



HAMPTON ROADS PHILHARMONIC
PRESENTS

*Grieg's
Symphonic Dances*

Ft. Monroe Theatre

ALSO FEATURING WORKS BY RAVEL, ROSSINI AND A TRIBUTE
TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE PANDEMIC.



Welcome Back!

It's hard to believe it has been 18 months since our last live performance together as an orchestra. Thank you to our community, board, staff, members, volunteers, and to our donors for supporting us and making our return to the stage possible. We truly wouldn't be here without support from each and every one of you.

With our return to the stage, a tradition that we are happy to bring back is our Golden Baton raffle that will be held this afternoon after intermission. One lucky winner will be drawn to guest conduct the orchestra in December for the seasonal favorite: *Sleigh Ride*. This makes for a fun and memorable experience or a unique holiday gift to pass along to someone for the holidays. Don't worry – there's no stick waving experience needed!

Our program this afternoon revisits some old favorites that the orchestra has performed over the past eight years: Rossini's playful and zippy overture to *L'italiana in Algeri*, the colorful *Mother Goose Suite* by Ravel, and Grieg's boisterous and tuneful *Symphonic Dances*. Of special note on our program are two dedications: Mascagni's *Intermezzo* and the Nimrod variation of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

The *Intermezzo* is dedicated to Laurel Glasco, a founding violist and supporter of the orchestra, who passed away on November 10, 2020. As an organist, pianist, violinist, and violist, she had many musical talents and also brought a unique charm and wit to the group. She is dearly missed in the orchestra. Afterwards, we ask you to hold your applause and to join us in a moment of silence honoring her memory.

Our second dedication is to the lives and special moments lost during the Covid-19 pandemic. Elgar's "Nimrod" variation is a reference by way of a biblical play-on-words to Elgar's friend, Augustus Jaeger, who saw the composer through dark moments of his life. This movement is a musical painting of one of those moments, when Jaeger convinced Elgar to press on. Today, as we all continue to press on through difficult times, we can take solace in this movement's mood of reverence that ends in triumph.

As we gradually rebuild from the toll the past year and a half has taken, we are happy that you've chosen to come support the performing arts in your community. Thank you for helping keep the music alive and we hope to see you at each of our concerts this season.

Musically,

Steven Brindle

Music Director

STEVEN BRINDLE



Steven is a conductor, cellist, and music educator who works with musicians of all ages and backgrounds. Steven studied at Christopher Newport University, earning his degree in Music Education, and has attended conducting workshops at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and at the Peabody Conservatory.

Since 2013, Steven has served as the founding Music Director for the Hampton Roads Philharmonic and as conductor for Bay Youth Concert Orchestra since 2016. Throughout his career, he has also served as the Music Director for Tidewater Opera Initiative, conductor for Symphonicity's production of *The Nutcracker*, and conductor for Capitol Opera Richmond.

As a proponent of new music, Steven regularly commissions works and collaborates with composers. In 2010, he conducted the world premiere of *David and Glass*, an opera by Chris Lamb. Since then, he has conducted and performed in the premiere of over a dozen new works, including the 2016 concert premiere of *The Snow Maiden of Appalachia* by Andrew H. Austin.

Steven lives in Norfolk, Virginia, and teaches with The Academy of Music and Ghent Montessori School. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Kappa Lambda, Alpha Chi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



Musicians

Violin I

Peggy Watson,
Concertmaster
Alice Cryer
Mary Huber
Janet Nelson
Luke Heddle

Violin II

Stephen Wood,
Principal Second
Laurie McNemar
Margaret Mastbrook
Myfanwy Morgan

Viola

Will Hederer, *Principal*
Sarah Quemada
Bryan Williams
Charlie Whittacre

Cello

Anna Moyer, *Principal*
Joanna Pearson
John Lenwell
Charlie Norris
DJ Whittacre
Shea Matthews

Bass

Kevin Garner, *Principal*
Bradley Blair

Harp

Melvin Lauf, Jr.

Flute

Traci Bluhm, *Principal*
Cathy Francis

Oboe

Melinda McKenzie, *Principal*
Todd Worsham

English Horn

Todd Worsham

Clarinet

Gene Chieffo, *Principal*
Camiel Sims

Bassoon

Mike Marshall, *Principal*
John Parker

Horn

Paul Tiller, *Principal*
Chelsey Hamm
Emily Judd
Samuel Brady

Trumpet

Kerry Moffit, *Principal*
Shahana Garner

Trombone

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Dave Anson
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Program
Steven Brindle, Conductor

Overture to L'italiana in Algeri
Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)

Mother Goose Suite
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Intermezzo From Cavalleria Rusticana
Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)
Dedicated to the passing of Laurel Glasco
~~Moment of Silence, Hold Applause~~

Enigma Variations: IX Nimrod
Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Dedicated to the lives lost during the Covid-19 pandemic

~~ Intermission ~~

Symphonic Dances Op. 64
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)





Program Notes

OVERTURE TO L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI - GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792–1868)

Gioachino Rossini, born in Pesaro, Italy towards the end of the Classical period, was well known for his operatic works. Born into a musical household, Rossini began composing at the young age of twelve and debuted his first work when he was eighteen. *L'italiana in Algeria*, the opera from which this overture is excerpted, was composed and performed in 1813; Rossini was just twenty-one years old at the time. This work is known for Rossini's combination of the opera seria and opera buffa styles, which can be generalized as serious opera and comic opera. Taking inspiration from Joseph Haydn's *Symphony No. 94 in G major (The Surprise Symphony)*, Rossini began the overture with quiet, light, and slow bass voices before a sudden outburst from the entire orchestra.

MOTHER GOOSE SUITE - JOSEPH-MAURICE RAVEL (1875–1937)

- I. Pavane of Sleeping Beauty
- II. Little Tom Thumb
- III. Little Ugly Girl, Empress of the Pagodas
- IV. Conversation of Beauty and the Beast
- V. The Fairy Garden

Maurice Ravel was a French composer who specialized in combining a wide variety of musical styles such as Neobaroque, Neoclassical, Modernist, and, eventually, Jazz. Ravel, much like his contemporary Claude Debussy, has been described as an impressionist composer due to the moods and “images” that he conveyed (rather than a single story), through the use of repetitive passages and a wide pallet of orchestral colors. Ravel is well known for his use of parallel motion (in which the harmonic line mimics the melodic line) and previously unexplored extended harmonies (jazz chords). However, both Ravel and Debussy rejected the impressionist title due to what they perceived as a negative connotation that it brought to both themselves and their works. This suite consists of five movements in which the listener is able to hear Ravel's musical literalism shine through the piece. For example, in the second movement, the upper strings and flutes call back and forth to each other as they imitate a bird call. This piece was originally written as a piano duet in 1910 before being expanded into the full orchestral suite in 1911.



Program Notes (cont.)

INTERMEZZO FROM CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA - PIETRO MASCAGNI (1863–1945)

Pietro Mascagni was an Italian composer who was most well-known for his operatic works. His opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*, from which this *Intermezzo* is excerpted, was a great success in its debut and is credited with helping to bring forth the *verismo* (Italian for “realism”) movement. *Verismo* works are notable for their depiction of average people to whom a regular audience-goer can relate, as opposed to wealthy or famous people. In this particular opera, two lovers (Turiddu and Lola) are split up as Turiddu is called for military service. After his departure, Lola marries another man named Alfio and Turiddu is angry about this after his return. To get back at Lola, Turiddu begins an affair with another woman and eventually Turiddu and Lola resume their previous love affair. Lola’s husband Alfio is not too happy about this and, upon finding out about the affair, challenges Turiddu to a duel and ultimately kills him. *Cavalleria Rusticana* was one of Mascagni’s greatest successes and the *Intermezzo* is still widely performed today.

ENIGMA VARIATIONS - EDWARD ELGAR (1857–1934)

IX. NIMROD

Sir Edward Elgar was born in Worcestershire, England and composed works reflective of the late 19th-century Romantic style. Although Elgar stopped attending school at the age of fifteen and never received formal training as a composer, he still created many successful choral and orchestral works during his active compositional years. The *Enigma Variations* are a series of fourteen musical portraits, and they were premiered in London in 1899. Each movement is dedicated to a different person who was influential in Elgar’s life. *Nimrod* is a dedication to Elgar’s good friend Jaeger. The movement is reminiscent of a conversation between Elgar and Jaeger and is meant to depict the artistic guidance offered to the composer from his friend. Each movement of this work is a variation on a countermelody to a well-known tune that Elgar would not identify, hence the name “enigma.” Although many have attempted to determine what the theme was, Elgar never clarified and took the secret to his grave.



Program Notes (cont.)

SYMPHONIC DANCES, OP. 64 - EDVARD GRIEG (1843–1907)

- I. Allegro moderato e marcato
- II. Allegretto grazioso
- III. Allegro giocoso
- IV. Andante - Allegro risoluto

Edvard Grieg was born in the city of Bergen in the since-dissolved United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. *Symphonic Dances* was inspired from folk songs collected by the Norwegian composer Ludvig Lindemann (1812–87). Through the incorporation of these folk songs into his compositions, Grieg helped Norway to establish a national identity and gain international recognition musically. The first movement, *Allegro moderato e marcato*, is based upon the *Halling*, an acrobatic couples dance in which the men perform plenty of leaps, kicks, and other stunts. The *Halling* returns in the second movement, *Allegretto grazioso*, although it is much more subdued than before. The third movement, *Allegro giocoso*, is based on a spring dance melody which becomes quite exciting and celebratory before calming down. The final movement, *Andante - Allegro risoluto*, contains the melody from a Valdres-region wedding song. Grieg was one of the most prominent Romantic composers and his works are part of the standard classical canon performed today.



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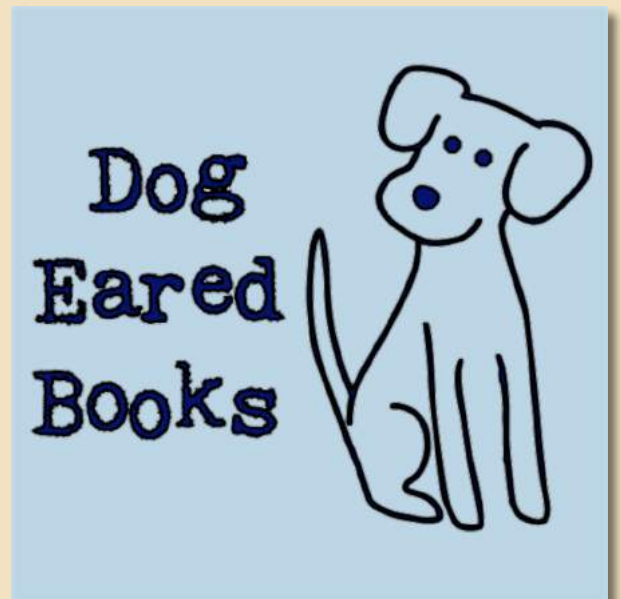
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NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 14 10AM-5PM

Decided by an adjudicated competition, the winner will perform with the Hampton Roads Philharmonic as a featured soloist. This competition is not open to the public, but we invite you to attend the Young Artist Competition Showcase Performance in March to hear the winners live.

To learn more about the competition or to enter the competition, click [here](#).

WINTER CLASSICS & HOLIDAY FAVORITES

DECEMBER 12, 2021 AT 2:30PM

YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE

MARCH 6, 2021 AT 2:30PM

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

APRIL 30, 2021 AT 1PM AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

FINALE CONCERT

MAY 15, 2021 AT 2:30PM

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