

# *Susquehanna Symphony Chamber Orchestra*

featuring members of the



## **Program – “Baroque Bookends”**

Vivaldi – Concerto for Four Violins in E Minor, Op. 3, No. 4 from “L’Estro Armonico”

Sibelius – Rakastava (The Lover), Op. 14

Elgar – Elegy, Op. 58

Bartok/arr. Willner – Rumanian Dances

Hanson – Rhythmic Variations on Two Ancient Hymns

Rush – Psalm (from Psalm and Jubilation)

Handel – Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 5

## **Personnel**

### **Violin I**

Wendy Bohdel, concertmaster  
Rebecca Leadmon  
Andrew Nowakowski  
Logan Santiago  
Lily Wang  
Amy Wilkinson

### **Violin II**

Manfred Reek  
Terez Badger  
Rachael Kanagie  
Tabitha Kanagie  
Terry O’Neill  
Bernadette Solounias

### **Viola**

Jessica Conklin  
Will Conway  
Melissa Pileggi

### **Cello**

Sheldon Lentz  
Jill Smith  
Tracy Wettig

### **Bass**

Brian Folus  
Alyson McMenamin  
Beth Weed

### **Organ and Piano**

Barbara Bair

### **Percussion**

Braeden Travers

### **NEXT CONCERTS:**

Our Holiday Concerts!  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### **Soloists:**

Steel Pandemic  
Katie Stout, soprano



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Antonio Vivaldi – Concerto for Four Violins in E Minor, Op. 3, No. 4 from “L’Estro Armonico”  
(1678-1741)

Andante  
Allegro assai  
Adagio – Allegro

Violin Soloists – Wendy Bohdel, Manfred Reek, Lily Wang, Amy Wilkinson

- Venetian Baroque composer, known as the ‘Red Headed Priest’
- Taught at a school for orphan girls
- L’Estro Armonico, or The Harmonic Inspiration is a set of 12 concertos for string instruments
- Baroque music traditional prioritizes the melody (in the violins) and the bass (cello, bass, and organ/harpsichord) with violas filling in the harmonies.

Jean Sibelius - Rakastava (The Lover), Op. 14  
(1865-1957)

The Lover  
(Where is My Lover or Bird)

The Path of the Beloved  
(Dance Little Bird)

Good Evening!...Farewell!  
(Farewell My Little Bird)

- Finnish composer Jean Sibelius first composed a poem, Rakastava, in the mid-1890s for chorus.
- This three-movement string composition, with a bit of percussion, was finished in 1911 and first performed in 1912.
- This work was composed the same year as Sibelius composed his unique and unusual masterpiece, his Symphony No. 4.
- Unlike Sibelius’s Andante Festivo which the SSCO performed a year ago, this work is quite unique, utilizing interesting harmonies and tempo changes.

Edward Elgar – Elegy, Op. 58  
(1857-1934)

Brian Fulus, conductor

- English composer Sir Edward Elgar composed this short Elegy in 1909 at the request of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.
- It was around the same time that Elgar’s friend and publisher, August Jaeger, passed away and may reflect Elgar’s grief at that time.
- Jaeger is famously known as the man who encouraged Elgar to include a variation like Beethoven’s ‘Pathetique’ Piano Sonata’s slow movement in his Enigma Variations (1899). Thus, Nimrod, the most famous section of Elgar’s Enigma Variations and a Portrait of Jaeger himself, was born.

Bela Bartok / arr. Arthur Willner – Rumanian Folk Dances  
(1881-1945)

Stick Dance  
Sash Dance  
In One Spot  
Horn Dance  
Rumanian Polka  
Fast Dance #1 -  
Fast Dance #2

*Brian Folus, conductor*

- Hungarian composer Bela Bartok first composed these dances for piano in 1915.
- He later orchestrated them for very small orchestra.
- Arthur Willner arranged the dances for string orchestra, removing the few winds that Bartok had added and incorporating the wind colors into the string parts.

Howard Hanson - Rhythmic Variations on Two Ancient Hymns  
(1896-1981)

- Howard Hanson is recognized as one of the foremost American composers, conductors, and music educators of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- He was the director of the Eastman School of Music for 40 years.
- Hanson was also the music director of the Rochester Philharmonic for many years.
- Hanson's idiom was influenced by Jean Sibelius.
- This work for strings dates from 1977-78.

Tracey Rush – Psalm (from Psalm and Jubilation)

- American composer, conductor, violist, and music educator makes her home in Iowa.
- Her music has been performed by school orchestras, youth orchestras, community orchestras, and professional orchestras.
- Psalm is the first movement of a two-movement work for strings and harp (or keyboard)
- Maestro Bair has performed the Hanson and Rush works many times with fine youth ensembles.

George Frideric Handel - Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 5 in D Major  
(1865-1759)

(Introduction)

Allegro

Presto

Largo –

Allegro

Menuet – un poco larghetto

Violin Soloists – Wendy Bohdel and Manfred Reek  
Continuo – Sheldon Lentz ('cello) and Barbara Bair (organ)

- Handel was born in Germany (the same year as JS Bach), studied in Italy, and worked for many years in England.
- Concerto Grossi are composed in the form of a 'battle', pitting a small ensemble against the larger ensemble.
- Handel's Op. 6 is made up of 'Twelve Grand Concertos' all for the same instrumental forces and date from 1739-40.
- For movements 1, 2, and 6, Handel borrowed music from his own 'Ode for St Cecilia's Day', a practice which was common during the Baroque period of music.
- Handel's most famous piece is 'The Messiah' which is performed yearly in English-speaking countries at Christmas and Easter.

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