National Heroes and Wylie & The Wild West

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra:

On Saturday, February 2nd (which, incidentally, is the birthday of one of the greatest violinists of all time—Jascha Heifetz) at 7:30pm we will continue with the Rosemary A.C. Gottlieb 2018-19 Season and our year-long celebration of heroes with National Heroes. This concert features music by three composers who were considered national heroes in their homelands. First we have My Homeland by Antonín Dvořák. Not only is Dvořák’s name and music inextricably linked with the Czech Republic, but the folk song upon which this particular piece is based has gone on to become the current-day Czech National Anthem. Next we have the Cello Concerto No. 1 by Camille Saint-Saëns featuring the return of a local favorite, Central Washington University’s cello professor John Michel. According to the Grove Dictionary of Music, Saint-Saëns “defended the French [musical] tradition that threatened to be engulfed by Wagnerian influences and created the environment that nourished his successors.” The final piece on our National Heroes program is the Symphony No. 2 by Jean Sibelius. Like Dvořák and the Czech Republic, Jean Sibelius and his music are inextricably linked with Finland. Further, this particular piece is often referred to as the “symphony of independence.” At the time, Finland was under Russian occupation. The finale of the symphony, which seems to pit nobility and goodness against darkness and oppression, is considered by the Finnish people to represent their struggle for freedom and independence. However, whether or not Sibelius actually had this in mind when composing the piece has been widely debated and, to this day, has not been proven one way or the other.

On February 23rd, our Gilbert Orchards Pops Series continues with Wylie & The Wild West. With this toe-tapping show, featuring Wylie Gustafson, we will celebrate our western heritage. You will be delighted by a blend of cowboy, traditional country, folk and yodeling.

We look forward to seeing you on February 2nd and February 23rd at the Capitol Theatre for National Heroes and Wylie & The Wild West!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Golan
The Helen N. Jewett Music Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra
Lunch With Lawrence

THURSDAY, January 31
11:30am – 1:00pm
Zesta Cucina Restaurant, $25

Join Maestro Lawrence Golan for a rare Thursday edition (!) of this popular event, with a light lunch and convivial conversation about the pieces and composers featured in the YSO’s National Heroes concert on February 2. Please contact the YSO office (509-248-1414) or info@ysomusic.org to place your ticket order.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be No Open Rehearsal for National Heroes

ConcerTalk

Saturday, February 2 • 6:25pm
The Capitol Theatre in the Robertson Room

Join YSO Principal Horn Jeff Snedeker before the YSO’s National Heroes concert for an inside look at the evening’s program. Dr. Snedeker’s extensive knowledge of music and entertaining style of presentation bring the music and the circumstances of its creation to life. ConcerTalk is well attended, so arrive early for a good seat!

♥ YSO! Share the experience of live symphonic music with others in our community—bring friends and acquaintances to our concerts, give your tickets to others when you can’t attend and help us tell all of the Yakima Valley what a remarkable treasure we have in our symphony.

From the Executive Director

The Yakima Symphony Orchestra is delighted to have been invited to appear this winter on the annual concert series presented by Columbia Basin Allied Arts in Moses Lake. On Friday, February 1st we will present our National Heroes program at the Wallenstien Theater, sharing with their Grant County audience the extraordinary artistry of our Yakima Symphony Orchestra musicians and guest cellist John Michel, just prior to our usual Saturday night concert at the Capitol Theatre in Yakima. Because of this, there are a couple of adjustments to our customary Classical Series performance-week schedule: since our dress rehearsal will occur on Friday in Moses Lake, we will not have our usual Saturday morning open rehearsal in Yakima, and Lunch with Lawrence will take place at 11:30am on Thursday, January 31st instead of the usual Friday. We will return to our usual schedule for these events surrounding our mid-March Classical Series performance, Knights In Shining Armor.

Unless you linger in your seats after YSO performances and really pay attention to the stage, you might never notice one of the key members of our production staff; but if you do, you will see a new face this month. Our orchestra librarian for the past three years, Sabrina Juhl, stepped aside in December to devote more time to a new full-time job as Cataloging, Reference and Instruction Librarian at the Central Washington University Libraries. In mid-January, we welcomed Amanda Simmons as our new orchestra librarian. A violinist with a music performance degree, when not busy in the library Amanda may be found teaching violin, piano, voice, guitar and ukulele at Ted Brown music, and from time to time you may see her on stage performing in the YSO violin section. Incidentally, if you are curious what the orchestra librarian does, you can find a brief rundown on page 37 in our program book (and that’s only part of the story!).

I should also draw attention to the return of a classical music series at The Seasons Performance Hall, curated by YSO concertmaster and new Seasons board member Denise Dillenbeck. Like the Friday midday Brown Bag Series at the Seasons and Second Sunday programs at Englewood Christian Church, these are great opportunities to hear chamber music performed by terrific professional musicians, many of them from the YSO roster.

See you at the symphony!

David Rogers, Executive Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra

Morgan Stanley

The Bohoskey Group at Morgan Stanley is proud to sponsor the

Yakima Symphony Orchestra

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Affiliate & Partnership Updates

Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra (YYSO) &
Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!) YYSO.ORG
Bruce Walker, YYSO Conductor
Christy Baisinger, YES! Conductor

Please join the youth symphony ensembles in our 53rd season!

• January 26, Saturday, 7:00pm at La Salle High School: Ninth Annual Waltzing With the Youth Symphony Orchestra Fundraiser: Dancing to live orchestra music; dance instruction; desserts; silent auction. Tickets are $15; call (509) 248-1414 to purchase.

• February 24, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Capitol Theatre: KinderKoncert – FREE!

• April 14, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Capitol Theatre: Spring Concert FREE!

Please visit the YSO website, www.ysomusic.org under the ‘Connecting’ tab, for updates on performances, fundraisers, auditions and enrollment.

Yakima Symphony Chorus (YSC)
Justin Raffa, Chorusmaster

The Yakima Symphony Chorus had a very successful Christmas concert with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra in December, followed by performances at “Journey to Bethlehem” at the Yakima Seventh-day Adventist Church and at the end of the annual Union Gap Old Town Christmas parade. In January we began work on our next project, a March 9th performance of Annelies, a work composed by James Whitbourn and based on the diary of Anne Frank; and in April we will perform Haydn’s “Lord Nelson Mass” on stage with the YSO.

We would love to sing with more tenors and basses. If you are interested to join us, we rehearse Monday nights at St. Paul Cathedral; anyone is welcome to sit in and try us out!

Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA)
Jennifer Moultine, YSO Teaching Artist

YAMA is back in full swing after a satisfying Winter Showcase on December 7th and a restful break. After having soloist John Michel join us on January 22nd, our YAMA cellists look forward to the chance to see him perform with the YSO on February 2nd. It’s never too early to mark your calendars for our Spring Showcase on Saturday, May 4th at The Seasons Performance Hall. Other performances are in the planning process, so stay tuned for more opportunities to come and see these young musicians shine.

RAISE the BATON
GALA FUNDRAISER

Sunday
April 7, 2019
5:00pm
The 4th Street Theatre

• Music Performances
• Sumptuous Dinner
• Live Auction with Laura Michalek, Fundraising Auctioneer
• Silent Auction

Meet The Orchestra!

Children learn what they live…
The YSO joins the Yakima Valley Museum on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am at their children’s story hour.

February 6
Julie Wade, oboe/piano

March 6
Justin Raffa, Yakima Symphony Chorus chorusmaster, with Renee Heitmann, soloist on the YSC’s Annelies concert on March 9

Enjoy the YSO’s weekly column, forte, published on Thursdays in the Yakima Herald-Republic’s SCENE section (yakimaherald.com) Past columns may be accessed via links on our website, www.ysomusic.org

New Classical Concert Series at The Seasons Performance Hall!

Sunday, January 27, 4pm
Denise Dillenbeck & The Killer B’s
Denise is joined by colleagues from the YSO string section in chamber music by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms

Thursday, February 28, 7pm
20th Century Favorites
Denise Dillenbeck and composer/pianist Martin Kennedy share three brilliant and very different works from the last century

• Meet the musicians in the gallery 45 minutes prior to each concert.
• More information at theseasonsyakima.com

FIRST FRIDAY BROWN BAG CONCERT SERIES | 2018-19
Presented by Anne Schilperoort, YSO Principal Keyboard
12:00noon @ The Seasons Performance Hall

February 1: Solo and Ensemble Highlights
March 1: Brent Hages, YSO principal oboe
The louder, fast section that follows has familiar folk dance elements and a melody based on In Our Yard. At the end, the two are combined in a stirring ending that would surely have moved the Czech people.

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns (October 9, 1835-December 16, 1921) Violoncello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, op. 33 (1872)

Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy and, after studying at the Paris Conservatoire, began his career as a church organist. Later, he became a freelance pianist and composer. He was a member of the Société Nationale de Musique, formed in 1871 as a musical nationalist movement. Promoted by César Franck and others to support current French composers, the Société sought to promote France’s musical heritage and re-establish Paris as the center of the musical universe. Saint-Saëns, while enthusiastically supportive of contemporary composers, was very classically-minded in his own compositions, concentrating on clear formal structures reinforced with obvious melodies and traditional harmonies. He is best known for his orchestral music, including concertos and symphonies. He also had several famous students, including Gabriel Fauré and Maurice Ravel.

Saint-Saëns composed his first cello concerto for the Belgian cellist and instrument maker Auguste Tolbecque. The concerto was first performed on January 19, 1873, in Paris with Tolbecque as soloist. The piece is presented in one continuous movement with several distinct sections. The orchestra plays a single loud chord, and the soloist launches into the first thematic idea, a forthright and somewhat aggressive melody that is shared with the orchestra, but with the soloist definitely leading the way. There is a gentle, heartfelt contrasting theme,
also initiated by the soloist and shared by the orchestra, but the conversation stays focused on the initial aggressive mood. After things run their course, the piece arrives at an amazing contrast—a gentle and delicate minuet. It begins in the strings and then the soloist takes the lead for an extended period of time. The third section opens with the orchestra restating the material from the first section. Another slow lyrical section follows with a more somber, serious melody. The orchestra picks up the tempo again, and the soloist responds this time by taking the faster tempo and pushing the music forward to yet another slow section. With a final flourish, the music gradually accelerates to a rousing finish.

This concerto is quite innovative in the continuous presence of the soloist in the foreground and its overall pacing, with twists and turns that must have kept audiences guessing until the very end. A true masterpiece, it has been popular since its premiere.

Jean Sibelius  
(December 5, 1865 - September 20, 1957)  
Symphony No. 2 in D major  
(1902)

Sibelius began his musical career as a violinist and then studied composition in Helsinki, Berlin and Vienna before returning home to Finland to live and work. His first recognition as a composer came in 1891 with his choral symphony Kulervo, but it took another ten years for him to find his own musical voice. His early works show a strong influence of Tchaikovsky, but it took another ten years for him to find his own musical voice. His early works show a strong influence of Tchaikovsky, but like many other Scandinavian composers he was encouraged to follow a nationalist vein. Except for Finlandia, his most famous work, Sibelius chose not to quote folk songs or dances, but rather allowed his love for his country to guide his inspirations and his traditional training to guide the manner in which the music was written. By the early 1900s, he began using “modern” elements, and his combination of traditional and progressive musical characteristics was well received, especially in his own country where he remains a national hero.

He preferred using thematic transformation, modal harmonies and block orchestration, especially in darker timbres, and his music serves as an interesting manifestation of Finnish nationalist music, or at least how it would later be recognized.

Sibelius wrote seven symphonies, all wonderful examples of how composers bridged the stylistic values of the 19th and 20th centuries. His Second Symphony was premiered in Helsinki on March 8, 1902, with Sibelius conducting. The first movement begins in a very pastoral mood, with two contrasting but similar themes. As things develop, the mood turns a little darker and builds in intensity, finally resolving with a heavy brass section that then returns to the first theme in the winds. A modified recapitulation builds to a huge climax and then backs away very pleasantly with music from the pastoral introduction.

The second movement begins with an intriguing walking bass pizzicato, giving way to a bassoon melody in minor. Gradually, things pick up speed and once again culminate in the brass. After a stately, calm section featuring the strings, the first theme is presented again in a darker, more dramatic version. The third movement is an amazing contrast, beginning with a breathless scherzo in (almost) perpetual motion, followed by a slow, lyrical section that gives the strings a breather, and culminating in a return to the breathless excitement. Finally, the slow, lyrical section returns, serving as a direct segue to the last movement. The finale is lush and optimistic, bringing in new themes that lead to several false endings and new sections that revisit and re-combine these new themes. This continues to build in intensity and ends in absolute triumph, overwhelming the listener in one of the repertoire’s most thrilling finales.

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**THE ROSEMARY A. C. GOTTLIEB 2018-19 SEASON**

**Heroes!**

**The Yakima Valley Classical Series**

**National Heroes**
February 2, 2019, 7:30pm
John Michel, violoncello

**Knights in Shining Armor**
March 16, 2019, 7:30pm

**Heroes from Olden Times**
April 13, 2019, 7:30pm
Yakima Symphony Chorus; Justin Raffa, chorusmaster

Ein Heldenleben (A Hero’s Life)
May 25, 2019, 7:30pm
Natasha Paremski, piano

**The Gilbert Orchards Pops Series**

**Wylie & the Wild West**
February 23, 2019, 7:30pm
Wylie and the Wild West

**A Tribute to Elvis**
Starring Kraig Parker
May 11, 2019, 7:30pm
Michael Butterman, conductor

**Yakima Symphony Chorus**
March 9, 2019, 7:30pm
St. Paul Cathedral
Justin Raffa, conductor
Renee Heitmann, soprano
Musicians of the YSO

The 2018-19 season includes six Classical Series concerts and five Pops Series concerts at the Capitol Theatre, conducted by YSO Music Director Lawrence Golan except as noted, and one special performance by the Yakima Symphony Chorus.

**Raise the Baton Gala Fundraiser**
Sunday, April 7, 2019,
5:00pm
The 4th Street Theatre

Download the 2018-19 Heroes! brochure at www.ysomusic.org