



Genesee Symphony Orchestra 2019-2020 Concert Season

Symphonic Pictures

Symphonic Pictures III *Once Upon a Time*

Sunday, March 1, 2020 4:00 P.M.

Elba Central School Auditorium

Program

Night on Bald Mountain | Mussorgsky
Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite) | Ravel
Romeo and Juliet: Selections | Prokofiev

Message from the Maestro

Dear Friends,

"Once upon a time... there was an orchestra called the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, and their concert was filled with music that told fantastic stories!" Well, that's not a fairy tale as our upcoming concert will indeed be a magical story telling journey through many beloved pieces of music.

We start the program with the famous *Night on Bald Mountain* by Mussorgsky. You may remember this piece from Disney's *Fantasia*. It depicts the spirits of darkness in celebration of "Chernobog" the Black God, before the sound of church bells drives them back into the darkness. Very dramatic and maybe still a bit scary!

Next on the program will be one of my all time favorite pieces; *Mother Goose Suite* by the masterful orchestrator, Maurice Ravel. Each movement is based on a classic childhood story: *Sleeping Beauty*, *Tom Thumb*, *Beauty and the Beast*. It is a tour-de-force for our wind players and features everyone from the stratospheric piccolo to the grumbling contrabassoon!

Finally, your GSO will be performing selections from Prokofiev's timeless ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. We will play some of the most famous moments including the *Montagues and Capulets*, the *Balcony Scene*, and *Romeo at Juliet's Grave* to name a few. Again it features many musicians in the orchestra and is most definitely something not to be missed.

I hope to see you March 1st in Elba for this spellbinding concert!

~Shade

Adopt-a-Chair



Adopt-a-Chair is an exciting program which affords the participant a first-hand experience with the orchestra.

For \$35.00, "adopt" a musician of the orchestra. Choose your favorite instrument and sit in that section during the dress rehearsal, for a "behind the scenes" experience in which you will see and hear an orchestra at work. Contact Helen Parkins at hparkins45@gmail.com to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.



This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!.

GSO String Workshop

The 2020 GSO String Workshop will take place Saturday, March 28 at the First Presbyterian Church in Batavia, 9:45-2:00. GSO conductor S. Shade Zajac, a virtuosic cellist himself, will direct the workshop, assisted by GSO musicians. Sheet music is currently circulating among area string teachers.

This year Shade has chosen the *Capriol Suite* by Warlock, for string students to learn. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th movements will be played with the GSO during the May 3 concert in Elba, which also features David Kim performing a Brahms violin concerto. Mr. Kim is Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He enjoys playing in Western NY, and this is his 2nd appearance with the GSO in 3 years.

Shade is excited for String Workshop students to see and hear Mr. Kim play. The May 3 concert will enable students to bring *Capriol Suite* to life focusing on orchestral string techniques, alongside GSO string players.

The GSO String Workshop is sponsored by the GSO Board of Directors and the Bank of Castile.

Final Concert

Symphonic Pictures IV *Dance*

Sunday, May 3, 2020 4:00 P.M.

Elba Central School Auditorium

Guest David Kim, Violin, Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster String Workshop

Violin Concerto in D | Brahms with **David Kim, Violin**
Capriol Suite | Warlock **GSO with String Workshop**

Fete Polonaise | Chabrier

Rodeo | Copland

Estancia: Danzas del Ballet | Ginastera

2019-20 GSO Raffle? Of course!

This year the GSO is offering something a little different to pique your interest; a day and overnight stay in beautiful Canandaigua NY. While there, you'll be able to experience the NYS Culinary facility known as New York Kitchen (NYK) and Bella Rose Bed & Breakfast.

New York Kitchen, located on Canandaigua Lake, boasts state of the art cooking facilities where a cornucopia of classes are offered. One of NYK's goals is to shine a spotlight on New York State foods and beverages, so there's a beautiful restaurant using fresh seasonal produce from NYS farms.

After a yummy day at NYK you'll enjoy the amenities of Bella Rose Bed & Breakfast for a relaxing night in one of their beautifully appointed bedroom suites with private bath. Bella Rose boasts "the best breakfast in Canandaigua," a 3-course offering in their Victorian dining room.

To learn more about New York Kitchen and Bella Rose, visit nyk.com and bellarose.com.

Raffle tickets are on sale for (\$5/1, \$10/3) at GSO concerts, or from any Board member, and are available until the drawing at the final concert May 3, 2020.

Presidents' Note

Welcome to 2020 GSO patrons, supporters, and guests! We're very appreciative of your willingness to brave the cold weather to come out and spend some time with us.

Our conductor S. Shade Zajac has put together a program which will tell you a few remarkably different stories that stir your thoughts and imagination. *Night on Bald Mountain* by Mussorgsky was inspired by an ancient Russian short story. The story told of one night a year when demons and witches would revel through the night and into the morning hours until "the sounds of the far off bell of the little church in a village... dispersed the spirits of darkness."

Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite) was composed by Ravel for his friend's children, originally for two pianos but later orchestrated by Ravel for small orchestra. After his passing, the children as adults reminisced how Ravel would tell them fairy tales, and hoped they would be the first to gather on a hill near Kiev to revel through the night until the church bells chimed the next morning to usher in a new day.

Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* is a dedication to perhaps the most famous story of all time. Its premiere was met with much controversy, due to the alteration of the original Shakespearean ending, that the initial ballet production was postponed.

We hope you enjoy the selections Shade and our GSO have chosen to perform. It's truly remarkable that here in Genesee County we are fortunate to have an ambitious conductor and wonderfully talented musicians who excel at performing such challenging pieces.

Thank you for supporting our community organization and thank you for your time with us at the GSO!

Justin Hopkins & Roxie Choate, Co-Presidents 2019-20

A Note from the GSO Historian

Keeping with our theme of days-gone-by: In April 1989, 30 years ago, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra performed *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams with guest Baritone Jay Pierson and the Genesee Chorale. It would be one of two performances that year wherein the GSO and the Choral would collaborate. The second was May 1989, when the two groups did a joint performance of Mozart's *Grand Mass in C Minor*.

In the late '90s, the GSO and Chorale collaborated on a New Year's Eve performance at GCC of Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*.

Collaborations between the Genesee Region's most respected and renowned groups are not only a tradition (sometimes long overdue), but a treasured experience for performers and audience alike. It's a collaboration which should always be fostered and supported by all for the benefit of all.

Want to learn more about the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and guest collaborations? Visit the memory books in the reference section of the Richmond Memorial Library. And be sure to visit the permanent display at the Holland Land Office Museum for more historical facts about the GSO. Joanne Tumminello, GSO Historian

Young Artist Competition 2020

The GSO happily announces its 11th annual Young Artist Competition. The winner performs with the GSO during its 2020-2021 concert season. Last year's winner, Amy Feng, performed at the GSO December 8th Holiday concert, to rave reviews.

The competition will take place Saturday, April 4th at the First Presbyterian Church, Batavia.

Student must currently be enrolled in grades 8-11, and:

- May be a vocalist or instrumentalist.
- Must perform a NYSSMA Solo Level V or VI and consider auditioning the selection to be performed with the GSO. Solo limited to 15 minutes.
- Must provide accompanist. A piano will be provided.
- The Music Director/Conductor and adjudication panel will make the final decision on whether or not the top performer will be of the caliber to perform with the orchestra. The winner, his or her teacher, and the conductor will then select the piece that will be performed at the concert.

An alternate date has been established for Hochstein students who have a tour performance conflict: March 30, 2020 in the evening at First Presbyterian Church.

Applications must be received by Monday, March 23, 2020. There is a non-refundable \$10 fee. See <https://geneseesymphony.com/2243-2/> or contact Katharine Wilson at katharinewilson04@gmail.com with any questions.

Instruments of the Orchestra: continued: Brass

Ahhh, those bad boys (and girls) in the back row, who make their sound by doing a raspberry into a mouthpiece.... basically a lip action most 9-year-olds find pretty gross and funny. (Maybe that's why so many 4th graders start out on brass instruments. But I digress.)

OK back to the science. Remember the "column of vibrating air" concept? Don't have a brass instrument handy and want to try out the physics of this? Do a raspberry into a garden hose, then tighten and loosen your lips. You can play harmonics, maybe even a melody. Besides, your neighbors already think you're strange.

The brass section includes a huge (some literally) variation of instruments, from the tuba (reeeally looow) to the pocket or piccolo trumpet (those really high baroque sparklers). The larger the mouthpiece, the bore (tube diameter) and length of tubing, the lower the range. That's why tubas and trombones are pretty large; trumpets and cornets much smaller. Essentially from deep bass to high soprano, brass instruments can play not only the range of the human voice, but a lot further in both directions. It's rumored tuba players drink a lot of beer to help their range.

This section of the orchestra has in common their all-metallic structure. Brass, sure, but often alloys of nickel, copper, silver and other metals. The metal tubing allows for natural harmonics. A note of C, E, G and high C can generally be played "open" i.e. with no valves. The valves divert air into side tubes, to vary the length of air column, hence the pitch. Trumpets have 3 valves; most tubas and French Horns 4. Trombones vary the air column (and pitch) by means of a slide. Which means trombone players don't have a "fixed" column for any note, so they really have to listen for their correct pitch. They're like Dean Martin singing: they don't quite know where the note is, so they just kind of sliide toward it and hope for the best.

Similar with French Horn players, since that instrument's 16' of tubing, small mouthpiece and large bell allow so much room for error (i.e. open harmonics) it's harder to hit the right note, especially the higher the note. Which is maybe why trumpet players tend to be happy-go-lucky folks and horn players more nervous-nellie types. Just my theory. Also, the Horn isn't really French in origin. And no, a saxophone isn't a brass instrument. It makes its noise with a reed. Don't get me started.

Download Garrison Keillor's *Young Lutheran's Guide to the Orchestra* for his insight on this and other (spot-on / insulting / hilarious) takes on musicians. And yeah, we all know the inside jokes. Just ask us. -Bob Knipe

2019-2020 Ticket Information

Single Ticket Prices

Adult \$15

Senior Citizen (62 & older) \$10

Student Free with student ID

Concert tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the concert or at the following GSO "place of business" supporters:

Roxy's Music Store, YNGODESS, Go Art!, and Bank of Castile, LeRoy

Tickets also available online:

www.dailynewstickets.com and www.geneseesymphony.com



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