

Zormene Glory Kinanee
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CU Boulder, Spring 2019

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THE
COLORADO
SYMPHONY

COLORADO SYMPHONY CLASSICS

Our Classics concerts continue in 2019/20 with the transition of integrating innovative artists with the best of symphonic work envisioned with a contemporary twist. Colorado Symphony musicians and guest artists will wow you all season long as soloists on some of symphonic music's greatest pieces. It's a particularly special season for our orchestra family as we celebrate Yumi Hwang-Williams' 20th season as Concertmaster!

Friday, November 8, 2019 7:30PM

Mozart Symphony No. 40

Esteemed former

Colorado Symphony

Music Director Jeffrey Kahane returns alongside the ensemble's former Principal Guest Conductor, Douglas Boyd, for a program brimming with emotion beginning with Brahms' uncompromisingly serious Tragic Overture. Kahane, lauded for his exquisite piano work and a legacy of leadership at the Colorado Symphony, lends his virtuosity to Mozart's elegant Piano Concerto No. 17. Finally, Mozart's iconic Symphony No. 40 showcases the legendary composer during a time of extraordinary turbulence and passion where he was nonetheless able to craft some of the most recognizable melodies of all time.

BRAHMS Tragic Overture in D minor, Op. 81
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17 in G major, K. 453
MOZART Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550
Douglas Boyd, conductor
Jeffrey Kahane, piano

Friday, November 22, 2019 7:30PM

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto

Music Director Brett Mitchell and your Colorado Symphony are joined by Angelo Xiang Yu, for his highly-anticipated return to Denver as featured soloist on Tchaikovsky's colorful Violin Concerto — a piece initially considered so difficult to perform that the premiere was delayed after Tchaikovsky's first two soloists declined the invitation. The program begins with one of Verdi's finest symphonic introductions, incorporating the "Fate" motif that plays such a large role in La forza del destino, while Jennifer Higdon's Concerto for Orchestra concludes the affair with an ever-changing instrumental panoply complete with a percussion-only fourth movement that will leave you spellbound.

VERDI Overture to La forza del destino
JENNIFER HIGDON Concerto for Orchestra
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35
Brett Mitchell, conductor
Angelo Xiang Yu, violin

Friday, January 10, 2020 7:30PM

Barber Piano Concerto performed by Olga Kern

Audience favorite Olga Kern, whose extraordinary talent and star power has captivated critics around the world, makes her return to Denver for an incomparable performance of Barber's Piano Concerto. Music Director Brett Mitchell leads your Colorado Symphony in "Brooklyn's post-millennial Mozart," Missy Mazzoli's Holy Roller — self-described as devotional music for a non-existent religion. The program concludes with Saint-Saëns' career-defining Organ Symphony, brimming with virtuoso piano passages, brilliant Romantic orchestral writing, and organ. Of the work, Saint-Saëns exclaimed "I gave everything to it I was able to give. What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again" — a worthy finale to a captivating evening that will resonate with all audiences.

MISSY MAZZOLI Holy Roller
BARBER Piano Concerto, Op. 38
SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, "Organ Symphony"
Brett Mitchell, conductor
Olga Kern, piano

Friday, January 24, 2020 7:30PM

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.3

Rachmaninoff's brilliant and challenging Third Piano Concerto is respected, even feared, by many pianists due to its technical and musical demands. In his Colorado Symphony debut, gifted pianist Lukáš Vondráček will reprise his role as featured soloist on the piece he performed to critical acclaim en route to winning the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition in 2016. The first half features two ballets by a pair of quintessential twentieth century American composers beginning with Aaron Copland's Suite from Billy the Kid, mixing cowboy tunes and American folk songs to create a uniquely 'American sound.' Music Director Brett Mitchell and your Colorado Symphony will unite thereafter with dancers on Leonard Bernstein's sterling Facsimile, bringing a taste of the theater to Boettcher Concert Hall. COPLAND Suite from Billy the Kid
BERNSTEIN Facsimile
RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30
Brett Mitchell, conductor
Lukáš Vondráček, piano
Colorado Ballet

Saturday, February 8, 2020 7:00PM

Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2 featuring Ingrid Fliter

After leading lauded performances of our All-Beethoven program in 2014 and Mozart's Requiem in 2017, Jun Märkl returns to Boettcher Concert Hall to conduct your Colorado Symphony in a performance featuring works by a duo of French composers and a Polish composer who spent much of his adult life in France. Ingrid Fliter — a pre-eminent interpreter of Chopin — lends her expertise to his Second Piano Concerto. Debussy's La Mer is a work of marvelous imagination as he captures the essence and mood of the Mediterranean Sea, a place he visited frequently during his childhood. Ravel's La Valse caps the program with a glittering homage to the Viennese Waltz, as it is both glorified and deconstructed in a melodic strain of rhythmic fluidity — a fittingly romantic end to a program brimming with European style.

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21
DEBUSSY La Mer
RAVEL La Valse
Jun Märkl, conductor
Ingrid Fliter, piano

Saturday, February 21 7:30PM

Beethoven Missa Solemnis featuring the Colorado Symphony Chorus

Join your Colorado Symphony for the launch of a yearlong 2020 celebration of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday with one of the cardinal achievements of his venerated career. Featuring the Colorado Symphony Chorus and four vocal soloists, the monumental Missa Solemnis is a masterpiece of spiritual expression and musical innovation. Composed around the time of his Ninth Symphony, the two works shed light on Beethoven's religious world view — where the Ninth's 'Ode to Joy' is a hymn to man and brotherhood, the Missa Solemnis is a hymn to God. Through it all, Beethoven expresses universal spiritual ideas in a manner that could not have been accomplished by words alone, concluding with a fraught yet unanswered plea for peace amid the drumbeats of war. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-generation performance as conducted by Music Director Brett Mitchell.

BEETHOVEN Missa Solemnis, Op. 123
Brett Mitchell, conductor,
Jessica Rivera, soprano, Meg Bragle, alto
John Tessier, tenor, Sidney Outlaw, baritone
Colorado Symphony Chorus

Sunday, March 8, 2020 1:00PM

Strauss A Hero's Life conducted by Brett Mitchell

Driving percussion propels this energetic program led by Music Director Brett Mitchell. Ravel's rhythmic Boléro, features many of our musicians in starring roles, including the ever-present snare drum which continues unabated throughout as the orchestra gradually builds in sound to an exultant conclusion. Christopher Theofanidis' Drum Circles highlights a virtuosic dialogue between seven percussionists and the orchestra, creating a spatially, colorful rhythmic experience. Strauss' not-so-subtly autobiographical Ein Heldenleben is laid out in six beautifully interconnected sections, each clearly defined in sound while telling the courageous story of its virtuous hero — Richard Strauss himself — in a bombastic finale to a thrilling performance.

RAVEL Boléro
CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS Drum Circles:
Concerto for 7 Percussionists and Orchestra
R. STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben (A Hero's Life)

Brett Mitchell, conductor
The Percussion Collective

Friday, March 20, 2020 7:30PM

Marin Alsop Conducts

Marin Alsop, the famed Conductor Laureate and former Music Director for your Colorado Symphony, returns leading a riveting program of illustrious works. Copland's signature American sound is on full display in this beautiful suite from the ballet Appalachian Spring, while Barber's Second Essay exhibits exhilarating power throughout. Prokofiev's Suite from Romeo and Juliet provides a stirring conclusion to Maestra Alsop's return.

BARBER Essay No. 2, Op. 17
COPLAND Suite from Appalachian Spring
PROKOFIEV Suite from Romeo and Juliet

Marin Alsop, conductor

Friday, April 3, 2020 7:30PM

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4

Dynamic conductor Rune Bergmann makes his Colorado Symphony debut, lending his elegance and expertise to the "Inextinguishable" Fourth Symphony from Nielsen. Of it, the composer wrote "Music is life, and life is inextinguishable," and indeed from the very first moment it offers an electrifying jolt of energy and rarely deviates from that dynamism for the remainder of the piece. Mozart's genius is on full display throughout his masterful Overture to Don Giovanni, which was famously composed the night before the opera's premiere. Pianist Garrick Ohlsson highlights the performance in his return to Boettcher Concert Hall, bringing exquisite technique to Beethoven's innovative Fourth Piano Concerto — a work of unparalleled invention offering an array of fresh, surprising, and treasurable ideas that are sure to delight.

MOZART Overture to Don Giovanni, K. 527
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58
NIELSEN Symphony No. 4, Op. 29, "The Inextinguishable"

Rune Bergmann, conductor

Sunday, April 19, 2020 1:00PM

Holst The Planets

Holst's mystical masterpiece — The Planets — offers a spellbinding portrayal of Earth's celestial neighbors. From the ominous, fierce, and remorseless Mars to the majestic and poignant beauty of Saturn, Holst draws on their astrological traits, personifying each planet based on their mythological character to create seven unique scores that are both timeless and otherworldly. Your Colorado Symphony welcomes back former Music Director Andrew Litton with an opening of Walton's Crown Imperial — originally composed for the coronation of King George VI — while Denver favorite Natasha Paremski lends her trademark flair to Prokofiev's romantic Second Piano Concerto, rounding out an evening of ethereal masterworks.

WALTON Crown Imperial
PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16
HOLST The Planets

Andrew Litton, conductor
Natasha Paremski, piano

Friday, May 1, 2020 7:30PM

Mahler Symphony No. 9 conducted by Brett Mitchell

The curse of the ninth — the belief that a composer's ninth symphony is destined to be their last — weighed heavily on Mahler's mind as he neared the milestone, even going so far as to compose a "Tenth Symphony," Das Lied von der Erde, after his eighth in an effort to creatively circumvent the curse. Famously, Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner, Dvořák, and Spohr all passed away prior to completing a tenth symphony, and in the end Mahler succumbed to illness shortly after finishing his ninth as well. Mahler's "farewell to the world" serves as an incredible summation to a masterful career, quoting many of his previous compositions in a work brimming with anger, hysteria, and nostalgia in equal measure, before giving way to a calm acceptance in the finale. Join Music Director Brett Mitchell and your Colorado Symphony for a powerful performance teeming with emotion.

MAHLER Symphony No. 9 in D major

Saturday, May 9, 2020 7:30PM

Beethoven Violin Concerto conducted by Christopher Dragon

Join Associate Conductor Christopher Dragon in a performance featuring varied moods highlighted by Elgar's "Enigma Variations," wistfully portraying 14 of the composer's acquaintances, including his wife and friends, while offering a rich emotional experience, taking the audience through melancholy, tenderness, coy reserve, and bluster. Featured soloist Simone Porter lends her lyrical style to Beethoven's beautifully tranquil Violin Concerto, an incredible piece from the composer's middle period. The performance begins with a jovial romp through Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, a joyous medley of student songs overflowing with merriment — a fitting and energetic opener with the Dragon.

BRAHMS Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61
ELGAR Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36, "Enigma Variations"

Christopher Dragon, conductor

Friday, May 22nd, 2020 7:30PM

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 "Eroica" conducted by Brett Mitchell

The 2020 celebration of Beethoven continues as your Colorado Symphony and Music Director Brett Mitchell culminate the Classics season with his groundbreaking Third Symphony — the "Eroica" — a true turning point in musical history, bridging the Classical and Romantic eras. The piece's fiery passion became a hallmark of Beethoven's middle period and a defining feature of the Romantic era. Saint-Saëns' exotic "Bacchanale" from the French grand opera Samson et Dalila kicks off the program while the Colorado Symphony Chorus caps their 35th season, performing Mason Bates' Children of Adam. Described by Bates as "A collection of exuberant celebrations of creation," the piece incorporates sacred and Native American texts as well as works from American poets Walt Whitman and Carl Sandburg — a dazzling finish to a remarkable season.

SAINT-SAËNS "Bacchanale" from Samson et Dalila
MASON BATES Children of Adam: Songs of Creation for Chorus and Orchestra
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55, "Eroica"

Brett Mitchell, conductor