A Leipzig Project: Richmond Intercollegiate Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond
A Leipzig Project

Richmond Intercollegiate Orchestra

James Wilson, conductor

April 2, 2003, 7:30 PM
Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music
Few cities invoke the intensity and joy of music making as Leipzig does. Home to many famous musicians, as well as one of the world’s finest universities, Leipzig has always been—despite its modest size—a powerhouse for musical study and performance. Among its most famous residents were composers like Telemann, Bach, Mendelssohn, Clara and Robert Schumann, Grieg and Delius. And it was home to the remarkable Collegium Musicum, a group of students who came together to study, discuss, perform and further the cause of music.

In many ways, our city of Richmond shares qualities that have made Leipzig so special, including our size and the fact that we have our own orchestra. But most of all, we have several institutions of higher learning with a large community of active student musicians. It seemed natural then to program a concert of works based on a Leipzig theme that features Richmond’s own intercollegiate “collegium” of students and members of the university community.

Johann Sebastian Bach served as cantor and music director for the Thomaskirche in Leipzig from 1723 to 1750. His output of sacred music during this period is legendary for its quality and quantity, but he also composed secular works to be performed by the Collegium Musicum in city coffeehouses and gardens. These programs often featured instrumental concertos along with overtures and solo works. And although they were not written in Leipzig, Bach’s Brandenburg concertos are among his most lovely and imaginative instrumental works.

Edvard Grieg went to study at the conservatory in Leipzig at the tender age of 15, where he readily absorbed the Romantic influences of Schumann and Mendelssohn. Written in 1875, the incidental music for Ibsen’s play Peer Gynt remains one of the composer’s most popular works. The first orchestral suite opens with a musical portrayal of a sunny morning, an unforgettable moment that fuses German lyricism with Grieg’s own remarkable sense of tonal color.

But if there was a musical dynamo of Leipzig, it was Felix Mendelssohn. Composer, spokesman, conductor and savvy businessman, he simultaneously championed the contemporary music of composers like Schumann and Berlioz, and resurrected the music of Bach from obscurity. He transformed the Gewandhaus Orchestra into one of the world’s best ensembles, establishing Leipzig as one of the most respected music centers in Europe. Although it was not written until 1845, Mendelssohn's third symphony was inspired by a visit in 1829 to Scotland. Dramatic and brooding, the symphony is permeated by the melancholic atmosphere Mendelssohn experienced while touring Holyrood palace, home to Mary, the bloody Queen of Scots.
 PROGRAM 

Suite no. 1 from Peer Gynt, op. 46  Edvard Grieg
Morning Mood  (1843-1907)
The Death of Ase
In the Hall of the Mountain King

 PAUSE

Brandenburg Concerto no. 1 in F major, Johann Sebastian Bach
BWV 1046  (1685-1750)
Allegro
Aronne LaFratta, oboe
Derrick Jordan, oboe
Joseph Chen, violin
Benjamin Raviotta, French horn
Amanda Burton, French horn

Brandenburg Concerto no. 4 in G major, BWV 1049  Bach
Allegro
John Fox, flute
Keith Hanlon, flute
Lauren Kim, violin

 INTERMISSION

Symphony no. 3 in A minor, op. 56 (“Scottish”)  Felix Mendelssohn
Andante con moto - Allegro un poco agitato  (1809-1847)
Vivace non troppo
Adagio cantabile
Allegro vivacissimo - Allegro maestoso assai
PERSONNEL:

Violin:
Nokomis Alston  VCU
Caitlin Barry  VCU
Joseph Chen  VCU
Woon Chow  VCU
Sammy Dahlialwal  VCU
Philip Eskew  UR
Julie Hayes  VCU
Laura Jazmine Hayes  VCU
Ann Hansen  VCU
Jennifer Herrera  VCU
Jane Hoffmann  UR
Anna Keegan  VCU
Lauren Kim  UR
Kamilla Kovacs  VCU
Ilan McNamara  UR
Kelsey Miller  VCU
Trenise Robinson  UR
Adam Sheffield  VCU

Bass:
Jay Calabro  VCU
Jonathan Cannon  VCU
Ryan Hughitt  VCU
Yasha Mojaher  VCU
Arthur Striker  VCU

Flute:
John Fox  VCU
Jessica Gomez  UR
Keith Hanlon  VCU

Oboe:
Derrick Jordan  VCU
Aronne LaFratta  VCU
Tara Williford  UR

Clarinet:
Emily Avesian  VCU
Mindy Christensen  UR

Viola:
Amanda Ata  VCU
Kevin Kameda  VCU
Kimberly Ryan  VCU
Jennifer Smith  UR
Lindsay Soltow  VCU

James River High School

Bassoon:
Randall Renton  VCU
Megan Smith  VCU

French Horn:
Amanda Burton  VCU
Charles Lewis  VCU
Benjamin Raviotta  VCU
James Slater  VCU

Trumpet:
Steven Senick  VCU
Taylor Barnett  VCU

Timpani:
Jessica Keeton  VCU

Harpsichord:
Benjamin Garner  VCU

Cello:
David Chamberlin  VCU
Durwood Felton  VCU
Benjamin Garner  VCU
Suzanne Maerz  VCU
Nick Rickerson  VCU
Thomas Rivituso  UR
Gabriel Smith  UR

JH