

4-20-2017

Concert: Ithaca College Sinfonietta

Ithaca College Sinfonietta

Keehun Nam

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Ithaca College Sinfonietta

Keehun Nam, director

Thursday, April 20th, 2017
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Overture to *Poet and Peasant*

Franz von Suppé
(1819-1895)

Variations on an Original Theme, op. 36

IX. Nimrod
XII. B. G. N.

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Shaun Rimkunas, conductor

String Quartet No. 13 (op. 130), No. 5 -
"Cavatina"

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Symphony No. 2 in D Major
IV. Finale: Allegro moderato

Jean Sibelius
(1865-1957)

Program Notes

Overture from Poet and Peasant

Franz von Suppé (b. April 18, 1819 Split, Croatia - d. May 21, 1895 Vienna)

Although today Franz von Suppé is mostly forgotten, during the second half of the 19th century, he was a popular composer in Vienna where he sang bass in renowned operatic productions and composed over 40 operas. In 1845, he became the director at the Theater an der Wien (which premiered *Magic Flute*) where he conducted many important productions for 17 years.

Von Suppé was the first true master-composer of the classical Viennese operetta, and his ability to transition fluently between light, rhythmic trots to long mellifluous lines can be heard in the overture to *Poet and Peasant*. While our contemporary culture is more familiar with his *Light Calvary Overture* due to its iconic appearance in the cartoon *Dudley Do-Right of the Mounties*, this overture was more popular in his day. Unlike most other overtures, this one is actually not an overture to an opera—it served as prelude music to a comedy by Karl Elmar titled *Poet and Peasant*.

Selections from Variations on an Original Theme, op. 36

Edgar Elgar (b. June 2, 1857 Broadheath, U. K. - d. February 23, 1934 Worcester, U. K.)

Known more commonly as the *Enigma Variations*, Elgar's most famous work began as an evening improvisation in which he portrayed his friends with different musical styles. For example, the tenth variation titled "Dorabella" depicts his friend Dora Penny (who had a tendency to stutter) with the fluttering of the woodwinds.

The ninth variation, titled "Nimrod," draws its title from Nimrod, the grandson of Noah, in the Old Testament. Elgar likened Nimrod, referred to as "a mighty hunter before the Lord" in the Bible, to his friend Augustus J. Jaeger who was a music editor at his publisher Novello and often gave Elgar honest feedback on his latest compositions. The mood of this variation is actually a portrayal of a moment in Elgar's life when Jaeger (meaning "hunter" in German) helped him get through a bout of depression. Citing Beethoven's overcoming of struggle, Jaeger inspired Elgar to overcome his own struggle and write even more beautiful music.

The twelfth variation titled "B.G.N." represents his friend Basil George Nevinson who often played chamber music with Elgar. Although he was not a professional, Nevinson was an accomplished

cellist, and Elgar wrote this cello solo for him.

In naming it the "Enigma" variations, Elgar hinted at having hidden some code into the music. To date, there has not been a conclusive answer, but perhaps that is exactly how Elgar intended it.

Cavatina from String Quartet No. 13, op. 130, no. 5

Ludwig van Beethoven (b. December 16, 1770 Bonn, Germany - d. March 26, 1827 Vienna)

When Beethoven was asked at the end of his life what his favorite composition was, he said that while he wouldn't pick favorites, he would like to listen again to the Cavatina in E-flat from *String Quartet No. 13*, op. 130.

The Cavatina is divided into three sections. Under the instruction "beklemmt" (a German word roughly meaning "oppressed and heavy of heart"), the middle section features a solo from the first violin which sounds confused and lost. Interestingly, the word in Beethoven's manuscript was "beklommen" which is also a difficult German word to translate succinctly—it is a combination of "anxious," "uneasy," and "apprehensive." Coincidentally, in the Netherlands (where Beethoven's heritage lies), the Dutch meaning of the exact same word is "to have climbed." Given his lifelong struggle with deafness and existential doubt with which he eventually made peace, this is perhaps not a coincidence.

Finale from Symphony No. 2 in D Major

Jean Sibelius (b. December 8, 1865 Hämeenlinna, Finland - d. September 20, 1957 Ainola, Finland)

Having just completed and premiered his most famous work, *Finlandia*, Sibelius left Finland for a vacation in Italy where he began his *Second Symphony*. It was immediately popular and has since remained in most symphony orchestras' repertoire. Like Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, this finale movement brings a confident and triumphant finish to the energetic but mysterious earlier movements.

As Finland's most famous composer, many look up to Sibelius as having given Finland a voice and a sense of cultural identity when the country was trying to gain independence from Russia. Like Beethoven, his love of nature is clear in many of his works—including this particular movement with its depictions of deep, wide valleys and effortless, soaring birds.

Ithaca College Sinfonietta

Flute

Madeleine King
Alison Miller
Julia Muller ②

Oboe

Hailey Dziendziel ②
Erica Erath ✿

Clarinet

Winona Platt ②
Brooke Miller ✿

Bassoon

Emma Whitestone ②

Horn

Emily DeRoo
Cienna Lyon ②
Zoe Mendrysa
Evan Morrison ②

Trumpet

Anthony Carl
Alec Donowitz
Austin Rannestad ②

Trombone

Eric Coughlin ✿
Sean Bessette ✿
Will Esterling ✿

Tuba

Cameron Seib ②

Timpani

Alex Carpino ②

Percussion

Jamie Kelly ✿

② (Principal)

✿ (Guests)

Violin I

Melanie Burnett
Louise DeVivo
Audrianna Evelyn
Elizabeth Mabee
Annika Morrison
Paige Twining
Jessica Wolfe
Riho Yamaguchi ②

Violin II

Alianna Becerra
Ellen Harris
Victoria Lam ②
Roosevelt Lee
Lydia Loiselle
Michael Yeung

Viola

Simone Cartales ✿
Zac Cohen ✿
Geoff Devereux ✿
Maria Dupree ✿
Ariana Ross ②

Cello

Andrew Dessel
Sydney Gershon
Mel Sadoff ✿
Jeremy Straus ②

Bass

Andrew Hazerjian ②
Johanna Snyder

Assistant Conductor

Shaun Rimkunas

Special thanks to our string coaches!

Hannah Lin, violin
Michelle Metty, viola &
violin
Craig Mehler, cello & bass

Upcoming Events

Lincoln Center Preview Concert

Sunday, 4/23/2017
4:00pm in Ford Hall

Lincoln Center Preview Concert: Choir and Chamber Orchestra

The Exquisite Hour: MusIc of Love and Rapture

The Chamber Orchestra with director Calvin Wiersma and stage director Tucker Davis will perform Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. The Choir and Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Janet Galvan in a world premiere commissioned work by Dominick DiOrio entitled *SOLARIS: A Choral Symphony in Three Movements*, and Samuel Barber's *Prayers of Kierkegaard*.

Free, open to the public.

Lincoln Center Concert

Saturday, 4/29/2017
8:00pm in Alice Tully Hall

Tickets will be available from the Lincoln Center website. For any updates, please visit the Symphony Orchestra's Facebook page at:

<https://facebook.com/lthacaCollegeSymphonyOrchestra>