



Tempo

CHEYENNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & SYMPHONY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NO. 4 — FEBRUARY 2016

CSO brings violinist Arnaud Sussmann, top protégé of Itzhak Perlman, to town Feb. 27

Do you know someone you've been wanting to introduce to the CSO? Tell your friends you'd "LOVE" them to come

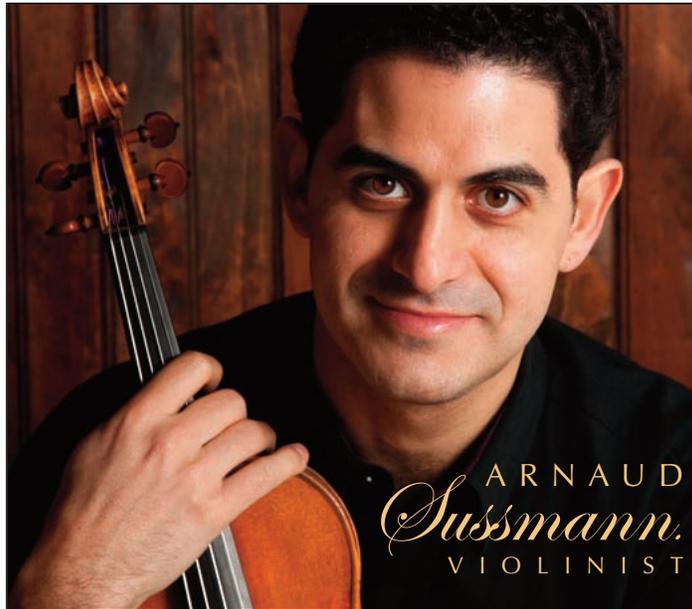
We're celebrating Valentine's Day all month in February. Won't you help us share the love?

We'd like to introduce even more people in the region to the music we already love, so in honor of Valentine's Day, the CSO is offering two tickets for the price of one to all new guests attending the Feb. 27 concert.

We'd like to encourage all subscribers to invite any friends who haven't yet secured season tickets to visit the symphony's website and take advantage of this "sweet-heart" of a deal. To get the discount just enter the word "LOVE" when purchasing tickets to receive our buy one / get one offer.

So what's on the program? Beethoven. Saint-Saëns. Bartók. Music you'll be thrilled to share with your friends. And a guest artist who's going to knock everybody's socks off — Arnaud Sussmann, one of the best violinists working in classical music today.

The concert will open with the Bartók *Romanian Folk Dances*. Written in 1915 after a series of visits to Transylvania, these dances show how the composer's absorption of the region's folk music became an integral part of his compositional style. The melodies, for example, come from tunes



Arnaud Sussmann will perform the Saint Saëns' Violin Concerto #3 with the CSO at its Feb. 27 concert. The program also features Beethoven's 4th Symphony and Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*. Subscribers are encouraged to bring friends who've been wanting to check out the CSO to this event. To secure tickets for your guests, go to cheyennesymphony.org and enter the word "LOVE" to get our two for the price of one deal.

Bartók heard during his travels, mostly on the gypsy violin or peasant flute, but the accompaniments are original. Some dances have a Central European flavor, others show the exotic flair of the Balkans or the Middle East.

The program continues with a performance of Saint-Saëns' Third Violin Concerto. It was dedicated to Pablo de Sarasate, who premiered the work in 1880, and for that reason is sometimes referred to as the "Sarasate" concerto. Along with the composer's *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*, Op. 28, and the *Havanaise*, Op. 83, it is one of the major concertante works for violin.

After intermission, the CSO

will perform Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. Perhaps not as famous as the *Eroica*, which preceded it, or the Fifth with its "fate knocking at the door" recurring motif, the Fourth is cheerful and sunny, a "slender maiden between two Norse Gods," as his friend Robert Schumann put it.

With its more Classical instrumentation and its lighter orchestration, it recalls the composer's first two symphonies and his time with Haydn, with whom he studied a decade earlier. The Fourth also shows his growing strength as a composer and his deft handling of the winds, particularly in the finale.

— LOVE, continued on page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

LUNCH & LEARN

FRI., FEB. 26 • 12 NOON • FREE
LARAMIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bring your lunch & learn about the music the CSO will perform Feb. 27.

BEETHOVEN, SAINT SAËNS & BARTÓK

SAT., FEB. 27 • 7:30 PM
Pre-concert talk at 6:30 PM
Masterpiece Series Concert with Arnaud Sussmann, violinist. Program: Saint Saëns' Violin Concerto #3, Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances* and Beethoven's 4th Symphony. **TICKETS:** \$15-\$45. Students \$10. Military discount available.

THE MESSIAH

SAT., MAR. 19 • 7:30 PM
Join us for a FREE presentation of Handel's masterpiece for choir and orchestra. Tickets are required for entry, general admission seating. Call 307-778-8561 or e-mail us at messiah@cheyennesymphony.org.

LUNCH & LEARN

FRI., APR. 29 • 12 NOON • FREE
LARAMIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bring your lunch & learn about the music the CSO will perform Apr. 30.

PIANO RECITAL

FRI., APRIL 29 • 7 PM
Hausmusik at Wyoming Hereford Ranch. Music for solo piano with Thomas Pandolfi. Buffet finger foods. Reservations: 307-778-8561. **TICKETS:** \$45. Students \$25.

BERLIOZ SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE ... PLUS

SAT., APRIL 30 • 7:30 PM
Pre-concert talk at 6:30 PM
Masterpiece Series Concert with Thomas Pandolfi, pianist: Liszt's Piano Concerto #1, Debussy's *Afternoon of the Faun* and Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*. **TICKETS:** \$15-\$45. Students \$10. Military discount available.

For more information about these or other CSO events, call 307-778-8561 or visit www.cheyennesymphony.org.

MUSIC IN WORDS

Bartok work inspires 3rd, 4th graders

CSO partnership with elementary language teachers yields creative results in area schools

Music in Words is CSO's annual writing contest, in which 3rd and 4th grade students in LCSD #1 elementary schools are challenged to write a creative response to a selection from one of the season's concerts. The 2016 Music in Words entries are based on Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances, one of the works to be performed Feb. 27.

Participating teachers are supplied with an mp3 recording of the music in advance as well as a pre-recorded podcast prepared by William Intriligator outlining facts and interesting anecdotes about the music. Entries are judged by an esteemed panel, including experts in the fields of music and English.

One judge, Dr. Todd Reynolds, assistant professor / lecturer of English education at UW, was very impressed with the students' work. "I'm inspired by the achievements of these students, especially in the creativity and wealth of vocabulary the music seems to motivate. This is a wonderful way for these students to stretch their communication skills."

If you would like to read these submissions, they will be displayed in the Civic Center's lobby during the February Masterpiece concert. Winners will be acknowledged on stage and presented with writing journals. Winning responses will be printed in the February concert program as well.

Students and their families receive vouchers to attend the concert at no cost, thanks to individuals and companies that support CSO's educational programs.



The Cheyenne Chamber Singers will join the CSO in its performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Sat., March 19. The concert is scheduled for 7:30 pm at the Cheyenne Civic Center. Admission is free, but tickets are required for entry. To reserve seats, call the CSO at 307-778-8561 or e-mail us at messiah@cheyennesymphony.org. Please include how many seats you would like and your phone number.

CSO to present Handel's *Messiah* March 19

Maestro Intriligator reminds us how rare it is to hear the entire oratorio — so don't miss a bit of the music. Start your own Easter tradition this spring.

The Easter Bunny is not the only one showering you with treats this spring ... the Cheyenne Symphony is once again hosting a free performance of Handel's *Messiah* for the entire community to enjoy.

In our March 19 performance, we are performing the complete oratorio, not just Part 1 plus the Hallelujah Chorus, or even Parts 1 and 2. We're presenting the whole enchilada — Parts 1, 2 and 3. In fact, it is Part 3, the Easter portion, that has long dictated the time of year for our performance, a week before Easter.

"It is a rare, special treat to hear the entire oratorio," CSO music director William Intriligator tell us. "The impact and depth of this masterpiece can be better felt by the audience this way."

The *Messiah* is unquestionably Handel's most enduring work. It is the epitome of Christian sacred music for many people, and yet the music can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of their beliefs. Written in

1741, the *Messiah* is an oratorio — essentially an unstaged opera with words based on a sacred text. The work features magnificent choruses, virtuoso arias for vocal soloists and sublime instrumental passages.

Handel, a highly celebrated composer in his native Germany, studied in Italy, but instead of returning to his employer in 1713 as he'd agreed to when his studies were complete, he moved to England to introduce music lovers there to Italian opera. By the 1730s, musical tastes changed as the public shifted its affections from "high art" operas featuring texts in foreign languages and mythological characters to "low brow" entertainments in English that featured characters and situations the average person could easily relate to. Handel, who had made his career in Italian opera, was suddenly faced with a decision: how to maintain his career, maintain professional ties to the top talent working in London and appeal to a fickle public's

taste while earning enough to support himself at a time when funding patterns were beginning to shift from royal and church patrons to the general public. His answer was the oratorio. Sacred works and music that featured choruses appealed to the English, and oratorios allowed Handel the opportunity to continue working with his friends, especially during Lent, when theatres were dark and rents were cheap.

The CSO's performance of Handel's *Messiah* is underwritten by a gift from the Eleni Demos Robinson Foundation. To reserve your free tickets, call the CSO at 307-778-8561 or send a message to messiah@cheyennesymphony.org. Please provide your name, address, phone number and the number of tickets you're requesting in your message. Tickets can be picked up at the CSO's Feb. 27 concert, at will call on the night of the performance or by stopping by the CSO office, 1904 Thomes Ave., Mon.-Fri., 9-5.

CSO brings in top vocal talent for *Messiah*

This year's soloists include four experts in Baroque music: Amanda Balestrieri, Virginia Warnken, Steven Soph and Ashraf Sewailam.

English-born soprano **Amanda Balestrieri** brings an impressive list of credits from both sides of the Atlantic. She has sung under the baton of conductors such as Christopher Hogwood, Neville Marriner and Leonard Slatkin.

Local music lovers may recall her work throughout the Front Range. Recent appearances include performances with Baroque Chamber Or-



Amanda Balestrieri

chestra of Colorado, Boulder Bach Festival, Denver Early Music Consort, Fort Collins Symphony, Pro Musica Colorado, Seicento Baroque Ensemble and the Colorado Symphony.

Virginia Warnken is becoming known for her heartfelt interpretations of the works of Bach, Handel and their contemporaries as well as for her exciting and unique performances of avant-garde 20th and 21st century works.



Virginia Warnken

Born just outside the city of New Orleans to a musical family, the Grammy Award-winning mezzo soprano was exposed to the great artists

of jazz, rock/blues, classical and world music from early childhood. She attended the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts throughout high school, studying classical voice, music theory and ear training in an intensive full-time conservatory setting. At age 17, she moved to New York for undergraduate studies in opera performance at Manhattan School of Music. There she found a deep love for works outside of the standard opera repertoire, particularly works composed before 1750 and after 1900.

Since completing her studies, she has performed with some of NYC's most prominent ensembles and has appeared at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center as the alto soloist in works such as Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's Mass in B minor and Mozart's Great Mass in C minor.

Texas native **Steven Soph** performs throughout the U.S. and Europe. He recently appeared with Ton Koopman and the Cleveland Or-



Steven Soph

chestra in an all-Handel program at Severance Hall and with Symphony Orchestra Augusta for Bach's B-minor Mass. He also appeared as Jephthe in Carissimmi's *Jephthe* with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado and as Uriel in Haydn's *Creation*. Upcoming engagements include Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Chicago Chorale and Handel's

Messiah with the Bach Society of St. Louis. He will sing Mozart's Requiem with Master Chorale of South Florida later this spring.

Soph performs with many top American ensembles, but unlike his colleagues, he also sings pop music. In fact, he recently collaborated on Maná's Latin Grammy Award-winning Best Pop/Rock Album "Cama Incendiada."

Bass-baritone **Ashraf Sewailam's** debut at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall was declared a "stand out performance" by the *New York Times*. *Opera News* described his voice as "purring and velvety with a majestic tone,"



Ashraf Sewailam

and his stage presence as "strong, mysterious and mesmerizing."

This season he will play the role of King in *Aida* at Opera Colorado, Mustafa in *L'italiana in Algeri* at Portland Opera and Capulet in *Roméo et Juliette* at Opera Carolina, Virginia Opera, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Lyric Opera Baltimore.

He will also perform the Brahms Requiem with the Dubuque Symphony and Maestro William Intriligator later this spring.

The Cheyenne Chamber Singers also joins the CSO for its March 19 performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Now under the direction of Sean Ambrose, the group is the area's premier classical vocal ensemble.



Christine Pelletier, Patron Services

CSO hires new Patron Services staff

Christine Pelletier is settling into her new responsibilities while she completes her arts administration degree

Welcome Christine Pelletier, CSO's new Patron Services and Administration Associate.

Christine is currently finishing a master's degree in arts administration at Colorado State University. She previously earned bachelor's and master's degrees in horn performance. She brings a wealth of professional experience to the CSO. She has worked as an event planning consultant for a number of not-for-profits, most-recently Ascend at CSU as the communication coordinator for the CSU Middle School Outreach Ensemble and a project manager for the exhibit CSU Meets Africa at the Global Village Museum in Fort Collins, Colo.

Over the years she has performed with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Phoenix Opera and the Dayton Philharmonic. She is an active private teacher; in her free time she enjoys knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching and tennis.

Christine is excited to join the CSO team, and she tells us she is looking forward to being part of the symphony's future endeavors.

Symphony Friends elect group's first officers

During a meeting held Tuesday, Feb. 9 at the Atlas Theatre, the CSO's volunteer corps elected officers. Kim Lovett will retain her post as president of the Symphony Friends; Jim O'Connor will serve as vice president; and former CSO board president Robert Fecht will become secretary-treasurer. Terms run two years with officers advancing through the ranks to the next position. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in volunteering for the CSO.



Kim Lovett



Jim O'Connor



Robert Fecht



Tempo

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Lindsey Bird Reynolds, operations
Christine Pelletier, patron services

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Experience the music all over again: CSO is now on NPR

*Tune in to KUWR
91.9 on selected
Wednesday nights
to hear the CSO on
Wyoming Public Radio*

Every CSO performance is recorded live for broadcast on Wyoming Public Radio. Concerts are aired about 10 days after each performance. Wyoming Public

Love

continued from page 1 —

For many guests, it will not be the music, it is soloist Arnaud Sussmann who will make the concert a night to remember.

Born in Strasbourg, France and based now in New York City, Sussmann trained at the Conservatoire de Paris and the Juilliard School with Boris Garlitsky and Itzhak Perlman. He was named a Starling Fellow in 2006, an honor that allowed him to be Perlman's teaching assistant for two years. Since completing his studies, he has performed with many of today's leading artists, including Itzhak Perlman, Menahem Pressler, Gary Hoffman, Wu Han, Shmuel Ashkenazi, David Finckel, Jan Vogler, and members of the Emerson String Quartet.

A dedicated chamber musi-

Radio station KUWR 91.9 broadcasts CSO events on selected Wednesday nights at 8 pm. Sister station KUWR 91.9-HD2 airs CSO concerts on Sundays at 4 pm. The next "show" airs Sun., Feb. 14 at 4 pm.

In addition to broadcasting the CSO, WPR presents other regional orchestras on "Classical Wyoming." See wyomingpublicmedia.org/schedule for details.

cian, Sussmann has been a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for more than a decade and has regularly appeared with them in New York and on tour, including a recent concert at London's Wigmore Hall.

He has distinguished himself with his unique sound, bravura and profound musicianship. Minnesota's Pioneer Press writes, "Sussmann has an old-school sound reminiscent of what you'll hear on vintage recordings by Jascha Heifetz or Fritz Kreisler, a rare combination of sweet and smooth that can hypnotize a listener. His tone is a thing of awe-inspiring beauty, his phrasing ... spellbinding."

A thrilling young musician capturing the attention of critics and audiences around the world, highlights of his 2015-16 season include performances with the New

CSO on NPR
Every CSO concert is recorded live for broadcast on Wyoming Public Radio. Tune in to KUWR 91.9 FM at 8 pm on Wednesday nights to hear the CSO on Wyoming Public Media.

Feb. 27 Beethoven	Mar. 9
Mar. 19 "Messiah"	Mar. 30
Apr. 30 Berlioz	May 11

ENCORE PERFORMANCE
Sundays at 4 pm on KUWR 91.9 - HD2
Feb. 14, Mar. 13, Apr. 1 and May 15

World Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony and at the Brevard Music Festival. He will play the Brahms Double Concerto in Tel Aviv with cellist Gary Hoffman later this year. In September, he returns to his native France to work with violinist Kolja Blacher and the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris.

So there you have it — an evening full of wonderful music, the company of good friends and a soloist second to none. What are you waiting for? Share your love of classical music this month. Tell all your friends who haven't bought season passes to go to the CSO's website today to claim their very own "Sweetheart" package, complete with tickets two for the price of one.

Make it a night on the town. We'll make it a night to remember.

CHEYENNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - VALENTINE'S SPECIAL
WILLIAM INTRILIGATOR, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR
BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO WYOMING SINCE 1955

LOVE > 2 FOR 1
MAKE IT A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

We'll make it a night to remember. Enter "LOVE" at cheyennesymphony.org and get 2 tickets for the price of 1.

Protégé of the great Itzhak Perlman, Arnaud Sussmann will perform Camille Saint-Saëns' Third Violin Concerto with the CSO on Feb. 27. Meet him and hear what he and Maestro Intriligator have to say about the music during our free Lunch & Learn program at noon on Fri., Feb. 26 at the Laramie County Public Library or at our pre-concert talk Sat. Feb. 27 at 6:30 pm at the Civic Center. The performance begins at 7:30 pm. For more information, call 307-778-8561 or go to www.cheyennesymphony.org and enter the word "LOVE" to get two tickets for the price of one.