



## Genesee Symphony Orchestra 2019-2020 Concert Season

# *Symphonic Pictures*

### *Symphonic Pictures I* *Portraits*

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**Meet the Orchestra  
Concert**

**3:00 P.M.  
4:00 P.M.**

**Pembroke High School**

*Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* | Debussy

*John Henry* | Copland

*The Swan of Tuonela* | Sibelius

*Pictures at an Exhibition* | Mussorgsky arr. Ravel

### *Symphonic Pictures II* *A Nutcracker Holiday!*

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**4:00 P.M.**

**Byron Bergen High School**

*Christmas Concerto* | Corelli

*Sleigh Ride* | Anderson

*Piano Concerto no. 2 mvt 1* | Saint Saens

**Amy Feng, Piano GSO 2019 Young Artist Winner**

*The Nutcracker: Selections from Act 1* | Tchaikovsky

Holiday Selections GSO with The Polar Express

Pembroke Intermediate Chorus

*Christmas Festival* | Anderson

### *Symphonic Pictures III* *Once Upon a Time*

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

**4:00 P.M.**

**Elba Central School Auditorium**

*Night on Bald Mountain* | Mussorgsky

*Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite)* | Ravel

*Romeo and Juliet: Selections* | Prokofiev

### *Symphonic Pictures IV* *Dance*

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

**4:00 P.M.**

**Elba Central School Auditorium**

**Guest soloist David Kim, Violin**

**Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra**

**String Workshop**

*Violin Concerto in D* | Brahms

**David Kim Violin**

*Fete Polonaise* | Chabrier

*Rodeo* | Copland

*Estancia: Danzas del Ballet* | Ginastera

### **2019-20 GSO RAFFLE? Of course!**

This season it's something we haven't done before... a very attractive package you're going to want to take a chance on! Watch for details in the Oct. 20 Concert Program and elsewhere. Not only is it something you're going to love - or want to give as a gift - but your raffle ticket purchase also helps fund our GSO. Drawing is during the May 3 concert intermission: need not be present to win (but you're going to want to be there).

### **Message from the Maestro**

Dear Friends of the GSO,

We are off again to another incredible season with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra. This season we are doing something a little different in that we have an over arching theme: "Symphonic Pictures." Each of our four concerts will paint incredible stories with beautiful music. Our first performance "Symphonic Pictures I: Portraits," will feature some of the most famous and loved pieces in the orchestral repertoire. We begin with hypnotic tune of Pan's flute in Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)*. This piece with its beautiful warm colors will provide a magical start to the program. Next we will perform the *Swan of Tuonela* by Sibelius. Sibelius features the warm and nostalgic sound of the English Horn in this beautiful and haunting tone poem. Closing out the first half, we will do a lesser known piece of music by American composer Aaron Copland called *John Henry*. In this short piece based on the folk ballad, Copland (as he did with so many pieces) evokes the unmistakable sound of America. Finally, on our program we will perform Ravel's masterful orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. This piece features many of our fabulous orchestra members in depictions of paintings, sketches and designs of Musorgsky's friend Victor Harmann. From the magnificent *Great Gate of Kiev*, to the grotesque *Gnomus* and *Baba Yaga - the Hut on fowl legs*. We hope that you will join us for this exciting start to our 73rd season!

~Shade

## A Special Invitation from Justin and Roxie

What an exciting GSO Concert Season we have coming! Conductor S. Shade Zajac has selected the repertoire to feature soloists for each concert of the GSO's 73rd season: Oct. 20 (Pembroke), Dec. 8 (Byron-Bergen); March 1 and May 3, 2020 (Elba).

For the Oct. 20 concert, Shade has chosen the famous Pictures at an Exhibition, first scored for piano by Mussorgsky in 1874, and later orchestrated by Maurice Ravel in 1922, which is by far the most performed edition. Imagine yourself in an art museum, viewing art works of the 1800's. Mussorgsky/Ravel wrote musical descriptions of each piece of art, and added a Promenade, played as you walk from one painting to another. See elsewhere in this Newsletter for the other works the GSO will play on Oct. 20.

And speaking of soloists, the May 3 Concert brings back to Genesee Co. a most talented violinist, David Kim, Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. This is Mr. Kim's second GSO performance with the GSO.

Come join us at Pembroke Middle/High School Auditorium, 4:00pm on Oct. 20. The GSO is pleased to present the Pembroke community with beautiful music, and we thank Pembroke music teachers and administration for giving us a very warm welcome! See you there!

Musically yours,

Justin Hopkins and Roxie Choate, GSO Co-Presidents 2019-20

## A Note from the GSO Historian

Genesee Symphony Orchestra has a tradition of premiering new compositions from up and coming composers.

10 years ago GSO premiered the Overture from "Aelinor," an oratorio by local composer, Board member, and friend to the GSO, the late Ann Reid. An homage to Elinor of Aquitaine, mother of King Richard The Lionheart and King John the Bad, the Overture was described as "beautiful, lyrical and haunting."

At the time the Genesee Symphony Orchestra performed this moving composition, it was believed to be the first time in GSO history that the Orchestra has premiered work from a local composer.

Want to learn more about the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and guest performers? 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

## Instruments of the Orchestra: Percussion

Last Spring I said we'd be exploring the four general types of instruments found in a modern orchestra. They are percussion, strings, woodwinds and brass. Beyond that it gets more complicated, so here we go.

The percussion section has the biggest range of instruments by far. Watch those fun folks in the back row go to their "toy chests" and dig out the perfect tool for percussing upon something. That's the key: percussion instruments are generally struck in some fashion (or as the late British comedienne Anna Russell called it, "aggressed upon"). Percussion instruments can be chromatic (chimes, marimba, xylophone, glockenspiel, vibraphone) or monochromatic (a zillion types of drums, triangle, woodblock, tambourine, maraca, gong), a combination (timpani are tune-able drums), or otherwise generate a noise or tone ("more cowbell!").

Why are percussionists placed in the back row? It's not their personalities (although some think so). It's because (a) they are usually the loudest section, and (b) they need more space for their many instruments and toy boxes.

Garrison Keillor, in his famous piece "Young Lutheran's Guide to the Orchestra" (look it up), calls percussionists the most "saintly" musicians in the orchestra. Not because they practice very controlled aggression, but because they're the most patient. "Count 48 bars, hit one thing. Count another 64 bars, hit another thing." Etc.

Think this is all very complicated? Well, a piano is also a percussion instrument. Yes it has strings and is largely made of wood. But piano strings make their 88 different tones by being struck, not plucked like a harpsichord or guitar. Which makes it a percussion instrument.

Confused yet? Thought so. Wait 'til we get to the "woodwinds."

Bob Knipe

## 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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## 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 Branch.

Tickets also available online:

[www.dailynewstickets.com](http://www.dailynewstickets.com)  
[www.geneseesympphony.com](http://www.geneseesympphony.com)

## 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](mailto:hparkins45@gmail.com) to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.

## Save a Tree...



Get the GSO Newsletter in your email!

The GSO offers the option of getting this Newsletter from now on... in your email. How? Simple. Send a quick email to [geneseesympphonyorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:geneseesympphonyorchestra@gmail.com) and it will happen.



The GSO is pleased to be affiliated with Genesee Community College as *Orchestra in Residence* since February, 2005. The Stuart Steiner Theatre is the GSO home for many regular season concerts.

## Mission Statement

Genesee Symphony, Inc. is a dynamic, regional orchestra that presents innovative programming for the enrichment of the community through high quality performance, educational opportunities, guest artists, and partnerships that bring a diverse public and the arts together.



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