

12-2-1999

University of Richmond Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Department of Music, University of Richmond, "University of Richmond Orchestra" (1999). *Music Department Concert Programs*. 738.
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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
ORCHESTRA

Fred Cohen, conductor



DECEMBER 2, 1999, 8:00 P.M.
CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

PROGRAM NOTES

Other than *The Planets*, Holst's *St. Paul's Suite* for String Orchestra is probably his best known work. Holst decided to write this work following a disappointing survey of repertoire appropriate for his students at the James Allen's Girls School. He composed the piece in 1912-13 for the upper school orchestra, and composed a companion piece—the *Brook Green Suite*—twenty years later for the middle school.

Originally composed for organ and orchestra, the harp version of Handel's Op. 6 is realized by Carlos Salzedo.

Dana Wallace is double major in Biology and Economics. At the age of ten, she began playing harp with the Richmond Public Schools Harp Ensemble. For five years she studied with Lynne Abbey-Lee, now principal harpist for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and currently studies with Mary Jane D'Arville.

Tchaikovsky composed his Fourth Symphony between May, 1877, and January, 1878. During the composition of this piece, Tchaikovsky first rejected and then accepted a proposal of marriage from Antonina Milyukova, whom he did not remember when she approached him in June of that year. A condition of his acceptance of Antonina's proposal was an understanding that there could be no physical relationship between them. Tchaikovsky married her on July 18, 1877, and returned to his work on the Fourth Symphony in August during a vacation in Caucasus. Against his wishes, he was forced to return to Moscow in September to begin his

teaching responsibilities at the Conservatory, and within days attempted suicide. On October 7 he arrived in St. Petersburg in a state of complete nervous collapse. A specialist ordered that Tchaikovsky never visit his wife again, and he never did.

Tchaikovsky recovered from his personal strife in the months immediately following with travels to Paris and Clarens in Switzerland, as well as forays into Italy. Nicolai Rubenstein, the head of the Conservatory, allowed Tchaikovsky to receive a full stipend while on leave, alleviating his financial worries. In January, 1878, Tchaikovsky completed the Symphony, and in February, he completed his operatic masterpiece, *Eugene Onegin*.

As you might imagine, the Symphony contains unmistakable marks of these torrid events in Tchaikovsky's life. The opening theme symbolizes fate—it appears several times in the first movement and returns in the Finale, but its primary function is to brutally intrude upon the softer, more feminine theme of the first movement. The middle two movements are reminiscent of ballet—for which Tchaikovsky received considerable censure during his lifetime. To my ears, they act more like intermezzos, and are necessary to sooth the emotional turmoil created in the first movement. The well-known Finale does not match the first movement in length or depth of expression, but is exuberant in its use of a Russian folk tune as the second theme, in the nationalist style founded by Glinka.

(Notes by Fred Cohen)

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ORCHESTRA

FIRST VIOLIN *

Jane Hoffman, co-principal
Ilan McNamara, co-principal
Jessica Gilmore
Jack Gauntlett
Julie Hayes
Kim Forquer
Frances Lin
Mason Morris
Chung-In Park

SECOND VIOLIN

Aaron Aunins, principal
Rebecca Pinkham
Emily D'Antonio
Emily Erb
Kelly Hart
Iris Redmond
Alanna Rice
Judy Shim
Mary Yoon

VIOLA

Jenny Bernard, principal
Kathrine Dixon
Tom Calder
Danielle Haskins
Allyson Ladley
Meghan McDonald
Jennifer Smith
Dick Stone

CELLO

James Tripp, principal
Jenny Dertinger
Adam Kerr
Lisa Marshall
Tom Rivituso
Kevin Stults

BASS

Joe LaPaglia

FLUTE

Tara Amess
Eva Chang
Jamie Beth Paulson
Marsha Kronman

OBOE

Jen Magee
Meghan Pesch

CLARINET

Steve Ahearn
Elaine Buccheimer
Betsy Plunket
Simone Renz

BASSOON

Stephanie Allen
Catherine Massie

FRENCH HORN

Mary Beth Hall
Ruth Auman
Robert Gabler
Margaret Aunins

TRUMPET

Julie Cillo
Sean Linfors

TROMBONE/TUBA

Robert Wagenknecht
William W. Franklin
David Davis
Alan Hall

PERCUSSION

John Hubbard
Ray del Savio
Dreama Lovitt