



Interlochen

PRESENTS

Interlochen, Michigan

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DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Jader Bignamini, conductor

Saturday, July 22, 2023

7:30pm, Kresge Auditorium

Ballet Music from Act III of *Macbeth* Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Suite from *Swan Lake*, Op. 20 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

- Scène
- Valse
- Dance of the Swans
- Scène
- Hungarian Dance, Czardas
- Spanish Dance
- Neapolitan Dance
- Finale

Suite from *The Firebird* (1919 version) Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

- Introduction and Dance of the Firebird
- Dance of the Princesses
- Infernal Dance of King Kastchei
- Berceuse
- Finale

The DSO at Interlochen is supported by Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Joanne Danto & Arnold Weingarden, Mr. & Mrs. Arn Tellem, Drs. David & Bernadine Wu, and one donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Additional support is provided by James A. Bannan, Dr. & Mrs. Charles G. Colombo, Dr. & Mrs. A. Bradley Eisenbrey, Mary Ann & Robert Gorlin, Mr. Michael Kuhne, Dr. Susan & Mr. Stephen Molina, William & Lauren Piontkowski, Ms. Joyce E. Scafe, Bob & Donna Schaerer, David Szymbroski & Marilyn Sicklesteel, Tom & Laura Trudeau, Mr. James G. Vella, Peter & Carol Walters, and Ms. Tiffany Weathersbee.

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PROGRAM NOTES

Ballet Music from Act III of *Macbeth*

GIUSEPPE VERDI

B. October 10, 1813, Le Roncole, Italy

D. January 27, 1901, Milan, Italy

Scored for flute, piccolo, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 4 trombones, timpani, percussion, & strings.

Duration: Approx. 9 minutes

Giuseppe Verdi is widely regarded as the greatest composer of Italian opera. He had established his reputation around the world with such masterworks as *Il trovatore*, *Rigoletto*, *La traviata*, and *Don Carlo* by 1868, when Gioacchino Rossini, the only figure of comparable stature in 19th-century Italian music, died in Paris.

Almost all of Verdi's early operas ran afoul of the censors because of the political implications of their plots. In 19th-century Europe, no one doubted that music and drama could inspire strong emotions and, perhaps, even action. The political arbiters were ever wary about allowing ideas of insurrection or royal fallibility to escape from the stage into the public consciousness. One such idea that did slip past their suspicious examination, however, was contained in Verdi's *Nabucco* of 1842. The chorus of longing for their lost homeland sung in that opera by the Israelites captive in Babylon, "Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate" ("Fly, thoughts, on wings of gold"), was quickly adopted by the Risorgimento as an anthem of struggle for Italy's freedom. So great and enduring was the fame of this lovely music that it was sung by the crowds that lined the streets for Verdi's funeral procession almost six decades later.

Until the late 1830s, Verdi lived a relatively peaceful life. He had spent his youth as an altar boy and organist at San Michele Arcangelo in Busseto, Italy. He later studied composition with Vincenzo Lavigna, a composer and maestro at La Scala in Milan, and in 1836 was named music director of the Busseto Philharmonic. That same year Verdi married his childhood sweetheart, Margherita Barezzi. They had two children together before tragedy struck in 1839, when one by one, the family fell ill. Margherita and the children died over the course of the year, changing Verdi's life forever.

In tribute to his family, the composer vowed never to write a comedy again and instead pursued mainly works of tragedy and drama. Verdi clung to the idea of inescapable destiny and wrote his tenth opera, *Macbeth*, in 1847, following the same theme. *Macbeth* is based on Shakespeare's play about the tragedy of political ambition, and Verdi worked closely with Francesco Maria Piave and later Andrea Maffei to create the libretto for this opera. Verdi was enthralled by the work of Shakespeare, stating that he was "one of my very special poets, and I have had him in my hands from earliest youth, and I read and re-read him continually."

The original version of *Macbeth* did not include the ballet music heard on today's program—this was added in 1865 when Verdi revised the opera for a Paris performance to fit the standard operatic form of the time, where most operas included some type of ballet music. He created this ballet excerpt for the witches in *Macbeth*, and this scene included a combination of dance and mime presented in three distinct sections: an allegro dance around the cauldron, an andante section featuring Hecate miming the action, and culminating in a wild waltz that returns to one final dazzling cauldron dance.

Suite from *Swan Lake*

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

B. Votkinsk, May 7, 1840

D. St. Petersburg, November 6, 1893

Scored for 2 flutes, piccolo, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 cornets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, & strings.

Duration: Approx. 36 minutes

The first performance of what is still considered to be the quintessential ballet was a disaster of such epic proportions that it took Tchaikovsky's death and the subsequent renewal of interest in his life and works to bring about a second production. That premiere took place in Moscow at the celebrated Bolshoi Theater in March of 1877, and it was a failure for a number of reasons: the production overall was very shoddy; the choreography was uninspired and uninteresting; the prima ballerina was next to incompetent; the orchestra, inadequately rehearsed, simply could not handle the technical and musical demands of what was a very strong and inventive score; and that wonderful score was tampered with so as to include a number of dances by hack composers of the day.

The genesis of what is now the most popular of classical ballets is more mundane. In 1875, the director of one of the other theaters in Moscow asked Tchaikovsky to write music for a full-length ballet inspired in the main by a well-known German fairy tale. Mainly because of the financial reward, Tchaikovsky agreed, but he also had been wanting for some time to try his hand in this genre. He wrote at an uncommonly slow pace—by the time the score was finished almost a year had gone by and he had grown bored of writing the work. Then came the premiere, which, in spite of everything, actually did please a segment of the audience. The various folk legends on which the story was based were quite old, and usually had something to do with hunters finding swans, who beg the hunters not to shoot them, then at some point the swans are transformed into beautiful maidens who eventually marry the hunters.

Following the premiere, various revisions were made to the choreography—and even the music—by leading ballerinas of the day, demands to which Tchaikovsky surprisingly agreed. As a result, the ballet became more and more disjointed and difficult to follow, and performances virtually stopped. In 1880, a new choreographic version was created for the Bolshoi Theatre, but even though it remained in the company's repertoire for three years, it was not successful and

eventually was dropped from active performance. Then, with the great successes of *The Sleeping Beauty* (1890) and *The Nutcracker* (1892) on the boards, plans were made to mount an entirely new production in St. Petersburg. This eventually took place one year after Tchaikovsky's premature death in 1893 and was the work of the famed choreographer Marius Petipa and his assistant Lev Ivanov, who sought to create a memorial program of the composer's music at the famous Maryinsky Theater.

This gala production took place in the winter of 1895 and was an absolute triumph. *Swan Lake* was finally revealed as an unquestioned masterpiece, and has since taken its place as a work of great historical importance in the development of modern ballet.

Suite from *The Firebird* (1919 version)

IGOR STRAVINSKY

B. June 17, 1882, Lomonosov, Russia

D. April 6, 1971, New York, NY

Scored for 2 flutes (1 doubling on piccolo), 2 oboes (1 doubling on English horn), 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, piano, & strings.

Duration: Approx. 19 minutes

Igor Stravinsky's association with Serge Diaghilev and his Ballets Russes lasted two decades and proved one of the most fruitful artistic collaborations in history. Through Diaghilev, the composer met some of the leading creative figures of the day, and for the Ballet Russes Stravinsky produced most of the works that secured his fame. The first, and arguably most famous, is the score for the ballet *The Firebird*, which premiered in 1910. Stravinsky extracted two concert suites from the full score—one in 1911, and then a "revision" in 1919. The second version is generally regarded as the "standard" today.

The Firebird relates a fantastic tale. Wandering alone in a deep wood, Prince Ivan, son of the Czar, comes upon the mythical Firebird. Quickly he captures her, but when she offers a magic feather as ransom, he frees her. Continuing on his way, the prince encounters thirteen princesses, who are under the spell of Kastchei, a demon of terrible power. (In his presence women are made captive and men turned to stone.) When the princesses flee, Ivan follows them into Kastchei's castle and soon is captured. But he remembers the feather, and its magic renders Kastchei's spells harmless. The Firebird appears and shows the prince an egg containing the monster's soul. Ivan smashes it, destroying Kastchei and freeing the princesses.

The suite unfolds in five movements. The first three set the scene and introduce the principal characters of the fairytale drama. The initial measures suggest Prince Ivan wandering in the forest; an air of mystery and menace permeates the music of the low strings, the horn figures, and especially the eerie glissando

harmonics in the strings. Next comes the dance of the Firebird, which sounds every bit as colorful and fantastic as the creature itself.

The second movement gives us music of the princesses, their gentle demeanor conveyed in a song-like melody played by the oboe to harp accompaniment. These dulcet sounds give way suddenly, however, to the “Infernal Dance of King Kastchei.” The demon is suggested in angular rhythms and harsh outbursts, particularly from the brass. This entire sequence is brilliantly orchestrated, and we can scarcely imagine today the impact it must have made on audiences in 1910.

Of entirely different character is the “Berceuse,” a haunting lullaby rather oriental in tone. A brief sequence of falling string tremolos leads to the finale. Its melody, announced by the horn and gradually taken up by the full orchestra, is repeated in ever more sonorous instrumentation, building to an imposing climax in the final measures.

—Program notes courtesy of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra

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About the DSO

The acclaimed Detroit Symphony Orchestra is known for trailblazing performances, collaborations with the world’s foremost musical artists, and a deep connection to its city. As a community-supported orchestra, generous giving by individuals and institutions at all levels drives the continued success and growth of the organization. In January 2020, Italian conductor Jader Bignamini was named the DSO’s next music director to commence with the 2020-2021 season. Celebrated conductor, arranger, and trumpeter Jeff Tyzik is the orchestra’s Principal Pops Conductor, while Oscar-nominated trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard holds the Fred A. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair.

Making its home at historic Orchestra Hall within the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, the DSO offers a performance schedule that features PVS Classical, PNC Pops, Paradise Jazz, and Young People’s Family Concert series. One of the world’s most acoustically perfect concert halls, Orchestra Hall celebrated its centennial in 2019-2020. In addition, the DSO presents the William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series in seven metro area venues, as well as a robust schedule of eclectic multi-genre performances in its mid-size venue The Cube, constructed and curated with support from Peter D. & Julie F. Cummings.

A dedication to broadcast innovation began in 1922, when the DSO became the first orchestra in the world to present a live radio broadcast of a concert and continues today with the groundbreaking *Live from Orchestra Hall* series of free webcasts, which also reaches tens of thousands of children with the Classroom Edition expansion. With growing attendance and unwavering philanthropic support from the people of Detroit, the DSO actively pursues a mission to embrace and inspire individuals, families, and communities through unsurpassed musical experiences.

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JADER BIGNAMINI was introduced as the 18th music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in January 2020, commencing with the 2020–2021 season. He kicked off his tenure as DSO Music Director with the launch of DSO Digital Concerts in September 2020, conducting works by Copland, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, and Saint-Georges. His infectious passion and artistic excellence set the tone for the season ahead, creating extraordinary music and establishing a close relationship with the orchestra. A jazz aficionado, he has immersed himself in Detroit's rich jazz culture and the influences of American music.

A native of Crema, Italy, Bignamini studied at the Piacenza Music Conservatory and began his career as a musician (*clarinet*) with Orchestra Sinfonica La Verdi in Milan, later serving as the group's resident conductor. Captivated by the operatic arias of legends like Mahler and Tchaikovsky, Bignamini explored their complexity and power, puzzling out the role that each instrument played in creating a larger-than-life sound. When he conducted his first professional concert at the age of 28, it didn't feel like a departure, but an arrival.

In the years since, Bignamini has conducted some of the world's most acclaimed orchestras and opera companies in venues across the globe including working with Riccardo Chailly on concerts of Mahler's Eighth Symphony in 2013 and his concert debut at La Scala in 2015 for the opening season of La Verdi Orchestra. Recent highlights include debuts with the Houston, Dallas, and Minnesota symphonies; Osaka Philharmonic and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo; with the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, and Dutch National Opera (*Madama Butterfly*); Bayerische Staatsoper (*La Traviata*); *I Puritani* in Montpellier for the Festival of Radio France; *Traviata* in Tokyo directed by Sofia Coppola; return engagements with Oper Frankfurt (*La forza del destino*) and Santa Fe Opera (*La Bohème*); *Manon Lescaut* at the Bolshoi; *Traviata*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot* at Arena of Verona; *Il Trovatore* and *Aida* at Rome's Teatro dell'Opera; *Madama Butterfly*, *I Puritani*, and *Manon Lescaut* at Teatro Massimo in Palermo; *Simon Boccanegra* and *La Forza del Destino* at the Verdi Festival in Parma; *Ciro in Babilonia* at Rossini Opera Festival and *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Elisir d'amore* at La Fenice in Venice.

When Bignamini leads an orchestra in symphonic repertoire, he conducts without a score, preferring to make direct eye contact with the musicians. He conducts from the heart, forging a profound connection with his musicians that shines through both onstage and off. He both embodies and exudes the excellence and enthusiasm that has long distinguished the DSO's artistry.

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DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

JADER BIGNAMINI, Music Director

Music Directorship endowed by the Kresge Foundation

JEFF TYZIK
Principal Pops Conductor

NA'ZIR MCFADDEN
*Assistant Conductor, Phillip &
Lauren Fisher Community
Ambassador*

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Music Director Laureate

TERENCE BLANCHARD
Fred A. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair

NEEME JÄRVI
Music Director Emeritus

VIOLIN I

Robyn Bollinger
CONCERTMASTER
Katherine Tuck Chair
Kimberly Kaloyanides
Kennedy
ASSOCIATE CONCERTMASTER
*Schwartz and Shapero Family
Chair*
Hai-Xin Wu
ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER
*Walker L. Cisler/Detroit
Edison Foundation Chair*
Jennifer Wey Fang
ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER
Marguerite Deslippe*
Laurie Goldman*
Rachel Harding Klaus*
Eun Park Lee*
Adrienne Rönmark*
William and Story John Chair
Alexandros Sakarellos*
*Drs. Doris Tong and Teck Soo
Chair*
Laura Soto*
Greg Staples*
Jiamin Wang*
Mingzhao Zhou*

VIOLIN II

Adam Stepniewski
ACTING PRINCIPAL
The Devereaux Family Chair
Will Haapaniemi*
*David and Valerie McCammon
Chairs*
Hae Jeong Heidi Han*
*David and Valerie McCammon
Chairs*
Elizabeth Furuta*
Sheryl Hwangbo Yu*
Daniel Kim*
Sujin Lim*
Hong-Yi Mo*
Marian Tanau*
Alexander Volkov*
Jing Zhang*

VIOLA

Eric Nowlin
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Julie and Ed Levy, Jr. Chair
James VanValkenburg
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Caroline Coade
Henry and Patricia Nickol Chair
Glenn Mellow
Hang Su
Hart Hollman
Han Zheng
Mike Chen

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Wei Yu
PRINCIPAL
Abraham Feder
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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Chair*
Robert Bergman*
Jeremy Crosmer*
*Victor and Gale Girolami Cello
Chair*
David LeDoux*
Peter McCaffrey*
*Joanne Deanto and Arnold
Weingarden Chair*
Una O'Riordan*
*Mary Ann and Robert Gorlin
Chair*

DOUBLE BASS

Kevin Brown
PRINCIPAL
Van Dusen Family Chair
Stephen Molina
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Christopher Hamlen
Brandon Mason

HARP

OPEN
PRINCIPAL
Winifred E. Polk Chair

FLUTE

Hannah Hammel Maser
PRINCIPAL
*Alan J. and Sue Kaufman and
Family Chair*
Amanda Blaikie
*Morton and Brigitte Harris
Chair*
Sharon Sparrow
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
*Bernard and Eleanor
Robertson Chair*
Jeffery Zook
Shantanique Moore[§]

PICCOLO

Jeffery Zook
Shari and Craig Morgan Chair

OBOE

Alexander Kinmonth
PRINCIPAL
*Jack A. and Aviva Robinson
Chair*
Sarah Lewis
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Monica Fosnaugh

ENGLISH HORN

Monica Fosnaugh

CLARINET

Ralph Skiano
PRINCIPAL
Robert B. Semple Chair
Jack Walters
*PVS Chemicals Inc./
Jim and Ann Nicholson Chair*
Shannon Orme

E-FLAT CLARINET

OPEN

BASS CLARINET

Shannon Orme
*Barbara Frankel and
Ronald Michalak Chair*

BASSOON

Conrad Cornelison
PRINCIPAL
*Byron and Dorothy Gerson
Chair*
Marcus Schoon
Jaquain Sloan[§]

CONTRABASSOON

Marcus Schoon

HORN

Karl Pituch
PRINCIPAL
Johanna Yarbrough
Scott Strong
*Ric and Carola Huttenlocher
Chair*
David Everson
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Mark Abbott

TRUMPET

Hunter Eberly
PRINCIPAL
Lee and Floy Barthel Chair
Austin Williams
William Lucas

TROMBONE

Kenneth Thompkins
PRINCIPAL
David Binder
Adam Rainey

BASS TROMBONE

Adam Rainey

TUBA

Dennis Nulty
PRINCIPAL

TIMPANI

Jeremy Epp
PRINCIPAL
*Richard and Mona Alonzo
Chair*
James Ritchie
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

Joseph Becker
PRINCIPAL
*Ruth Roby and Alfred R.
Glancy III Chair*
Andrés Pichardo-Rosenthal
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
William Cody Knicely Chair
James Ritchie

LIBRARIANS

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PRINCIPAL
Ethan Allen

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Principal Flute
*Women's Association for the
DSO*

LEGACY CHAIRS cont.

Principal Cello
James C. Gordon

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PERSONNEL
Benjamin Tisherman
MANAGER OF ORCHESTRA
PERSONNEL
Nolan Cardenas
AUDITION AND OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR

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Zachary Deater
DEPARTMENT HEAD
Isaac Eide
DEPARTMENT HEAD
Kurt Henry
DEPARTMENT HEAD
Steven Kemp
DEPARTMENT HEAD
Matthew Pons
DEPARTMENT HEAD
Jason Tschantre
DEPARTMENT HEAD

LEGEND

* These members may voluntarily revolve seating within the section on a regular basis
§ African American Orchestra Fellow

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In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, Interlochen maintains a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. Michigan law prohibits any weapons, including concealed weapons, on Interlochen property because we are an educational campus.

Thank you for your cooperation.

www.interlochen.org