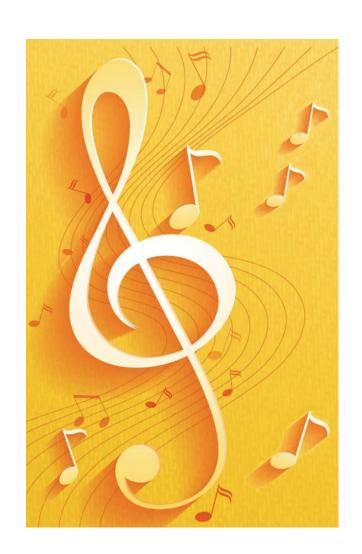


Fall Concert: Reconnections

7:00pm Friday, November 5, 2021

3:00pm Sunday, November 7, 2021



The Composers







Gustav Mahler



Ludwig van Beethoven

Beaverton Symphony Orchestra

Travis Hatton, Music Director

Bruce Stark Overture to New Beginnings (2000, revised 2019)

Gustav Mahler 1860-1911 Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer)

Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit macht (When my sweetheart is married)

Ging heut' Morgen über's Feld

(I went this morning over the field)

Ich hab' ein glühend Messer (I have a gleaming knife)

Die zwei blauen Augen von meinem Schatz (The two blue eyes of my beloved)

Matt Hayward, baritone

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827 Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92 (1812)

Poco sostenuto - Vivace

Allegretto

Presto – Assai meno presto

Allegro con brio

Our Soloist



American lyric baritone Matthew Hayward has rapidly established himself as one of the most versatile artists of his generation. He is the winner of the Gerard Souzay-Grand Concours de Chant and made his European debut in concert at the Salle Cortot in Paris.

In recent seasons, Matthew's operatic engagements have included creating the role of "Marquis de Brisaille" in the world premiere of David DiChiera's *Cyrano* at the Michigan Opera Theatre, "Ravenal" in *Showboat* at Lakewood Theater, "Gregorio" in *Roméo et Juliette* with Baltimore Opera, "Pelleas" in *Pelleas et Melisande* at Opera Theater Oregon, "Count Almaviva" in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Skagit Opera and Washington East Opera, "Schaunard" in *La Bohème* with the Princeton Festival and Syracuse Opera, "Marcello"

in *La Bohème* with Skagit Opera, Dancaïre in *Carmen* at Opera, New Jersey, "Black Cat" and the "Grandfather Clock" in *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, "Ramiro" in *L'heure espagnole*, "Cardinal" in *Galileo Galilei* at Portland Opera, and "Ko-Ko" in *The Mikado* at Syracuse Opera and *The Pirate King* at Opera Idaho.

Active in recital and concert, he was personally invited by Maestro Julius Rudel to debut with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Virginia Arts Festival, where he sang an all-Kurt Weill Gala with soprano Angelina Réaux. He also sang the world premiere of Libby Larsen's *The Moabit Sonnets* with the Linfield Chamber Orchestra. Matthew has enjoyed a close association with the Aspen Music Festival and has sung recitals there featuring the works of Duparc, Schubert and Weill; performances of Ravel's *Chansons Madécasses*, Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel* and a Leonard Bernstein Gala with Broadway star Judy Kaye.

As the Founder of Vox Northwest Voice Studios, he maintains a select private voice studio in Portland, Oregon, and is on the voice faculty of Portland State and George Fox Universities. He is sought after as a district and state vocal judge in Oregon, as a master clinician at major universities throughout the West Coast, and as a dramatic and interpretive coach.

Upcoming BSO Events

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Winter Family Concert -

Elmer Bernstein, Aaron Copland, John Williams, Ferde Grofé and Gioachino Rossini team up in a Western-themed concert that will please the whole family.

Friday January 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm Sunday January 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Program Notes by Jazzy Leemhuis

Bruce Stark: Overture to New Beginnings

Northwest Composer Bruce Stark's musical foundation in percussion, jazz piano, and classical composition shine vibrantly throughout his music. After Stark received his master's degree in composition from Julliard School, he spent more than 20 years in Tokyo. He returned to the U.S. in 2013 after accepting a position as a faculty member of DigiPen Institute of Technology. His diverse musical compositions include piano, chamber works, choral, and orchestral pieces. Stark is an award-winning composer across the United States, and his compositions have been performed on four continents.

Overture to New Beginnings was commissioned by David Charles Abell for the English Northern Philharmonia's New Year's concert in 2000. The current edition was completed in 2019 after revisions based on previous performances. While its premiere welcomed the new millennium, Stark explains, "The music is intended to convey many feelings attendant with new beginnings: anticipation, excitement, uncertainty (the fast, scurrying theme in strings at the opening), a look backwards (the more dissonant passages, depicting a triumph over obstacles), and finally a robust, optimistic resolve to move forward, inspired by a new start. The piece celebrates the empowerment of new beginnings." The swelling intensity of the introduction is carried throughout the piece, but the hopeful melody triumphs, looking forward to the bright possibilities of the future.

Gustav Mahler: Songs of a Wayfarer

Famous during his lifetime as the conductor for the Vienna Court Opera and admired and praised for his interpretations of Wagner, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky, Gustav Mahler's acclaimed works today were often received with reservation, and many works were considered controversial. His first symphony (1889), which was a success in Prague, created quite a stir in Vienna. A dissatisfied critic said, "The work might have been meant as a parody of symphony." Despite this initial reception, his second, third, and eighth symphonies were immediately appreciated. While composing his first symphony, Mahler was also writing the music and poetry for "Songs of a Wayfarer." The melody from the second song "Ging heut' Morgen über's Feld" ("This Morning I Went Over the Field") is also the opening theme for his first symphony, and "Die zwei blauen Augen von meinem Schatz" ("The Two Blue Eyes of my Beloved") is reminiscent of the first symphony's third movement.

"Songs of a Wayfarer" were inspired by heartbreak. In 1883 The young Mahler fell in love with soprano Johanna Richter. Mahler wrote the undoubtedly autobiographical poems himself and describes the poet as "a travelling journeyman who has met with adversity, setting out into the

world and wandering on in solitude." Mahler was influenced by Schubert who brought *lieder* (art song) from the drawing room onto the stage. The original song cycle was six songs, but it was revised down to four. Originally composed for voice and piano, the cycle was orchestrated in 1890.

"When my Darling has Her Wedding Day"

The first poem compares the joy of the beloved's wedding to the poet's melancholy. The song opens with a lilting but sorrowful melody played by the winds and a slow answer from the singer. The flowing movement in the strings during the phrase "weep, weep for my darling," sounds like streaming tears.

The second stanza of the song is happily contrasted by a violin solo, but the song immediately returns to the sorrowful refrain of the jilted lover and ends with the moving eighth notes in the lower strings.

"I Walked Across the Fields This Morning"

The poet walks through the fields admiring the beauty of the dew on the grass and the "merry finch" who chirps, "You! Isn't it a fine world?" There is clear joy and celebration as the poet notices the cries of the world: "Isn't it becoming a fine world? / Ding, ding! Fair things! / How the world delights me!" The sun is shining, the bluebells are ringing, and the birds are singing. However, in the short last stanza, the poet laments that his own happiness "can never bloom." The music fades quietly, as we imagine him walking mournfully away.

"I Have a Red, Hot Knife"

The passion of young heartbreak roars through the excitement of this song's opening. The poet contemplates the sharp pain he feels in his heart, like a red-hot knife. It prevents his sleep, yet, in his dreams he sees his beloved in a "yellow field," her blonde hair flowing in the wind. When he awakens from his dream, he hears her "silvery laugh" and wishes he could rest forever. It seems as though he can only find comfort in death, but because it is not the final song of the cycle, he may only wish he could return to sleep, so he could dream endlessly of his love.

"The Two Blue Eyes of My Darling"

The final song opens with a slow funeral march, again he contemplates his beloved's blue eyes, and how they left him in "eternal sorrow and grief." He returns to nature, this time at night. Walking across the heath, he laments that no one will tell him goodbye. But, on the road there is a linden tree, a symbol of prosperity, fidelity, friendship, and peace. Here he is finally able to rest, and he realizes that his life will go on. Love and heart break are all part of life.

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 7

There is a reason that Beethoven frowns in his depictions. He was a serious man anxious to be independent and appreciated but seemed to lack the social know-how. He was raised by an abusive and alcoholic father who, convinced he had the next Mozart on his hands, demanded grueling perfection, but young Beethoven did not have the loving support from his family nor a naturally pleasant disposition to succeed in the same way as Mozart. Nevertheless, Beethoven thrived as a young musician, becoming an impressive piano player, a competent string player, and an amateur composer at a very young age. At 16 he took his first trip to Vienna where he met Mozart who said, "Keep an eye on him, he'll make a big noise in the world someday." Beethoven was also introduced to Haydn during this visit. Haydn was able to make connections for Beethoven which enabled him to enter the musical scene among the aristocracy.

Beethoven became a sensation. He played the piano aggressively, and the people were drawn to him because of his dynamic abilities. However, when Beethoven began to lose his hearing, he struggled to consistently perform with the same flawless vigor. By the time Beethoven composed Symphony No. 7, he was almost completely deaf. He had to lean his head against the piano to hear the melodies.

The Symphony No. 7 premiered in December of 1813, with Beethoven himself conducting, at a benefit concert for the Austrian and Bavarian soldiers wounded during the Battle of Hanau. Beethoven had originally dedicated his third symphony *Eroica* to Napoleon, believing that he was a true leader destined to live the principles of a revolutionary and return power to the people; however, Napoleon's name was scratched out of the title page after he declared himself emperor.

Beethoven opens the symphony with a full A major chord followed by an introductory soft melody played by the oboe and quickly joined by the clarinet, horn, and bassoon. The strings add complexity with conversational scales played under the melody. The first boisterous, lively theme is introduced by the flute. This straightforward melody is molded into a beautifully developed movement. At the premier the audience demanded an encore of the second movement. The slow melancholy march in A minor allows the listener to imagine the wounded and the dead carried solemnly from the battle field.

The rollicking scherzo whirls the audience into a reckless dance. This may be the movement that inspired Clara Schumann's father Fredrich Weick to say, "The music could only have been written by someone who was seriously intoxicated." Whether or not Beethoven was drinking when he composed this movement, it erupts with life, vigor, and joy. The fourth movement is driven by a strong two-note bass which persists throughout. Wagner noted that "Melody and Harmony unite around the sturdy bones of Rhythm." The movement accelerates toward a brilliant ending, weaving melodies through the triumphant finale.

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Travis Hatton, Music Director

Travis Hatton's versatile conducting career spans a broad range of musical organizations around the world. He has led opera and ballet companies throughout Europe and America, and has appeared as a guest conductor with orchestras in Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and in Boston, Tennessee, Indiana, California, Alaska, Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree (awarded Magna Cum Laude) in Music Theory and Composition from the University of the Pacific and a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music.



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