

January 10, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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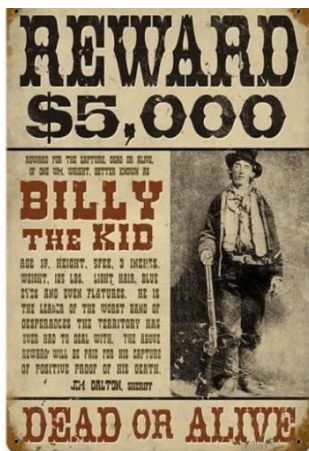
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Happy Feet

(20th c. Ballet Music)

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra continues its 31st season with a diverse collection of symphonic ballet music, performers and flavors all of the 20th century. Ballet as an art form began in the noble Renaissance courts of 15th c. Italy and soon migrated to France where it moved to the stage with opulent sets, costumes, music and poetry. Operas included ballet scenes as dance became a real focus of composers of all eras. By the 20th century Russian composers like Stravinsky and Prokofiev were setting the bar for ballet scores. American composers Aaron Copland and William Grant Still, added their American sound and seasoning to dance music, as did Spaniard Manuel de Falla with his fandango and flamenco flair.



The KSO's "Happy Feet" opens with a suite from **Aaron Copland's** first folk ballet score from 1938 — *Billy the Kid* (*Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring* followed). Copland's wide-spaced harmony captured the expansive open prairie of the west as did his use of cowboy folk tunes to paint a romanticized soundscape of the life of notorious outlaw William H. Bonney.

William Grant Still studied music in Ohio (Wilberforce and Oberlin) before moving east as part of the Harlem Renaissance. Following the composition of his widely popular Afro-American Symphony, Still, in 1931, wrote a ballet on the tribal tale of love and sacrifice titled *Sahdji*, who was the favorite wife of an East African chieftan. The **Young Professionals' Choral Collective** under the direction of **Danielle Cozart Steele** with **Jason Holmes** appearing as the Chanter will make their KSO debut with this work.



Young Professionals' Choral Collective

El Sombrero de tres picos (*The Three-cornered Hat*) by **Manuel de Falla** was commissioned in 1917 by Russian ballet impresario Sergei Diaghilev with sets and costumes by Pablo Picasso. Based on the story "The Governor and the Miller's Wife," Falla's ballet music incorporated Spanish folk dancing (fandango, flamenco, jota, etc) with colorful orchestrations inspired by the Spanish flavored works by Ravel and Debussy. Mezzo-soprano **Quinn Patrick Ankrum** joins the KSO for Falla's complete ballet score.

Join the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, YPPC, Jason Holmes and Quinn Ankrum for "Happy Feet" at **7:30 p.m., Saturday, January 21**, at Greaves Concert Hall, on the campus of NKU in Highland Heights, KY. Tickets are \$35-\$19 with children 50% off. For those who are out of the area or who must stay home, the KSO live streams each concert (with multiple cameras) for your 'at home access' for the price of a single "A" ticket. Tickets are available online at kyso.org or by phone at **(859) 431-6216**.

For additional information, visit the KSO at www.kyso.org or call **(859) 431-6216**.

P.O. Box 72810 Newport, KY 41072 ● Phone: (859) 431-6216 ● www.kyso.org

Happy Feet

(20th c. Ballet Music)

7:30 Saturday, January 21, 2023

Greaves Concert Hall, NKU

Program

Aaron Copland

Billy the Kid

- I. The Open Prairie
- II. Street in a Frontier Town
- III. Mexican Dance
- IV. Card Game at Night
- V. Gun Battle
- VI. Celebration After Billy's Capture
- VII. Billy's Death
- VI. Open Praire (epilogue)

William Grant Still

Sahdji (regional premiere)

Young Professionals' Chorale Collective

Danielle Cozart Steele, *director*

Jason Alexander Holmes, *bass*

Intermission

Manuel de Falla

El sombrero de tres picos (The Three-Cornered Hat) complete

Introduction

The Afternoon

Dance of the Miller's Wife: Fandango — El corregidor — La molinera

The Grapes

Dance of the Neighbors (Seguidillas)

Dance of the Miller: Farruca — Escena — La coplas del cuco

Dance of the Corregidor

Danza Final (Jota)

Quinn Patrick Ankrum, mezzo-soprano

KSO 2022-23 Subscription Series Supported in part by:



Louise Dieterle Nippert
MUSICAL ARTS FUND

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THE LOUISE TAFT SEMPLE FOUNDATION

The KSO receives general operating & season funding by

**The William O. Purdy, Jr.
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The KAC provides support with state tax dollars and federal funding from the NEA.