



LAKE WASHINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

The
Bohemian Pearl
A MASTERWORKS CONCERT

FEATURING
Michael Miropolsky, *Conductor*
Violinist Ilana Zaks, *Soloist*
and Co-Conductor: Bobby Collins

Sat. March 30, 2024 at 3PM

LWSO LAKE WASHINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BASTYR UNIVERSITY CHAPEL 14500 Juanita Dr NE Kenmore, 98028

A note from the Conductor

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra Spring Masterworks concert!

This time, we bring to you three splendid symphonic works. The exceptionally brilliant Russian Easter Festival Overture by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov was dedicated to the memories of two of the composer's close friends – Modest Mussorgsky and Alexander Borodin. The overture is based on Russian Orthodox liturgy, celebrating Easter, known in Russia as the "bright holiday".

Tonight, we are proud to present to you our soloist, violinist Ilana Zaks. Ilana's many honors include top prizes at national and international competitions. Critics praise her playing as "fearless, refreshing, and commanding", and her style as "captivating and delightful". We are very much looking forward to her debut with us with The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires by Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla. One of Ilana's favorites, this extravagant virtuoso piece is written after Vivaldi's own iconic Four Seasons.

Some critics tend to compare Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 to the works of Gustav Mahler, and even consider it to be better than Dvorak's Ninth. The pride of his native Bohemia, Dvorak completed the Eighth Symphony in 1889, which was a particularly happy year in the composer's life. This infused his work with warmth and an optimistic tone, making Symphony No. 8 one of Dvorak's finest compositions.

Thank you for being with us and now – let's enjoy the music!

Yours,

Michael Miropolsky
Michael Miropolsky
Conductor

LWSO *Upcoming Concerts*
CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICA
SAT. | JUNE 1, 2024 | 3:00pm
Conducted by Gabriela Garza
Bastyr University Chapel

Thank you for your support!

HOW TO SUPPORT LWSO

Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra is a nonprofit organization that has served the Eastside community since 2012. Our theme, The Bohemian Pearl, A Masterworks Concert, is what guides our programming. Made possible by generous granters and donors, LWSO has been able to offer accessible family-friendly concerts in both public and private venues, and free education opportunities for Title I schools.

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The Bohemian Pearl

A MASTERWORKS CONCERT

The inspiration for composers can come from many places. Sometimes it's the divine. Occasionally, it seemingly coalesces from the ether. And then other times they just straight out steal from those around them. In this program we have a little of each.

• *Russian Easter Festival Overture, Op. 36*

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Although Rimsky-Korsakov often deflected questions about the intentions of his music, his Russian Easter Overture on its face appears to be indisputably inspired by the divine. Indeed, he included bible verses in the program for the premiere and regular churchgoers in Russia would easily recognize the liturgical themes in his vibrant and joyous overture. Within the score itself Rimsky-Korsakov prefaced the first part, introduced by a somber trombone, with two verses from Psalm 68, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: Let them also that hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: As wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God." The second part bore an inscription from Mark 16, "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?'" Despite all this, Rimsky-Korsakov's overture is dedicated to the memories of his friends and fellow members of the Russian Five, Modest Mussorgsky and Alexander Borodin. I can't help but wonder, did Rimsky-Korsakov feel closer to the divine in a Russian cathedral or with his friends? Maybe both?

• *The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

**Arranged by Leonid Desyatnikov
(for violin solo and string orchestra)**

Featuring Soloist, Ilana Zaks

Piazzolla, a composer famous for creating music that seamlessly blends traditional Argentine tango with jazz and advanced 20th-century classical techniques, wrote The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires over the course of many years. Each movement was originally conceived as its own, standalone piece, written for a traditional tango quintet of violin, piano, electric guitar, double bass and bandoneón. Summer was composed for a

play in 1965; Autumn in 1969; and the remaining two in 1970. Piazzolla sometimes performed these works together, but it wasn't until the 1990's that this piece coalesced into what you'll hear today, thanks to Russian composer Leonid Desyatnikov. He made a new arrangement of Piazzolla's masterpieces, with a more obvious link to Vivaldi's Four Seasons, by converting each movement into three-sections, arranging them for solo violin and string orchestra, and including several quotations from Vivaldi's original work.

• *Intermission*

• *Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op 88*

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

I hope you'll forgive me for the click-bait in the first paragraph. Dvorak didn't so much steal from his Czech heritage as he paid homage to it. His eighth symphony is a joyful and exuberant work that paints pastoral pictures of the 19th century Czech Bohemian countryside. Similar to Piazzolla, Dvorak was a master at combining seemingly immiscible substances, in this case symphonic music with folk tunes and dances. The first movement's opening lyrical theme, played by tenor and alto instruments, gets interrupted by a bird call in the flute, and then erupts into a bright and sunny tour of the countryside, albeit with a thunderstorm or two. The second movement offers a bit of a respite, somewhat reminiscent of a languid picnic, although, again, the timpani and brass hint at a storm on the horizon. Why must they always stir up drama? The third movement is a melancholy and comforting waltz with a decidedly cheerful coda more akin to a Bohemian folk dance. The final movement opens with a fanfare from the trumpets, followed by restrained, almost academic music. It's very appropriate to the occasion for this symphony's creation, Dvorak's election to the Bohemian Academy of Science. Don't worry, our friends in the brass and percussion will save us from the pomp and circumstance, turning this movement into a sometimes raucous affair. The complex theme and variations in this final movement will hopefully touch all your emotions and send you home feeling energized.

Orchestra Musicians

VIOLIN 1

HyeKyung Seo – *Principal*
Concertmaster
 Luke Fitzpatrick
 Begin Nora
 Martha Garrett
 Tamas Kocsis
 Melanie Batt
 Patricia Williams
 Lin Marcelais
 Greg Dziekonski

VIOLIN 2

Karin Islip – *Principal*
 Neil Bacon
 Louanne Lotz
 Laurie Harvey
 Mark Lotz
 Lea Fetterman
 Kelly Marsh
 Alonso Tirado

VIOLA

Christopher Foerstel – *Principal*
 William Goodwin
 Carolyn Wyman
 Brian Lew
 Kendal Keyes
 Rafael Howell

CELLO

Bradley Hawkins – *Principal*
 Michael King
 Briana Lamb
 Olga Dolgaya
 Edwin Tellman
 David Tan

BASS

Bren Plummer – *Principal*
 Ramon Salumbides
 Anna Doak

FLUTE

Evan Pengra Sult – *Principal*
 Jenna Calixto
 Susan Telford

OBOE

Logan Esterling – *Principal*
 Bridget Long

CLARINET

Mary Kantor – *Principal*
 Jenny Ziefel

BASSOON

Francine Peterson – *Principal*
 Steven Morgan

HORN

Amie Stewart – *Principal*
 Richard Reed
 Suzanne Feinstein
 Carey Lamothe

TRUMPET

Scott Meredith – *Principal*
 Peter Nelson-King

TROMBONE

Bill Branvold – *Principal*
 Greg Powers
 Keith Winkle

TUBA

Ed Phillips

TIMPANI

Rachel Dobrow Stone

PERCUSSION

Denali Williams – *Principal*
 Emmy Ulmer
 Eric Peterson

HARP

Deb McClellan



Michael Miropolsky *Conductor*

Michael Miropolsky began his artistic career as principal violinist with the Moscow State Symphony, performed with the Radio and Television String Quartet in many countries around the world, and recorded internationally on the Melodiya label. He came to the United States in 1990 and was Associate Principal Second Violin with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Opera until his retirement in 2022. In 1999, Mr. Miropolsky founded the Seattle Violin Virtuosi and three years later, the Seattle Chamber Orchestra. He has released eight CDs with the aforementioned groups on the Ambassador label.

In 2002, he was chosen as the Music Director of the Cascade Symphony Orchestra. He released the orchestra's first two CDs - Symphonic Treasures, followed by The Seven, with soprano Christina Kowalski. In 2009, Mr.

Miropolsky was elected as the Music Director of the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra and has continued to serve as such since the orchestra became the Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra. He led the Seattle International Film Festival Orchestra in the SIFF Gala of 2012, and from 2013 through 2015 he conducted the Thalia Symphony Orchestra.

In 2011, with Rick Steves and the Cascade Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Miropolsky created the innovative program, Europe, a Symphonic Journey, which was released on both CD and DVD and received a 60-minute presentation on public television across the USA. In addition, the Maestro and the members of the Cascade Symphony published the orchestra's first cookbook, Measures and Pleasures. In 2015, Mr. Miropolsky published his memoir, Theme and Variations: My Life's Journey. In his book, which contains commentary by Rick Steves and Melinda Bargreen, Michael Miropolsky shares the story of his eventful 60 years' journey through life.



Bobby Collins *Co-Conductor*

Since 2015, Bobby Collins has served as Music Director and Co-Founder for The Sound Ensemble, a Seattle based chamber orchestra that promotes diversity and equity, while seeking to be at the forefront of what it means to be a relevant orchestra in the 21st century. He has also served as Music Director of Seattle Festival Orchestra since 2018, where he established the ensemble as the only orchestra in Seattle, providing consistent, year-round access to great orchestral music for kids. In addition to this, Bobby serves as Assistant Conductor for Yakima Symphony Orchestra, a music educator and guest conductor. With a repertoire spanning the ancient to the contemporary, Bobby has worked as a conductor and educator with the entire spectrum of orchestras. His most recent guest conducting engagements include groups such as KammarensembleN (Stockholm) and Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra.



Violinist, Ilana Zaks *Soloist*

Jewish-American violinist and member of the Seattle Symphony, Ilana Zaks has been described as "fearless, refreshing and commanding" (Boston Music Intelligencer) and "captivating and delightful" (Worcester Telegram). She has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and as a soloist, with the Boston Civic Symphony, Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, New England Philharmonic, Pioneer Valley Symphony, Pro-Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Nashua Chamber Orchestra, Wellesley Symphony, Brockton Symphony, Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Symphony, Arlington Philharmonic, Cape Cod Symphony, Symphony Pro Musica, and Thayer Symphony Orchestra.

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Violinist - Becky Soukup
 Cellist and longtime Board Treasurer – Merle Harris

