

PROGRAM NOTES

Sound Innovations Fanfare

Robert Sheldon

b. February 3, 1954

Sheldon is one of the most performed composers of wind band music today. A recipient of numerous awards from the American School Band Director's Association, Phi Beta Mu and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, his compositions embody a level of expression that resonate with ensembles and audiences alike. His music is performed around the world and appears on many international concert and contest lists. With over one million copies of his compositions and books sold, Mr. Sheldon regularly accepts commissions for new works, and produces numerous publications for concert band and orchestra each year.

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra

Maurice Ravel

b. Ciboure, France, March 7, 1875

d. Paris, France, December 28, 1937

Ravel's two piano concertos were his final major works. Even though he composed them during the same period, 1929-1931, they are quite different from each other. The Concerto in G Major for two hands is bright and breezy; the Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major is a more somber affair. One thing they share is the influence of jazz, which Ravel first heard during a concert tour of North America in 1928.

This is how he described the G Major: "It is a concerto in the truest sense of the word, written very much in the same spirit as those of Mozart and Saint Saëns. The music of a concerto, in my opinion, should be light-hearted and brilliant, and not aim at profundity or at dramatic effects. Too many classical concertos were composed not so much 'for' as 'against' the piano. I had thought of entitling mine *divertissement* but the title 'concerto' is specific enough." The first performance took place in Paris on January 14, 1932, with Ravel conducting the Lamoureux Orchestra and Marguerite Long as soloist.



Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky

b. March 21, 1839, Karevo, Russia

d. March 28, 1881, St. Petersburg, Russia

One of Modest Mussorgsky's closest friends was Victor Hartmann, an architect and artist of great talent and even more promising potential. When Hartmann died suddenly of a heart attack at age 39, Mussorgsky was devastated. A retrospective of the artist's works was organized shortly after his death, and Mussorgsky was deeply moved by what he saw there. A few weeks later he began his own tribute to Hartmann, *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Mussorgsky composed a piano work of colossal proportions, so immensely difficult that performances are still quite rare. The piece is a collection of short movements, each representing one of Hartmann's works, with a recurring "Promenade" that represents Mussorgsky strolling through the "gallery." Many assume that all of the pictures described by the music had been on display at the Hartmann retrospective, but this is not so. Three of the pictures did hang there, but the rest Mussorgsky knew from having seen them at Hartmann's home. Unfortunately, most of Hartmann's art has been lost over the years.

2017/2018 SEASON

November 04, 2017, 7PM

Pictures at an Exhibition

Bethlehem Church, 123 Allen Street Hampden, MA

Sponsored in part by a grant from the Hampden Arts Council

December 01, 2017, 7:30PM

Home for Christmas

St. Cecelia's Church 42 Main Street Wilbraham, MA

Sponsored by Berkshire Facial Surgery Inc.

December 10, 2017, 1PM

Home for Christmas

Mary Mother of Hope Parish 840 Page Blvd. Springfield, MA

Sponsored by Pauline Lamothe and in part by Bonnie McCarthy

March 02, 2018, 6PM Petting Zoo / 7PM Concert

Heroes and Villains

Children's Concert /Minnechaug Reg High Sch 621 Main St. Wilbraham

with Strings & Friends

Sponsored by Country Bank

May 04, 2018, 7:30 PM

Lets Dance

With CMSS soloists Amy Forrester and Jim Gustafson

Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham MA

June 21, 2018, 7PM

Summer Concert

Trinity Methodist Church 361 Sumner Ave Springfield, MA

Part of the Summer Concert Series

June 28, 2018, 7PM

Symphony in the Park

Monastery Heights 110 Monastery Avenue, West Springfield, MA

Part of the West Springfield Concert Series.