



# *Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra*

Sheldon Bair, Founder & Music Director



October 19, 2019



## 19th Century Leipzig





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# THE *Susquehanna* SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SHELDON BAIR, FOUNDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Our 43rd Season**

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Orchestra performs a subscription series of concerts every year in addition to outdoor and chamber music concerts. The Orchestra has performed opera and ballet, as well as standard orchestral repertoire, and is known for its premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire.

This year marks the 43rd Season of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert, and look forward to many more years of making music!

## **Our Mission**

Through the diverse programming of standard orchestral literature as well as newer and lesser-known works, The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra strives to enliven the spirit, inspire the imagination, cultivate musical appreciation, and serve the educational and entertainment needs of Harford County, Maryland and surrounding areas.

## **Thank You!**

The SSO would like to thank Michael Krantz of the Town of Bel Air for his help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations with Dr. James Lamb, Assistant Principal BAHS. We are also indebted to James McFarland, Interim Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We thank our donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible and our advertisers who support the printing of this program. Please visit them and tell them the SSO sent you.

*Cover Photo of SSO: Donald McClure*

### **Please Note:**

- Silence pagers, cell phones, and signal watches during the performance.
- The use of cameras and recording devices is prohibited.
- Latecomers will be seated only between movements/selections.
- All children should be carefully supervised so that they are not disruptive to the musicians or the audience.
- Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property.

**Thank you for your cooperation.  
Please enjoy this evening's performance.**



## 19th Century Leipzig

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833–1897)

**Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80**

**Richard Wagner**  
(1813–1883)

**Siegfried Idyll**

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### Intermission

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**Felix Mendelssohn**  
(1809–1847)

**Wedding March from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”**

**Conductor:** Yonatan Dvir

**Edvard Grieg**  
(1843–1907)

**Symphonic Dance No. 3**

**Robert Schumann**  
(1810–1856)

**Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in A Minor, Op. 129**

Nicht zu schnell –

Langsam –

Sehr lebhaft

**Cello:** Frances Borowsky



This performance is supported in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council through Harford County Cultural Arts Board and Harford County Economic Development.

## Music Director

**Sheldon Bair** is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Harford County, Maryland), a community orchestra of over 80 members currently in its 43rd season. He holds a bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) where he studied conducting with Otis Kitchen and composition with James McVoy and Darrell Douglas, and a master's degree from Towson University (Maryland). In addition, his postgraduate studies included classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Sheldon Bair has studied conducting with Witold Rowicki in Vienna, and Marc Mostovoy, William Hudson, and Leonid Grin.



Bair is adjunct faculty at Harford Community College, is on the conducting staff for the Elizabethtown College Music Camp, and is often invited to conduct and adjudicate youth orchestras and soloists. In November 2000, Bair was bestowed the Paderewski Award for Contributions to Society and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. He has conducted orchestras in Texas, Oklahoma, and Toronto, Canada. Bair participated in the Sixth Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall of 2011 by introducing Arnold's 9th Symphony at the final Gala Concert. Bair is the substitute conductor of the University of Delaware Orchestra for the fall 2019 semester filling in for their music director who is on sabbatical.

In June 2016, Maestro Bair retired from Harford County Public Schools after 40 years of music making with young musicians. Bair was inducted into the Harford County Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame in September 2018. In retirement, Bair continues to lead the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra and volunteers on the air at the local (Harford Community College) public radio station (WHFC 91.1 FM) where he has the Wednesday morning, 9-noon, classical show (though he is taking a break this fall).



Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written numerous works for student string orchestra, symphony orchestra, and church choir.

### Concert Tickets

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## Our Guest Conductor

**Yonatan Dvir** is an Israeli-born trombonist, composer, and conductor. Yonatan began studying the piano at age five, and at age thirteen was accepted into Milan's Conservatory of Music "Giuseppe Verdi" where he studied Trombone Performance in the class of Eugenio Abbiatici and Music Composition under Paolo Rimoldi. Upon graduation from Milan's Conservatory, he moved to Philadelphia where he is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music in Music Composition under Jan Krzywicki, while studying Orchestral Conducting with Leonid Grin.



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## Our Guest Performer



**Frances Borowsky** has performed recitals in Rome, Paris, Warsaw, Frankfurt, Cologne, Yekaterinburg, Beijing, Tianjin, Hanoi, Jakarta, and Havana, in major venues such as the Kennedy Center, Kimmel Center, and Penderecki European Music Centre. She has been featured as soloist with the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, Oregon Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Rheinland-Pfalz Jugend Orchester, Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, Polish Youth Symphony, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, and Lebanon Valley College Orchestra.

A native of Baltimore, she grew up in an exceptionally musical family and thus honed her love for solo and chamber music performance. Together with her siblings, Frances performed her New York debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of twelve as a recipient of the Erick Friedman Prize for Outstanding Young Musicians. In December 2018, Frances performed at Carnegie Hall-Stern Auditorium as a featured, invited soloist in a celebration of Antonín Dvořák.

Recent performance highlights include concert tours in France, Israel, Lithuania, and Cuba; performing Vivaldi's Double Cello concerto with Cecylia Barczyk and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; and Beethoven's Triple Concerto with her siblings and the Oregon Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. Frances performs frequently in the Amici Music Series with founder and pianist Dan Weiser, and has performed for the Riversdale Chamber Music Society with faculty from the University of Maryland, Chopin Club in Providence, Tempo New Music Series at UMD, and the UMD Chamber Music Showcase on



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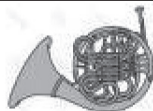
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**Our Guest Performer (**

the Millennium Stage at Kennedy (wind ensemble Quinteto Latino, pianist Amit Peled, violinists Shmuel Dagilelis Boys Choir of Lithuania. He gave an Eilon Mastercourse in August 2017 in the world.

Awards include the Grace Claggett music at The Peabody Institute, Concerto Competition, Levine Chamber Music Competition (JANUARY 2018), INUENDI, Baltimore Music Club Competition, and second prize at the Gordon Competition, and second prize at the

Awards include the Grace Clagett Ranney Prize for excellence in chamber music at The Peabody Institute, first prizes in the Mary Graham Lasley Concerto Competition, Levine Chamber Music Competition (as part of Trio INUENDI), Baltimore Music Club Competition, and Peggy Friedman – Yale Gordon Competition, and second prizes in the University of Maryland Concerto Competition, and the Sylvia and Irving H. Cohen Competition.

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## Our Guest Performer (Cont'd)

Simultaneous to her performance career, Frances enjoys teaching cellists of all ages and levels. In Fall 2017, she began teaching at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania. Since 2012, Frances has served as Co-Executive Director of the Intermuse International Music Institute and Festival USA. There she teaches cello and chamber music to students from around the world, and collaborates with IIMIF faculty in chamber music performances. Frances is also Co-Director of the Vivaldi String Academy in Towson, MD.

Frances has received cello performance degrees under the tutelage of Cecylia Barczyk at Towson University (BM), Amit Peled at The Peabody Conservatory (MM), and Alexander Huelshoff and Laurenciu Sbarcea at Folkwang University in Germany (MM). Additionally, she has been mentored by prestigious cellists Janos Starker, Johannes Moser, and Michael Flaksman. Frances is currently a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Maryland, where she studies with Dr. Eric Kutz.

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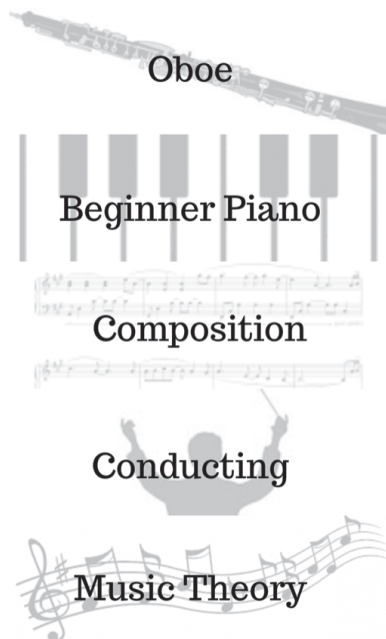
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# Musicians of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

## First Violins ‡

Wendy Bohdel, *Concertmaster*  
Elizabeth Caughey  
Shannon Hash  
Rachael Kanagie  
Tabitha Kanagie  
Rebecca Leadmon  
Allison Redman  
Christine Robbins  
William Spencer  
Lily Wang  
Amy Wilkinson  
Tracey Young

## Second Violins ‡

Manfred Reek, *Principal*  
Terez Badger  
Joan Beckett-Armstrong  
Patrick Carroll  
Verangela Christy  
George Cowman  
Isabelle Herlinger  
Margaret McClure  
Sarah Michlin  
Jennifer Newberry  
Alison O'Brien  
Martha Schmidt  
Bernadette Solounias  
Jennifer Yeager

## Violas ‡

Viktor Khodyko, *Principal*  
Jolene Cave  
Will Conway  
Enid McClure  
Whitney McConkey  
Keiko Myers  
Edna Rainey

## Violoncellos ‡

Julia Dather, *Principal*  
Elaine Bundy  
Walter Garner  
Fred Gehris  
Barbara Hill  
Michele Martin  
Danielle Noe  
Carol Scanlon  
Corey Shirk  
Jill Smith

## Basses ‡

Alyson McMenamin, *Principal*  
Carol Benck  
Andrew McClure  
Beth Weed

## Flutes

Doris Reinhardt  
Carol Thompson  
Marjorie Roberts, *Piccolo*

## Oboes

Barbara Bair  
Cathy Zink  
Wendy Nesbitt, *English Horn*

## Clarinets

Fiona Sparks  
Kelly Rhodes  
Margaret Holmes, *Bass*

## Bassoons

Benjamin Schuhart  
Alicia Bourassa

## Horns

Dawn Zipay  
Julie Riser, *Asst.*  
Renee Cooper  
Kelley Moorman  
Mike DeZearn

## Trumpets

David Stauffer  
Robert Storey  
Kelly Hall

## Trombones

Matthew Ghent  
Josh Bock  
Donald Raff, *Bass*

## Tuba

Donald McClure

## Timpani

Allan Andreycak

## Percussion

Mary Eilerman  
Welles Still

‡ In Alphabetical Order

### Librarians

Katie Stout  
Sarah Folus

### Personnel Managers

Amy Wilkinson  
Sarah Folus  
(Students)

### Stage Managers

Welles Still  
Alyson McMenamin

### Concert Manager

Paul Koerner

## Program Notes

### Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

- Composed during the summer of 1880 as a tribute to the University of Breslau, which would be awarding him an honorary Ph.D.
- Written for one of his largest orchestras.
- Consists of four continuous sections: i Allegro (C minor); ii Maestoso (C major); iii Animato (G major); ivi Maestoso (C major).
- Was close friends with Robert and Clara Schumann and also famous violinist Joseph Joachim for whom he composed his *Violin Concerto*.
- Conducted the orchestra with Joachim as soloist in the premiere of the *Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77* in 1879 in Leipzig.
- Work has been characterized as a “very boisterous potpourri of student drinking songs,” ending with *Gaudeamus igitur*.

### Siegfried Idyll

Richard Wagner (1813–1883)

- Composed in 1869 as a birthday present to his second wife, Cosima, who had given birth to their son, Siegfried.
- First performed as a surprise on Christmas morning 1870 by a small ensemble of thirteen players for the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich on the stairway of Wagner’s villa near Lucerne.

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## Program Notes (Cont'd)

- Music from the *Idyll* was used in Wagner's opera *Siegfried*.
- Although intended to be a private piece, due to financial problems, he expanded the orchestration to thirty-five players and sold the score to his publisher.
- Studied in Leipzig 1827–1830.

## Wedding March from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

**Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)**

- At the age of seventeen, composed a concert overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 21.
- In 1842 wrote incidental music, Op. 61 for a production of the play, incorporating the existing overture.
- The incidental music, with the overture and a finale (with chorus), consisted of twelve other works of which the *Wedding March* was the ninth.
- Op. 61 was written to a commission from King Frederick William IV of Prussia.

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Bass Drum .....	\$1,400
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If you are interested in adopting a percussion instrument (even if it isn't listed here) please contact Jim Weed, President of the Board of Directors at <president@ssorchestra.org>. Prices listed are only estimates.

## Program Notes (Cont'd)

- Mendelssohn was the director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra at the time.
- Founded the Leipzig Conservatory of Music in 1843.

### Symphonic Dance No. 3

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

- Was one of the founders of the Norwegian nationalist school of music, drawing inspiration from Norwegian folk music.
- In 1858 entered the Leipzig Conservatory, where he was influenced by the tradition of Mendelssohn and Schumann.
- Developed interest in northern folk tunes in 1864 through association with Rikard Nordraak, a young Norwegian nationalist composer.
- *Dance No. 3*, from the four-movement *Symphonic Dances*, is based on a spring dance from Hedmark County in southeastern Norway.
- Grieg's most famous works are his *Piano Concerto in A Minor* and the two suites from incidental music for *Peer Gynt*.

### Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in A Minor, Op. 129

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

- Completed in only a two-week period in October 1850, but never played during his lifetime. Premiered in April 1860.



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## Program Notes (Cont'd)

- Written with no breaks between the three movements as Schumann hated having applause between movements.
- Movement one in A minor, changing to A major is lyrical.
- Movement two, also lyrical, in F major is very short.
- Movement three, a lighter rondo, is also in A minor, changing to A major.
- Not written for virtuosic displays, common at the that time.
- Taught at the Leipzig Conservatory.

*Program Notes compiled by Don Raff*

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  - Arranging for audio and/or video recording
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(The SSO is currently accepting applications for  
Board Membership)

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra would like to thank local advertising agency SR&B Advertising for their outstanding services this season. With their support, the SSO hopes to bring the sound of music to new ears. The Orchestra has a sound population of fans and is greatly pleased to see it grow to include various attendees of all ages.

With the assistance of SR&B Advertising, the SSO is making great strides to further its mission to *enliven the spirit, inspire the imagination, cultivate musical appreciation, and serve the educational and entertainment needs of Harford County, Maryland and surrounding areas.* The SSO thanks them again for their services.

## Volunteers Needed

The SSO needs help on concert nights and for occasional short activities in the summer. For instance, the librarian needs help sorting and filing music used during the year and pulling music for the upcoming year. High school seniors may receive community service credit. Please contact [<manager@ssorchestra.org>](mailto:manager@ssorchestra.org) if interested.

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\* The deadline for single concert ads is four weeks prior to the concert date.