

*The
Rapidan
Orchestra*



Inaugural Concerts

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Skyfall (Adele/Epworth)

James Bond is quite a memorable character, but his films owe just as much of their success to the music as they do to the debonaire secret service agent. The latest installment, *Skyfall*, features a theme of the same name by pop sensation Adele.

Along with producer Paul Epworth, Adele sought to call back to the dark and bluesy themes reminiscent of Shirley Bassey and the early James Bond movies. You won't hear any lyrics in our arrangement for strings and piano, but the tension and release of "let the sky fall, when it crumbles we will stand tall" is evident throughout. This majestic ballad is how we'll kick off the first concert of the Rapidan Orchestra.

Symphony No. 104 (Haydn)

Franz Joseph Haydn spent the majority of his life and time composing in Austria, specifically in the court of the Esterhazy family. Although a friend of Mozart's and teacher of Beethoven, Haydn was relatively isolated from the musical world due to his position. It wasn't until Anton Esterhazy took over the house in 1790 that Haydn was able to travel.

He met Johann Peter Salomon who commissioned Haydn to conduct new symphonies in England. Haydn produced twelve symphonies during his two trips there, finishing with this one, Symphony No. 104, also known as the "London Symphony." Despite an initial cancellation of the performance for economic reasons, the premiere in 1795 was a complete hit, as we hope it will be today

Academic Festival Overture (Brahms)

Johannes Brahms, despite being one of the great masters of the classical era, never went to college to formally study music. However, in 1879, when Brahms was 46 years old, the University of Breslau conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree. Brahms spent the next year creating his "musical thank you," the *Academic Festival Overture*.

Possibly due to his brush with student life in his 20's, Brahms focused more on the "festival" side of things than the "academics." This piece is a collection of boisterous student drinking tunes, ending with an arrangement of a medieval Latin university song, *Gaudeamus igitur*, which translates as "Therefore, Let Us Rejoice!" although Brahms took it more loosely, as "Let's Party!" This mini-symphony is how we will open our second half, with a party.

Carmen Suite No. 1 (Bizet)

The name Bizet immediately triggers scenes from the famous opera *Carmen*. Although the two orchestral suites were compiled by a friend almost a decade later, the opera was actually the last work of Bizet's to premiere before his passing in 1875. For those of you unfamiliar with it, *Carmen* tells the story of a gypsy in Seville in the 1830's. She seduces the soldier Don José in order to escape prison, only to deny his love later, leading to her death.

The first performances were a major flop due to the heroine's moral ambiguity and a perceived lack of melody. Although he had recurrent health problems, many think that Bizet passed out of depression from his "failed opera." Today however, *Carmen* is one of the most well known operas; nearly everyone can hum the tunes of "Habanera" (found in the 2nd suite) and "The Toreadors," which is how we will close our program.

Kyle Ruempler, conductor

The inaugural conductor of the Rapidan Orchestra is Kyle Ruempler. A recent graduate of the University of Virginia, Kyle studied under Kate Tamarkin, the Music Director of the Charlottesville Symphony. Kyle has also performed as a trumpet player in the Cavalier Marching Band, UVa Wind Ensemble and the Charlottesville Symphony. His conducting experiences include Drum Major, Pit Director for *Kiss Me, Kate*, and as a workshop participant with Kirk Trevor guest directing the Astoria Symphony Orchestra. Kyle is currently working on the Music Department staff at UVa, but hopes to pursue a degree in conducting soon.

The Rapidan Orchestra

Formed in January 2015, The Rapidan Orchestra is a volunteer chamber ensemble that serves the Central Virginia Piedmont area, providing an opportunity for local musicians to serve the community through musical entertainment, appreciation, and education through its free performances.

Special Thanks to these churches for the use of their facilities for our rehearsals and concerts:

Christ Episcopal Church in Gordonsville

The Madison Presbyterian Church

The Orange Presbyterian Church

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The Rapidan Orchestra is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. All Donations are tax deductible.

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Conductor

Kyle Ruempler

Flute

Don Aittama

Lynne Stockton

Oboe

Charles Torian

Clarinet

Heather Welch

Don Davies

Bassoon

Summer Davis

Trumpet

J.R. "Pete" Peterson

Pete Gianniny

French Horn

Lyle Sanford

Trombone

Dean Head

Tuba

Chase Brockman

1st Violin

Michael Hanz

Charles Winkler

Becca Fredrick

2nd Violin

Mary Dykes

Jenny Taylor

Carol Carr

Stephanie Woodward

Viola

Ray Varona

Cello

Roger Carr

Barbara Heyl

Stephen Witmer

Piano

Theresa Torian

Board Members

Don Aittama

Heather Welch

Karla Baer

Lyle Sanford