PYO Music Institute

Louis Scaglione • Music Director

Presents

# PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Louis Scaglione • Conductor



Sunday • February 12, 2023 • 3:00 p.m.



# **INTO HONOR STUDENTS 2022–2017**

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#### A LETTER FROM MAESTRO LOUIS SCAGLIONE

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us in Verizon Hall in support of our Philadelphia Youth Orchestra students. I'm delighted you're here with us this afternoon. Our students have made an enormous investment in preparing this performance and we hope you enjoy it.

Performing in an orchestral setting is inherently different from playing in a chamber group or as a soloist. While there are certainly opportunities to shine, one of the exciting challenges of orchestral repertoire is figuring out how to blend together, perfectly sync with other musicians, and play as a unit. I trust you will see these skills as we perform Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony —a warhorse of a piece that highlights the full orchestra. Our students often comment about how their experiences in the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra challenge them to become more aware of others and to work as a team. One student shared:

"I think that being a part of an ensemble allows you to blend in and realize that it's not always about YOU. It allows malleable minds to realize that there are going to be times in life where you have to let others have the spotlight and you have to work as a team to truly succeed. Teamwork, patience, and the ability to compromise are three key factors that make a musician more than just a musician: they become a team player."

Preparing for and performing the Elgar's Cello Concerto today with distinguished cellist Gloria dePasquale has been an excellent learning opportunity for our students and is truly a delight. She is a consummate musician—having just recently retired from the Philadelphia Orchestra after 45 years—and a fantastic colleague. This opportunity has stretched our young musicians even further in their ability to be keenly aware of the soloist, to listen, and to take a step back and play a supporting role.

Thank you for being here to support the growth of these students as they learn musically and personally. Please enjoy!

With sincerest appreciation,

Louis Scaglione,

President & Music Director



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#### PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Music Institute Louis Scaglione • *Music Director* 

#### Presents

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra
Louis Scaglione • Conductor
Gloria dePasquale • Violoncello
The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Verizon Hall

Sunday, February 12, 2023 • 3:00 p.m.

#### PROGRAM

Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85

Edward Elgar

- I. Adagio Moderato
- II. Lento Allegro molto
- III. Adagio
- IV. Allegro Moderato Allegro, ma non-troppo Poco più lento Adagio *Gloria dePasquale, violoncello*

#### INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

Dmitri Shostakovich

- I. Moderato
- II. Allegretto
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegro non troppo

Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate time in the concert. The use of photographic and recording equipment is strictly prohibited. As a courtesy to the performers and fellow concert-goers, please silence all cell phones prior to the performance.



For application information visit esm.rochester.edu/admissions

#### PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA • 2022-2023

#### Louis Scaglione, Music Director & Conductor

#### Violin I

Gabriela Salvador-Riera, Concertmaster Miro Raj, Associate Concertmaster Angie Chen, Assistant Concertmaster

Maxine Chen Chloe Hyun Vivian Ma Benjamin Roses Daniel Cheng Isabella Cho

Kai Freeman

Cyrano Rosentrater

Sehoon Kim Rishab Das Adam Elbohy Victoria Zimmerman

Isabella Vitales Elise Hwang Hannah Han Amber Chang Carsten Liu

Justin Chow Daniel Huang Miles Zhou

Joshua Chou Anagha Kapsi

Elizabeth Yeh

# Violin II

Hannah Adams, Principal

Ritsu Nakagawa, *Associate Principal* Natalie Chen, *Assistant Principal* 

Heather Lee Grace Opong Anthony Zhai Aditi Pothukuchi Sophie Odia Emily Gelok

Adelle Sullivan-Cozza

Lauren Wu David Ma Michael Fisher Kaileb Kim

Josiah Mendenhall Emily Samuel Peter Woo Ala Cho Megan Chan Emilie Xie Patricia Harden Ethan Chan

Molly Coleman

Andrew Lu

#### Viola

Holly Bogle, Principal

Alena Zhang, Associate Principal Emily Demers, Assistant Principal

Lucas Lauprasert Hannah Lee Livia Kam Jacqueline Chow Shinnyom David Park

Mona Redder Helen Zheng

Justine Sullivan-Cozza

#### Violoncello

Kwanchi Loo, Principal

Alexander Kwak, *Associate Principal*Alexander Steketee, *Assistant Principal* 

Samuel Cao Grant Kane Andrew Li Winston Hewitt Jason Oh Hayden Kang Peter Moon Kwanyun Loo

Elena Chang Owen Li Daniel Loza Jessica Wang

Evan Yoon

#### PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA • 2022-2023

#### **Double Bass**

John Tomlinson. Principal

Gaurav Kakarla, Associate Principal

Aram Karpeh, Assistant Principal

Cooper Bruce

Luke Halpern

Surya Penna

Milan Merchant

#### Flute/Piccolo

Samantha Bedenko

Jessica Hou

Jianna Kim

Sabrina Stemetzki

Kevin Yuan\*

#### Oboe/English Horn

Nicole Guo\*

Sarah Li

Celia Wojcik

#### Clarinet

Jeffrey Bedford\*

Alexander Kang

Botong Li

#### **E-Flat Clarinet**

Simon Bakos +

#### **Bassoon**

Jason Xi

Roger Wang\*

Anna Zhang

#### **Contra Bassoon**

Zachary Feingold +

#### French Horn

Aiden Baxter

Evan Bretz\*

William Czartoryski

Charles Kried

Aiden Lewis

Wesley Sydnor

### Trumpet

Nozomi Imamura +

Kokayi Jones

Zimo Liu

Matthew Mailman\*

# **Trombone**

Yi-Fn Ho

Maryam Saburah Kahn

Javid Labenski

Nicholas Mahonev\*

#### Tuba

Niklas Umland\*

#### Percussion

Tristan Bouyer

Joseph Fiore\*

Austin Snavely

lan Sun

#### Harp

Zora Dickson

Maya Lindsey\*

#### **Piano**

Jaden Shkolnikov\*



COME FOR THE MUSIC STAY FOR THE EXPERIENCE



#### PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA • 2022-2023

#### **Louis Scaglione**

#### President & Music Director

Maestro Louis Scaglione has spent over 30 years developing his craft as a musician, educator, conductor, and administrative executive. His career has afforded him extensive experience in orchestral, choral, and opera literature, as well as in education and executive administration. Known nationally, he has established himself within the greater Delaware Valley region as an esteemed and well-respected colleague. He has also developed sound relations with many arts, educational, and cultural organizations and institutions.

For the past 26 years, he has worked with PYO Music Institute (PYOMI) and he is currently President, CEO, and Music Director. Celebrating its 83rd anniversary, PYO Music Institute has grown exponentially during his tenure and under his direction to include nine program divisions serving nearly 600 students a year drawn from over 20 counties in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. His work relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion through PYO Music Institute's nationally recognized orchestral music learning pathway has garnered attention and funding from major foundation sources both regionally and nationally. PYO Music Institute's program divisions are directed by some of the top music professionals from the region and many of PYOMI's master class faculty is drawn from The Philadelphia Orchestra. PYO Music Institute's program divisions attract the very best students from a diverse population who seek extraordinary music education and the pursuit of music excellence, while building a strong sense of character, discipline, commitment, and maturity.

He has devoted his career to music education and the instruction of music at the highest levels. During his time with PYO Music Institute, he has conducted many major works from the orchestra literature cannon. as well as choral-orchestral masterworks. He has collaborated with many soloists, both instrumental and vocal, as well as distinguished choral societies including the Mendelssohn Club Chorus (Philadelphia) and the Choral Society of Montgomery County (Pennsylvania). He established PYO's highly regarded concert series at the Kimmel Cultural Campus and PYO Music Institute's performances are featured in a broadcast series on 90.1 WRTI-FM in Philadelphia. This series is unique nationally among youth orchestras. He has taken the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra on five international concert tours during his tenure. Through his work with PYO Music Institute, he has earned the respect of Philadelphia's greater professional community and he has distinguished himself as a highly regarded musician, educator and conductor in the region.

Additionally, Maestro Scaglione's involvement with the greater Philadelphia cultural and social community has included service as a member of several non-profit boards. Philanthropy is paramount to Maestro Scaglione, and he teaches his students the importance of "giving-back" to one's community through one's talents.

#### PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA • 2022-2023

#### Gloria dePasquale

#### Violoncello

Gloria dePasquale, Cellist for The Philadelphia Orchestra (1977-2022) was hired by Eugene Ormandy and served four and a half decades under ensuing artistic leadership, including Riccardo Muti, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Christoph Eschenbach, Charles Dutoit, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

After joining The Philadelphia Orchestra cello section in 1977, Ms. dePasquale became a tireless advocate for music education and community engagement. Along with The Philadelphia Orchestra cello section, she helped to design. spearhead, and popularize The Philadelphia Orchestra PlayINs, convening hundreds of student, amateur, and professional musicians on the stage of Verizon Hall for casual performances with Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, Mrs. dePasquale and her late husband. Philadelphia Orchestra Co-Concertmaster, William dePasquale, were instrumental in forging the PYOMI-Philadelphia Orchestra Side by Side events. The dePasquales also initiated the relationship between Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians (many who are PYOMI alums) and PYOMI for the sectional masterclasses for PYO and PYAO.

In 2006, at the invitation of PYOMI
President and CEO, Louis Scaglione,
Mr. and Mrs. dePasquale founded Prysm
Strings, which has grown over 16 seasons
to three ensembles offering a unique model
of teaching string playing techniques and
music making for string students K-12. Mrs.
dePasquale is the Director of Prysm Strings
and Conductor of the senior ensemble, Prysm.

In 2013, Mrs. dePasquale designed a curriculum of classes for PYOMI, College and Conservatory Audition Preparation (CCAP), offered to all students of PYOMI, and presented each year as a series of six seminars, including adjudicated mock auditions, with a panel of professional musicians and educators.

As a soloist, Mrs. dePasquale has appeared with PYO in Verizon Hall performing Haydn's C Major 'Cello Concerto, and future performances scheduled with PYO, include Elgar's 'Cello Concerto in February 2023. Mr. and Mrs. dePasquale appeared as soloists, performing the Brahms *Double* Concerto with many community and regional orchestras in the Philadelphia area. as well as a performance in Verizon Hall with PYO. The dePasquales also appeared with PYO in Verizon Hall performing Saint-Saëns' La Muse et le Poète. And Mrs. dePasquale appeared as soloist in Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante with PYO, along with violinist, Francesca dePasquale; oboist, Peter Smith; and bassoonist, Angela Anderson Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. dePasquale also performed as the dePasquale Trio, alongside daughter, Francesca-PYO Concertmaster Alum-Professor of violin Oberlin Conservatory, faculty at Juilliard Pre-College, appearing in such venues as the Perleman Theater, The Reading Musical Society, and Villanova University.

Mrs. dePasquale continues to maintain a large private cello studio. Her students consistently gain admission to the nation's most highly regarded academic institutions and music conservatories.



# PYO Music Institute • 2022-2023

#### Louis Scaglione,

#### President & Music Director

The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Music Institute is the tri-state region's premier youth orchestra organization for gifted, young, classical musicians, and one of the oldest and most highly regarded youth orchestra organizations in the United States. For 83 years, the PYO Music Institute has been providing professional-caliber musical experiences to young instrumentalists, while thrilling audiences in the Greater Philadelphia region and across the globe.

The organization has nine program divisions: Philadelphia Youth Orchestra (PYO), Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra (PYAO), Young Musicians Debut Orchestra (YMDO), Bravo Brass, Prysm Strings, Pizzicato Players, Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra (PYJO), Philadelphia Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB), and Tune Up Philly - Orchestral Pathways Program. Ranging in age from 5 to 21 years, the musicians of the PYO Music Institute come from a 70-mile radius of Philadelphia encompassing nearly 20 counties within Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Through advanced orchestra repertoire, students are challenged to perform at the highest levels, to strive for advanced musicianship, and to achieve superior technical, musical, and personal application. Former PYOMI musicians currently hold chairs in most of the top 20 professional orchestras in the United States, with 12 PYOMI alumni currently serving in The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Extraordinary artistic leadership is a hallmark of the PYO Music Institute. Adolph Sorian (1940–1941), J.W.F. Leman (1941–1952), William R. Smith (1952–1954), and Joseph Primavera (1954–2005) served as Music Directors, with Maestro Primavera having had the extraordinary distinction of being the longest-serving active conductor of any orchestra in the world. Louis Scaglione, appointed in 1997 by Maestro Primavera and the PYOMI Board of Trustees, continues the legacy of leadership, currently serving as the PYO Music Institute's President, CEO and Music Director.

#### PYO Music Institute • 2023-2023

#### Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, having been presented on tour in over twenty countries, is one of the most well-recognized youth orchestra programs in the nation. It provides the region's most advanced classical instrumental music students with unparalleled training and performance opportunities with world renowned soloists under the direction of Maestro Louis Scaglione, one of the leading youth orchestra conductors in the country. In addition to the opportunity to showcase their talents through high-profile radio broadcasts on WRTI 90.1 and live performances in Verizon Hall of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, members learn character-building life skills and supplement their collegiate and conservatory applications, making them strong candidates for acceptance into the most prestigious universities and conservatories around the world.

#### Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra

Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra challenges advanced students through rehearsal and performance of sophisticated symphonic repertoire and through musical discipline. PYAO further provides the opportunity to achieve advanced ensemble proficiencies with a highly experienced professional conductor. PYAO students work with master teachers from The Philadelphia Orchestra in sectional rehearsals: have the opportunity to participate in an annual concerto competition; and perform in high profile professional venues throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, including the Perelman Theater and Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Rosalind Erwin, a graduate of The New School of Music and Temple University, studied conducting with Joseph Barone, and was mentored by Ricardo Muti. Leonard Slatkin, and David Zinman. She is currently

Music Director and Conductor of the Drexel University Symphony Orchestra, former Music Director of the Pottstown Symphony Orchestra, and has extensive experience conducting in Europe. She is a master teacher and is a highly sought-after clinician and guest conductor.

#### **Young Musicians Debut Orchestra**

Young Musicians Debut Orchestra is a beginning to intermediate-level full symphonic orchestra that provides most students with their first introduction to large orchestral playing. Through standard orchestral literature, students are challenged to hone their talents for listening, blending. balancing, and making music within the full orchestral context. YMDO prepares its members for participation in Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, and eventually, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, as students advance through PYOMI's distinguished orchestra education continuum and pathway. Kenneth Bean, a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and Jackson State University. is also Assistant Conductor of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra; Conductor of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey, Symphonic Orchestra: and Assistant Conductor of Symphony in C. He currently teaches at the Kinhaven Music School and previously taught at the Luzerne Music Center, Mr. Bean maintains an active freelance trumpet career and serves as Associate Director of the Primavera Fund.

#### PYO Music Institute • 2022-2023

#### **Bravo Brass**

Bravo Brass, the only year-round brass ensemble in the Philadelphia area and one of only three in the country and under the direction of Paul Bryan, offers the highest level of individual and ensemble training opportunities for the most accomplished young brass musicians in the area. In addition to the opportunity to showcase their talents through multiple live performances throughout the year, members have distinguished themselves and gained acceptance to some of the most competitive and prestigious institutions for music and higher learning around the globe. Paul Bryan serves as an administrator at the Curtis Institute of Music. An accomplished trombonist and teacher, he also holds positions as Music Director of Symphony in C's Summer Symphony Camp and Head Conductor of the Young Artist Summer Program at Curtis.

#### **Prysm Strings**

Prysm Strings offers unparalleled, personalized small group instruction and educational support for beginning to intermediate string students, under the direction of Gloria dePasquale. With performance opportunities alongside the program's faculty, Prysm Strings also provides members with peer mentors from the senior ensembles of the PYO Music Institute, Gloria dePasquale, Cellist for The Philadelphia Orchestra (1977-2022) was hired by Eugene Ormandy and served four and a half decades under ensuing artistic leadership, including Riccardo Muti. Wolfgang Sawallisch, Christoph Eschenbach, Charles Dutoit, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. She was cellist of the dePasquale String Quartet and dePasquale Trio. She is senior artistic and educational advisor to PYO and designs and oversees the PYOMI College and Conservatory Audition Preparation program.

Mrs. dePasquale has served on the Board of the League of American Orchestras, The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, and the President's Council at New England Conservatory.

# Tune Up Philly -Orchestral Pathways Program

Tune Up Philly provides Philadelphia's children living in challenging social and economic conditions with access to immersive, after-school music education and performance opportunities. Tune Up Philly focuses on building community through music among peers at each of its school- and community center-based sites, and bringing these students together to experience the joy and benefits of playing together in large ensembles. An awardwinning educator, classical recording artist, and nationally performed composer, Mr. Smith holds degrees from Mannes College of Music and The Juilliard School. He has helped hundreds of families and leading cultural institutions use intensive performing arts education opportunities to engage communities and foster success. Mr. Smith has implemented innovative and successful music education programming, created long-lasting community partnerships among institutions of varying disciplines and genres. and developed mentorship training for conservatory and college graduates.

#### **Pizzicato Players**

Under the direction of Paul Smith, Pizzicato Players is a new and expanded educational offering of the PYO Music Institute for plucked string instruments. Pizzicato Players strives to create a home to develop critical and large ensemble skills and ensemble experience with conductors and acoustically favorable settings to highlight and nurture plucked instruments which are increasingly used in contemporary settings and throughout conservatories worldwide.

#### PYO Music Institute • 2022-2023

#### Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra

The Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra. a new program division of the Institute. provides advanced instrumental music students access to training, musical and personal development, and performance opportunities through professional-level jazz orchestra repertoire. PYJO offers the chance to work with world-renowned and highly experienced professional conductors, musicians, and teachers, rehearse professional-level jazz orchestra literature. and perform in high-profile professional venues throughout the greater Philadelphia region. Justin Faulkner, the Director, and Conductor of the PYJO, currently holds the drum chair in the Grammy Award Winning/ Six-Time Grammy Nominated Branford Marsalis Quartet. He is an Artist in Residence at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance, is a Governor of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Recording Academy, and creative consultant for the Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts.

#### Philadelphia Youth Symphonic Band

The Philadelphia Youth Symphonic Band. a new program division of the Institute, provides advanced instrumental music students access to training, musical and personal development, and performance opportunities through professional level wind band repertoire. PYSB provides the opportunity to work with highly experienced professional conductors, musicians, and teachers: to rehearse professional level wind band repertoire; and to perform in high-profile professional venues throughout the greater Philadelphia region, Patrick Bailey, Director and Conductor of the PYSB, currently serves as Director & Conductor of the Drexel University Concert Band program and is a tenured faculty member in the Pennsbury School District's internationally recognized instrumental music program.

#### SIR EDWARD ELGAR

Born: Broadheath, England, 2 June 1857 Died: Worcester, England, 23 February 1934

#### Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85

Elgar's Cello Concerto is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, optional tuba, timpani, and divided strings.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

#### Parallel Events/1919

Treaty of Versailles signed, ending World War I

Nazi Party and Fascist Party are formed

Prohibition begins in United States

Gershwin's first musical *La Lucille* premieres

U.S. begins passenger flights

Telephones can be dialed from home

Jack Dempsey becomes the heavyweight champ

Jazz singer Nat "King" Cole, Baseball great Jackie Robinson, author J.D. Salinger, and humorist Andy Rooney are born

Theodore Roosevelt and industrialist Andrew Carnegie die

#### **About the Composer**

For Edward Elgar, the premiere of his Cello Concerto in October of 1919 marked not only the end of World War I and the time when his wife fell ill (only to die five months later), but also the end of his career as a composer. Though he was only 62 years old and would live another fifteen years, Elgar completed no music of consequence after his Cello Concerto. After several successful decades, the self-taught composer was never to find again the music that had come with the years of his marriage in the pre-war world. Both the loss of his wife and the First World War seem to have sapped Elgar's creative energies.

During the thirty years he did compose, Elgar chiefly produced symphonic (large-scale) compositions. In all, his complete artistic output included large choral oratorios and cantatas, orchestral overtures, two completed symphonies, variations, marches (including the well-known Pomp and Circumstance march), a violin concerto, and a cello concerto.

What characterized Elgar's works more than anything else was the composer's attempt to understand himself through his music. For Elgar, composing was a journey toward an artistic self-discovery. Elgar's popular First Symphony and the stirring Enigma Variations in particular capture stages of this journey.

So. too. does the Cello Concerto. The scoring calls for the smallest number of instruments. of all of Elgar's larger works. The intimate orchestra provides for the most part a very loose structure through which the solo cello wanders alone as though through an empty landscape. The work resembles a symphonic poem in that the four movements (one more than the conventional three) run into each other. Its overall mood of restrained lament and nostalgia suggest Elgar's sad valediction to the musical world. Like Beethoven's Emperor Concerto for piano, Elgar's Cello Concerto forgoes the conventional orchestra introduction in order to open with the solo voice. After the cello solo emits an anguished cry, the orchestra consoles the solo with a lilting lullaby. The orchestra then builds and ultimately the movement returns to its opening line before it connects without pause to the second movement.

From deep gloom and almost anger, the stuttering cello goes back and forth with the orchestra in the second movement until the work has its first real pause as the first two movements end with a beautifully weighted conclusion. The brief, contemplative third movement offers one of the most heartbreakingly poignant musical utterances in all of musical history. As the movement concludes, Elgar offers a bewilderment that begs for the final movement for resolution.

The fourth and final movement opens with a vigorous orchestra brewing until the solo cello breaks into a musical soliloquy. Orchestra and solo intertwine until the anguish of the opening cello cry from the first movement is recalled nostalgically as the concerto culminates in a forceful conclusion.

There is a certain shyness to Elgar's Cello Concerto savs music historian Donald Tovey. More recently, musicologist Diana McVeagh explains that in his Cello Concerto, Elgar "confided his most private thoughts." In the tension between the risks taken by the craftsman and the shyness of the aging man, Elgar turned his disillusion to positive account." The Cello Concerto can be brought into real perspective when pondering Elgar's remark about this ghostly and melancholy work. "The trees," he said, "are singing my music - or have I sung theirs." Like Elgar's popular Enigma Variations, we are left with the inability to explain the work, except through the abstract language of music.

#### **DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH**

Born: St. Petersburg, Russia, 25 September 1906 Died: Moscow, Soviet Union, 9 August 1975

#### Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, E-flat clarinet, two bassoons, contra-bassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, snare drum, triangle, cymbals, bass drum, glockenspiel, xylophone, tam-tam, two harps, piano, celeste, and divided strings.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

#### Parallel Events/1937

King of England, George VI is crowned

George Gershwin dies at the young age of 39

Composer Maurice Ravel dies

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana premieres

Rodgers & Hart's Babes in Arms premieres

JRR Tolkien writes The Hobbit

San Francisco Bay's Golden Gate Bridge and New York City's Lincoln Tunnel open

First McDonald's opens

#### **About the Composer**

Some composers are often identified by their nationality or a national movement than by their own music. Verdi was uniquely tied with Italian unity, Copland with the American frontier, and Shostakovich with the former Soviet Union.

Described as "the conscience of the Soviet Union," Dmitri Shostakovich has become one of the most discussed figures in music since the composer's death, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the turn of the 21st century. Publicly Shostakovich was a member of the Communist Party and, unlike his Russian colleagues Prokofiev and Stravinsky who lived abroad, Shostakovich emerged because of, rather than in spite of, the Soviet regime.

Shostakovich's upbringing was rooted in music as his parents were both amateur musicians. After graduating from the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Shostakovich felt the need to choose between a career as a pianist or composer. Although composing did not come easily, he chose a career as a composer and quickly gained international attention with his First Symphony, which he composed when he was eighteen years old.

Like any artist, Shostakovich's curiosities led him to seek other influences, especially the works of Prokofiev and Stravinsky who had become "Western-ized." Shostakovich's discovery of modernism and post-modernism was quickly squashed by the Soviet government. Everything in the Soviet Union was viewed in political terms. Soviet musicologists proclaimed that the new

Soviet Union awaited "a composer whose melodies will touch the hearts of all sections of the populations and...will not only warm the concert hall but the streets and fields as well, because it will be music with roots deep in Russian life..."

As Shostakovich's early musical efforts became internationally recognized, the Soviet Union was quick to capitalize on Shostakovich's success (how ironic!) and adopted Shostakovich as the country's "musical spokesperson." His music would provide propaganda for the Soviet government and the communist way of life to an international community.

The relationship between the Soviet government and Shostakovich was complex. His music suffered two official denunciations and periodic bans of his work. At one point, the Communist Party declared Shostakovich's music offensive and harmful to Soviet citizens as it contained "decadent Western manners" and "formalist perversions." At the same time, he received a number of accolades and state awards, and served in the Supreme Soviet. Shostakovich was reminded by the Stalin regime that his duty was to compose for the Soviet people and his works should provide inspiration for the communist way of life. Despite these controversies, Shostakovich remained the most popular Soviet composer of his generation.

Shostakovich reacted, at least publicly, by accepting the political ideology of the Soviet government and composed several works that, at least superficially, embraced the communist regime. He proceeded to speak out against Western music. Looking back and seeing the dreadful alternatives, he had no choice. While he composed some private works such as his string quartets and the tragic Tenth Symphony, Shostakovich mainly produced "acceptable"

compositions, including the patriotic oratorio The Song of the Forests, the cantata The Sun Shines Over Our Land, and Symphonies five, seven (titled Leningrad), eleven (titled The Year 1905), and twelve (titled The Year 1917).

After suffering from severe heart problems and from his life long bout with tuberculosis, Shostakovich ultimately died a painful death from lung cancer. His death coincided with the anniversary of the first performance of his Seventh Symphony and with the eleventh birthday of his grandson Dmitri, Maxim's son.

#### **About the Music**

Shostakovich composed his Fifth Symphony during the height of the Great Terror, the period where Stalin had millions killed and exiled. Creative artists treaded carefully. If an artist was even permitted to perform, write, paint, etc., the communist regime required the art be "Soviet Realism," which was designed to instill the values needed to bring about the Golden Age of Communism. More aptly put, Soviet Realism was whatever served the government's propaganda needs at the time. Artists were to avoid Formalism - meaninglessly defined by the Soviet leaders as "putting to the forefront the outer side of a question, the detachment of form from content." More poignantly, any art that Stalin didn't like was banned and the artist often exiled.

By 1935, Shostakovich was the Soviet's most prominent composer; however, after Stalin attended a performance of Shostakovich's opera Lady Macbeth, Shostakovich was denounced in the communist newspaper (prior to this, the production was very successful). The unsigned editorial said because Shostakovich's opera was not easy to absorb, not optimistic, and did not include national music, it was a

"cacophonous and pornographic insult to the Soviet people" and "chaos instead of music." Understandably fearing for his safety and his family, Shostakovich kept a packed suitcase next to his bed in case the authorities came for him in the night.

Shostakovich decided not to release his Fourth Symphony, and spent half of 1937 composing his Symphony No. 5. Referring to the work as a "lengthy spiritual battle, crowned by victory," Shostakovich took a risk writing his Fifth Symphony as it had many moments that seemed tragic and depressing. It was an immense success with the Russian audiences, so much so that the ovation lasted nearly forty minutes - almost as long as the work itself. The communist government gave it official sanction when Shostakovich allowed the work to be deemed as "A Soviet Artist's Practical Creative Reply to Just Criticism." The official Soviet understanding of the Fifth Symphony was that the Fifth Symphony depicted the progress of an intellectual from the tragic isolation of individualism to triumphant solidarity with the people. Perhaps in order to gain political rehabilitation. Shostakovich said that "the theme of the Fifth Symphony is the making of man. I saw man with all his experiences at the center of the composition... In the finale the tragically tense impulse of the earlier movements are resolved in optimism and the joy of living."

The world-renowned cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich said the Soviet authorities perhaps would have executed Shostakovich had they truly understood the work and had the public ovation not been so overwhelming. While the Fifth Symphony satisfied the Soviet regime's demand for monumental triumph and classicism, the work also left room for personal expression. It seems that Shostakovich did not intend to compose a mindless triumphant work

in order to receive forgiveness. In fact, the Fifth Symphony avoids any hint of patriotic music, and focuses more on melancholy and tragic sounds. The march in the first movement is more of a parody of marching; the second movement seems to mock itself; and the third movement is somber, nostalgic, and haunting (perhaps the real heart and soul of the entire work), rather than portraying the struggle of the working class. In his memoirs published after his death, Shostakovich gives further insight to the work by explaining the mandatory triumphant conclusion:

The rejoicing is forced, created under threat. It's as if someone were beating you with stick and saying, "Your business is rejoicing, your business is rejoicing," and you rise, shaky, and go marching off, muttering, "Our business is rejoicing, our business is rejoicing." What kind of apotheosis is that? You have to be a complete oaf not to hear that.

Like the finale to his Fifth Symphony, Shostakovich gained an unprecedented triumph. Three decades after Shostakovich's death and twenty years after the fall of the Soviet Union, the West has rediscovered Shostakovich as a composer of immense integrity and of fearless perseverance and courage. Today we realize that he spoke through a mask of conformism, giving the Soviet authorities what they demanded, yet maintaining a musical expression that spoke to his audience – the people who were suppressed by the communist government.

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Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center

March 11, 2023 7:30 p.m.

**Bravo Brass** 

St. Mark's Church of Philadelphia

March 12, 2023 3 p.m.

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March 19, 2023 3 p.m.

Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

March 24, 2023 6:30 p.m.

**PYOMI Gala Dinner & Concert** 

The Union League of Philadelphia

April 1, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra & Philadelphia Youth Symphonic Band

Temple Performing Arts Center

May 6, 2023 7:30 p.m.

**Bravo Brass** 

St. Mark's Church of Philadelphia

May 13, 2023 3 p.m.

**Prysm Strings** 

Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr

May 21, 2023 3 p.m.

Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

May 27, 2023 1 p.m.

**Tune Up Philly** 

Temple Performing Arts Center

May 27, 2023 4 p.m.

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Temple Performing Arts Center

May 27, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra & Philadelphia Youth Symphonic Band

Temple Performing Arts Center

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Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

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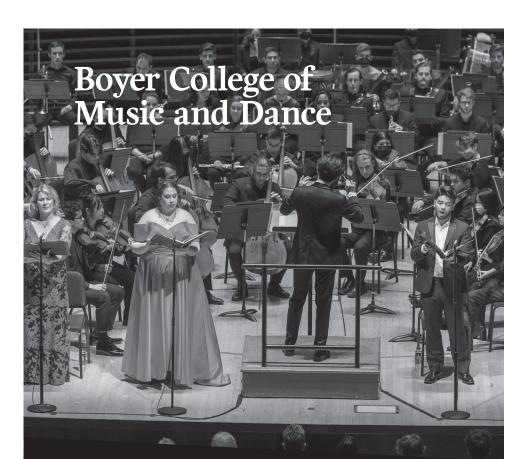
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