



Domenico Boyagian, Music Director
Sara Beam, Concertmaster

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 3:00pm
The Maltz Performing Arts Center

A FAMILY CONCERT

Mother Goose Suite

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Pavane of Sleeping Beauty

Little Tom Thumb

Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas

Beauty and the Beast

The Enchanted Garden

~intermission~

The Composer is Dead

Nathaniel Stookey (b. 1970)

Linn Obery, Narrator

The SSO welcomes and thanks these musicians who join us for this concert:

Sara Beam, Concertmaster • Daniel DiMarino Principal Second Violin

Micaela Murphy, Principal Viola • Anna Bowman Hurt, Principal Cello

Tristen Jarvis, Principal Contrabass • Allen Jiang, contrabassoon

SSO would also like to welcome these new members!

Erida Kazmaj, First Violin • Anna Love, First Violin • Priscilla Cotten, Second

Violin • Kelly Lo, Second Violin • Chelsea Mack, Second Violin • Barbara

Lang, Viola • Steven Brija, Contrabass • Hollie Greenwood, Contrabass

Linn Obery, Narrator

Linn is delighted to be working with the Suburban Symphony Orchestra. He's been active in community choirs and theatre for over 40 years. Most recently he was the Captain in *Anything Goes*. Linn is hot on the trail - sleuthing clues - and will greatly appreciate your help in solving *The Composer is Dead*.



PROGRAM NOTES

By Marlene Krause

Mother Goose Suite

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

French composer Maurice Ravel's natural gift for orchestration and musical "coloring," created scores that were unmatched for his brilliant use of instrumental timbres. Although he had no children of his own, he dearly loved children. Throughout his life, he kept his ability to see the world through a child's eyes. A life-long creator and collector of toys, he also loved children's stories and illustrations, and often sneaked away from social get-togethers to play with the toys and games of youngsters in residence.

In 1908 Ravel wrote a children's piano duet for his friends' two children. He called it *Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite)*. The work consisted of five tableaux from ancient French fairytales that dealt with moralistic issues. He later orchestrated it for a ballet. Ravel's representations are the musical equivalent of watercolors and etchings and contain a complete range of orchestral color, dynamics and emotion.

Pavane of Sleeping Beauty – Ravel presents a graceful ancient dance by attendants surrounding the sleeping princess Florine. Both flute and harp are featured prominently in this baroque dance.

Little Tom Thumb - Tom's frustrated wanderings in the woods are depicted by continual meter changes in string passages, while the woodwinds play a quiet "walking" melody. Twittering birds (flute, piccolo) swoop down to steal the crumbs left to mark Tom's return path.

Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas – Exotic Japanese music paints a picture of the little empress taking her bath while tiny munchkin-like people sing and play on their miniature percussive instruments.

Beauty and the Beast – The clarinet represents Beauty in the form of a waltz, while the role of the Beast is assumed by a contrabassoon. A dialogue between the two instruments alternates between brusque growls and lilting melodies. After a loud climax and a measure of silence, an expressive solo violin announces with a delicate glissando the change of the beast into a handsome prince. A moment before this, Beauty had decided that she would marry the beast because of his inner beauty and kindness.

The Enchanted Garden – Everyone lives happily and in peace in this musically delicate watercolor depicting the splendor of an enchanting fairyland. The music builds to a grand fanfare celebrating that all is good and beautiful.

**The Composer is Dead Music by Nathaniel Stookey (1970 -)
Text by Lemony Snicket (1970 -)**

The Composer is Dead is a murder mystery for narrator and orchestra, originally created in 2006 as an orchestral work by Nathaniel Stookey with narration by Lemony Snicket. In 2009 it was published as a book with a CD insert. According to BBC commentator Norman Lebrecht, Stookey's *The Composer is Dead* is one of the five most performed classical works of the 21st century worldwide. Like Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Benjamin Britten's *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, it is

intended to introduce young audiences to the instruments of the orchestra.

The plot: When it is discovered that the composer is dead, or “decomposing” as the author puts it, the inspector is called in to solve the mystery of his murder. In order find the guilty culprit, he interrogates everyone in the orchestra, including the violins, the horns, and every other instrument. Each one, of course, has an alibi. Ultimately, after revealing a long list of also dead composers, the inspector finds his answers.

Nathaniel Stookey is a composer of orchestral, chamber, vocal, theatrical, pop and dance music. A 1992 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he also attended the Cleveland Institute of Music and San Francisco San Francisco City College. Himself a violinist and violist, Stookey has continued to write orchestral and chamber music throughout his career. He has collaborated with many of the world’s great orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra. Born and raised in San Francisco, he has a long-standing musical relationship with the San Francisco Symphony, which granted him his first commission when he was only 17. The San Francisco Symphony commissioned, premiered and recorded *The Composer is Dead with Text* by Lemony Snicket. Stookey has narrated performances of it in English as well as Spanish, and also co-authored the Spanish and French translations of the text.

Lemony Snicket is the pen name of Daniel Handler, an American writer and musician. He has published several children’s books under his Lemony Snicket pseudonym, with *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *All the Wrong Questions* emerging as the most popular. The former was adapted into a Nickelodeon film in 2004 as well as a Netflix series from 2017 to 2019. Under his own name Handler has also published short stories, adult novels and plays. In 2017 he wrote the play *Imaginary Comforts*, which was performed at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. As a film writer he produced the screenplay for *Rick*, which was based on the Verdi opera *Rigoletto*, as well as *Kill the Poor*, an adaptation of a Joel Rose novel. Handler has also received praise for playing accordion in several bands, including The Magnetic Fields.

Thank You

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

The projected artwork for this concert
was created by students in grades 2 - 5 from
Canterbury Elementary School,
Cleveland Heights

Bravo, students!

*A special thank you to Principal Dr. Erica Wigton and
Art Teacher Ms. Holly Spooner
for their participation and making this experience
possible for their students. Thank you also to Elizabeth
and David Rothenberg for coordinating and running
projection of the artwork.*

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