named Dan!) Music truly inspired by good company.

All MSO concerts are free. Donations support our mission to perform outstanding symphony concerts for diverse audiences throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

