



10:00 Tuesday, October 3, 2023
10:00 Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Florence Baptist Church at Mt. Zion

James Cassidy, *conductor*
Erica Nam, *violin*

“BACK IN MY DAY. . .”
(The history of the orchestra and its music)

Music for Ceremonies

Water Music George Frideric Handel
“Hornpipe”

Private Patronage

Symphony Nr. 45, “Farewell” Franz Josef Haydn
IV. Adagio

The Independent Composer

Symphony No. 5 Ludwig van Beethoven
I. Allegro con brio

The Philosopher Composer

Lohengrin Richard Wagner
Prelude to Act III

The Virtuoso Composer

Carmen Fantasy Georges Bizet / Pablo Sarasate
Erica Nam, *violin*

The Nationalist Composer

The Firebird Igor Stravinsky
Finale

The Populist Composer

Rodeo Aaron Copland
“Hoe-down”

The Composer and Technology

“Ship to Ship Battle” from *Pirates of the Caribbean:* Klaus Badelt
Curse of the Black Pearl

Audience Q&A

The Media Composer

“The Wide Receiver” (*NBC Sunday Night Football*) John Williams

Water Music

George Frideric Handel was born Feb. 23, 1685, in Halle, Germany. He died April 14, 1759, in London.

Unlike his contemporary, Johann Sebastian Bach, Handel was internationally renowned in his own lifetime. He incorporated different musical traits from the German, French and Italian schools of composition into his music. These qualities matured in England where Handel adopted the choral tradition and developed the *oratorio* (The *Messiah* is the most famous of those).

At age 25 Handel was appointed music director to the court of Hanover (Germany). Shortly thereafter he took a long leave of absence to visit England and stayed. When the Elector of Hanover was proclaimed King George I of England in 1714, Handel had to make it up to his former employer. He surprised the King with three suites of music to accompany a boat ride down the Thames River called *Water Music*. The Hornpipe — a dance — is probably the most recognized movement. It is heard frequently at weddings and in television commercials.

'Farewell' Symphony

Franz Joseph Haydn was born March 31, 1732, in Rohrau, Austria. He died May 31, 1809, in Vienna. The Symphony Nr. 45 was composed in November, 1772.

It was not just heads of state and the church that employed musicians in the 17th and 18th centuries. Many aristocrats of various ranks had their own orchestras too. The Esterházy family had a big one, and Haydn, beginning in 1761, was responsible for arranging performances, including writing music, at the prince's whim—nearly every day.

When Prince Nicolaus rebuilt his favorite hunting lodge into his summer palace (Esterháza) in 1762. By 1766 the court was spending half its year at the fairy-tale castle. Problems arose in 1772. The prince decreed that his servants' families had to remain through the summer at the winter palace in Eisenstadt. This while Prince Nicolaus spent ever more time at Esterháza. By November, the staff was growing desperate, and they pleaded with Haydn to intercede.

Haydn's answer was the Symphony Nr. 45. The tumultuous finale is interrupted by a serene Adagio, and as the music grows ever peaceful, players drop out one by one until only two violin solos remain. At the first performance, the musicians snuffed their candles and walked out when their parts ended, leaving Prince Nicolaus in a dark, empty hall. He got the hint and ordered the court back to Eisenstadt the next day.

Symphony No. 5

Ludwig van Beethoven was born December 13, 1770, in Bonn, Germany. He died March 26, 1827, in Vienna. The fifth symphony was begun in 1807 and premiered in 1808.

Believe it or not, Beethoven's fifth symphony was a failure at its premiere.

Why? First, Vienna was then under occupation by Napoleon's armies, and music took a back seat to more pragmatic concerns. The occupation also meant Beethoven's aristocratic connections held little of their former influence. Second, there were no standing orchestras outside the nobility, and it was very difficult to assemble a decent pick-up group. And so the premiere, predictably, was bad.

Though familiarity has dulled our

perspective, Beethoven's fifth symphony is remarkable and revolutionary music. The average Viennese concertgoer would have been startled by what he or she heard. From their standpoint, the opening theme is no theme, but just an obsessive rhythm. They are right, but Beethoven's innovation was to show all the emotional possibilities of that germ, and to develop that motive so thoroughly that he could build an entire symphony on it.

'Lohengrin' Prelude

Richard Wagner was born May 22, 1813, in Leipzig. He died Feb. 13, 1883, in Venice.

When Mark Twain visited Germany, he found two favorite targets for his wit: compound German nouns and Richard Wagner. The two overlap with *Gesamtkunstwerk*.

Germany was united only in the middle of the 19th century, and Wagner was at the forefront of artists who strove to express their national pride by creating distinctly German music. His vision was a seamless blend of visual art, drama, poetry, and music — a complete (*Gesamt*) art (*kunst*) work (*werk*). His greatest effort is *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, a 19-hour, four-opera saga that retells ancient Norse myths.

Most of Wagner's other operas also take their subjects from episodes and people from Germanic history, including poetry and song contests, medieval castles, and stories about knights.

One of them, *Lohengrin*, tells about a mysterious knight who arrives in town and agrees to marry Elsa, the daughter of the local nobleman, on the condition that she never ask his name. The Prelude to Act III depicts the bustle about the castle as the servants prepare for the ceremony. In the full opera, this energetic piece leads directly to the famous bridal chorus.

Carmen Fantasy

Pablo Sarasate was born March 10, 1840, in Pamplona Spain. He died September 20, 1908, in Biarritz, France.

Pablo Sarasate started taking violin lessons from his father at age 5 and by 8 he was giving public concerts. At the age of 20, Sarasate had become a virtuoso performing across Europe and offering a unique Spanish flavor performing the works of Lalo and Saint-Saens, as well as his own compositions. His *Carmen Fantasy* is a showpiece based on themes from Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* (1875).

'The Firebird'

Igor Stravinsky was born June 17, 1882, in Orienbaum (now Lomonosov), Russia. He died April 6, 1971, in New York City.

At the turn of the 20th century, Russia's composers were attracted to exotic tales either from the empire's distant provinces or its past. Stravinsky was no different, and for his breakthrough piece — a full-length ballet premiered in Paris in 1910 — he turned to the old Russian story of the Firebird and its adventure to save Tsar Ivan and his true love from the evil King Kastchei.

The *Firebird* is full of magic and drama, and Stravinsky's beautiful melodies and lush orchestration give the work its exotic atmosphere. It is the first of three ballets Stravinsky wrote before World War I, each more rhythmic and more modern sounding. Audiences were more offended at each, and there was a riot at the premiere of the third, *The Rite of Spring*.

In the *Firebird's* Finale, the characters rejoice at King Kastchei's death and the liberation of the princes and princesses he had turned into stone.

Hoe-Down

Aaron Copland was born Nov. 14, 1900, in New York City's Brooklyn borough. He died in Tarrytown, New York, on Dec. 2, 1990.

In 60 years of composing, Aaron Copland (1900–1990) evolved through many different styles, but his most popular and enduring pieces date from 1930s and '40s, called his *populist* period.

Among those pieces were several ballets based on traditional American themes: a spring barn raising in the Appalachians, Billy the Kid, and vignettes from a rodeo. In them, he used familiar American folk tunes, much like European nationalist composers used their folk music to give their music a particular flavor.

Rodeo is a simple story about the weekend the rodeo is held in a small western town. There are four movements, and “Hoe-Down” is the last. It depicts the celebration after the hard work and the competitions are over, and most of the townsfolk are at a town-wide dance.

It's no surprise that “Hoe-Down's” exuberance appealed to the

beef industry when they were planning a new advertising campaign. (“Beef: It's what's for dinner.”)

“Pirates of the Caribbean Excerpt”

Klaus Badelt was born in June 12, 1967 in Frankfurt, Germany. He currently resides in Santa Monica, California.

Composer Klaus Badelt started his musical career writing and producing music for dozens of highly successful movies and commercials in his native Germany. In 1998, Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer invited him to move his musical home to Media Ventures in Santa Monica, CA.

Working with Zimmer, Badelt contributed music to the scores for *Gladiator* and *The Prince of Egypt*. He also collaborated with Zimmer on the music for *Mission: Impossible II* and *Pearl Harbor*. Since Klaus' score to *Pirates of the Caribbean* defined the franchise and brought Badelt worldwide attention, he continues to write for major motion pictures with top-name directors.— *Thomas Consolo*

Send your notes or reviews regarding today's performance to:

Mr. Cassidy at KSO P.O. Box 72810 Newport, KY 41072

Next KSO Concert:

Dr. Divertimento

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Kentucky Symphony Orchestra

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra (KSO) was founded by its current music director James Cassidy in 1992. The orchestra is comprised of professional free-lance musicians who also perform with the symphonies of West Virginia, Columbus, Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati and others. The KSO's mission has always been to make symphonic music and the concert experience attractive, accessible and affordable for residents of the region. To that end, the KSO offers free education concerts (like today's), a free summer series in Devou & Tower Parks, and an inexpensive subscription series which features renowned artists and innovative pairings and visual elements. The KSO opens its 32nd season on October 28th. Find out more at kyso.org



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Erica Nam



A junior at Walnut Hills High School, Erica Nam has been a student of Kurt Sassmannshaus at University of Cincinnati since age 7 in the Starling Project Cincinnati.

She frequently performs solos with the Starling Chamber Orchestra, most notably as soloist at age 9 on their 2016 tour of China.

Erica is winner of the Jack and Lucille Wonnell Young Artist Competition. She also won top prizes in the pre-college division of New Albany Symphony Concerto Competition and Sejong Music Competition. Nam has participated in Bowdoin International Music Festival, Great Wall International Music Academy, Innsbrook Institute, Sounding Point Academy, Philadelphia International Music Festival, Encore Chamber Music Academy and Cincinnati Young Artists Chamber Music Festival.

Erica Nam is a proud member of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Philharmonic, Starling Chamber Orchestra, and Walnut Hills High School Chamber Orchestra having served as a concertmaster and principal second violinist.