

# Tempo

Symphony Friends Newsletter

2020-21 Season - February 2021

## Capricious Classics

CSO's concerts on **Feb. 27th at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM**, *Capricious Classics*, begin with a wonderful burst of energy in the form of living composer Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst* for string orchestra. Montgomery composed *Starburst* for the Sphinx Organization, which helps the careers of Black and Latinx classical musicians. She literally felt that the string orchestra was full of future "stars" of classical music, and that their careers would be "bursting" forth soon, so she called this exciting piece *Starburst*. This piece was also selected as the inspiration for CSO's annual Art in Music program. Hundreds of 7th-12th grade art students in LCSD #1 have listened to *Starburst* and brought this piece to life through their artwork. Patrons will have the opportunity to enjoy the student's art via a digital slideshow projected on the stage wall before the concert, and on CSO's website. To give the audience a taste of the student's creative process, patrons will again watch a slideshow of the winning submissions as the orchestra performs this piece live. We are excited to share this new experience with our patrons - there is nothing like seeing and hearing both art forms together!

This month's concerts will also feature music by one of Mozart's contemporaries, Franz Krommer. Not a household name, yet a very talented and prolific composer who attained quite a lot of success in the Austro-Hungarian Empire during his day. He

was a great composer for woodwind instruments, writing many concertos for clarinet, flute, and oboe. Kellan Toohey, CSO clarinetist, and Anton Rist, Principal Clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in NYC, will be the featured guest artists performing Krommer's Second Concerto for Two Clarinets in E-flat. "I have to admit that this piece—and even this composer—was unknown to me when our CSO clarinetist Kellan Toohey brought this piece to me for consideration," CSO Music Director and Conductor, William Intriligator added. "I was intrigued and listened to the music and think it's a charming piece that CSO audiences will enjoy getting to know!"

Finally, CSO will perform an audience favorite, Symphony No. 40 by Mozart. This masterpiece was composed during the summer of 1788, and displays intensity, passion, and an emotional tone that is unlike so much of Mozart's lighter, more gallant and effervescent works. Yet, this is still Mozart; for all its passion and drama, it is still full of grace, elegance, and 18th-century refinement. Intriligator explains, "I feel like, when one hears this piece, we're seeing and hearing Mozart without the public mask on; we're experiencing a more direct musical honesty reflecting the personal, financial, and political troubles he was facing at the time."

Whether you join us in person at the Civic Center, or via livestream from home, you will be sure to love these Capricious Classics!

### CSO AT-A-GLANCE

Livestream tickets available for all evening performances!

### CLASSIC CONVERSATIONS

FRI., FEB. 26th • 12:00 PM

CSO FACEBOOK PAGE

Your favorite educational seminar has gone virtual! Watch the livestream or view on-demand on the CSO website!

### CHEYENNE SYMPHONY 62ND ANNUAL VIRTUAL GALA

SAT., MAR. 13th • 7:00 - 8:00 PM

ONLINE

Online event hosted by Maestro William Intriligator with music by Synesthesia. Virtual paddle and live auctions; silent auction begins Mar. 8th. Enjoy the festivities from the comfort of home! RSVP at [cheyennesymphony.org](http://cheyennesymphony.org)

### FANTASTIC FINALES

SAT., APR. 17th • 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

CHEYENNE CIVIC CENTER

Beethoven's "Emporer", Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and Saint-Georges Symphony no. 1 featuring acclaimed pianist David Korevaar

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE  
PRESENTING SPONSOR OF  
OUR FEBRUARY CONCERT:**



Restaurants of Cheyenne



For more than 60 years, The CSO's Annual Gala has been a grand event that provides attendees the opportunity to have a wonderful time while supporting the Symphony's season. It is the major fundraiser of the year and this year, was postponed due to the pandemic. The CSO's 62nd Annual—now virtual—Gala is FREE and will be held on March 13th from 7-8 pm, hosted by Maestro William Intriligator and former CSO board member Dr. Jasper Chen.

The event will feature amazing live auction items, including a chance to conduct the CSO in a Sousa march at a summer Pops in the Park concert and a ski get away at the Grand Targhee Resort. The online silent auction will run from March 8th to March 13th, closing during the live event, and will feature a wonderful assortment of items, including jewelry and accessories, spa packages, team spirit baskets, and more! Plus, there will be a paddle auction and CSO's best-ever wine raffle, representing a world tour with 23 amazingly diverse and flavorful wines specially selected by a sommelier!

Musical entertainment during the event will be provided by Synesthesia, an eclectic chamber music ensemble from Northern Colorado. All three talented musicians are classically trained and have performed with the CSO; one, Becky Kutz Osterberg, is a current member of the cello section. Their program consists of original arrangements for clarinet, electric cello, and flute or ukulele in a variety of styles, including Classical, Pop, Rock, and Tango.



Copper Ferreira - Clarinets



Becky Kutz Osterberg - Electric Cello



Cille Lutsch - Flutes, Ukuleles

The group's name reflects its fresh approach to music. Quite simply, Synesthesia is a condition in which one type of sense causes the sensation of another, as when the hearing of a sound produces

the visualization of a color. People with this condition often describe musical notes and chords with specific colors and textures. One of the members has described their choice of name for the group: "Even without the clinical version of synesthesia, we believe music can help enhance your other senses and we love the chance to play music in places that provide the opportunity for you to try a new combination of sensory experiences."

CSO friends can support this fundraiser by donating items to be used for the silent auction, attending the online event and bidding early and often on the fabulous auction items! RSVP today at [cheyennesymphony.org](http://cheyennesymphony.org). Let's make the 62nd Annual GALA the best one yet!!

## STARBURST

The first piece on the program will be *Starburst* by Jessie Montgomery. Here, in her own words, is a description of the piece:

*This brief one-movement work for string orchestra is a play on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors. Exploding gestures are juxtaposed with gentle fleeting melodies in an attempt to create a multidimensional soundscape. A common definition of a starburst: "the rapid formation of large numbers of new stars in a galaxy at a rate high enough to alter the structure of the galaxy significantly" lends itself almost literally to the nature of the performing ensemble who premiered the work, the Sphinx Virtuosi, and I wrote the piece with their dynamic in mind.*

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. She was born in New York City in 1981 to parents working in music and theater and involved in neighborhood arts. She holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, and completed a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia at New York University in 2012.



She is a member of the Catalyst Quartet and a collaborator with Yo-Yo Ma's Silkroad Ensemble.

Montgomery is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, and her works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, language, and social justice, placing her squarely as one of the most relevant interpreters of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*).

## KROMMER

It is not often that audiences have the opportunity to hear a solo clarinet in the concert hall, let alone two. Franz Krommer’s *Concerto for Two Clarinets* in E-Flat, will change that. Kellan Toohey, CSO clarinetist, and Anton Rist, Principal Clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra will be the featured soloists for CSO’s February concert.

Krommer (1759-1839) was a prolific composer, especially of string quartets. He composed 70 pieces, for woodwind instrument, writing many concertos for clarinet, flute and oboe. He was considered a strong rival of Beethoven in the early nineteenth century, with his string quartets especially being held in high esteem: more than a few contemporaries compared him to Haydn.

Anton Rist was appointed principal clarinetist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in 2016. He previously held principal positions with the Princeton and New Haven Symphony Orchestras. In addition, Mr. Rist has performed with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Grant Park Festival Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the Louisiana Philharmonic, and the American Ballet Theater. Rist is on faculty at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival and the Interlochen Arts Camp, and has presented masterclasses around the country. In addition, he is a founding member of the Montserrat Music Festival in the West Indies. Born and raised in New York City, Mr. Rist studied at The Juilliard School.



ANTON RIST, CLARINET

Kellan Toohey’s varied career includes recitals and solo appearances, chamber music, teaching, and orchestral playing. He recently completed

a DMA in Clarinet performance and pedagogy at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He currently holds the position of Principal clarinetist in the Boulder Chamber Orchestra and Assistant Principal Clarinetist in the Wyoming Symphony and Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra. He has performed across the US, Europe, and in Asia, has been featured on local radio broadcasts including KVOD’s Colorado Spotlight, and was on the roster of the Young Musicians Foundation of Colorado in 2007 and 2008. He also recently finished recording his first solo album, entitled *Scenes from Home*, premiere recordings of new music by Colorado composers.



KELLAN TOOHEY, CLARINET

## MOZART

CSO will close the February concert with Mozart’s beloved Symphony No. 40. It was composed in 1788 between June 28 and August 10 when he composed his last three symphonies. This intense activity has been described by Maestro William Intriligator as being “an inspired burst of energy.”

CSO audiences love performances of Mozart’s music, who was named as one of the “Greatest People of the Millennium” by TIME.” Or, in the words of playwright Arthur Miller, “Mozart is happiness before it has gotten defined.” Symphony No. 40 is sometimes referred to as the “Great G minor symphony” to distinguish it from the “Little G minor symphony,” which are the only minor key symphonies Mozart wrote. The symphony is scored for flute, 2 oboes, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, and strings.

Mozart (1756-1791) is so well known that it is hard to provide fresh information. He composed more than 600 works, many of which are acknowledged as pinnacles of symphonic music. He is considered among the greatest classical composers of all time, and his influence on Western music is profound. Ludwig van Beethoven composed his early works in the shadow of Mozart, and Joseph Haydn wrote: “posterity will not see such a talent again in 100 years.”

Now, it is fun to examine some obscure information about Mozart:

• Mozart was extremely short at about 5’ 4”. “He was a remarkably small man, very

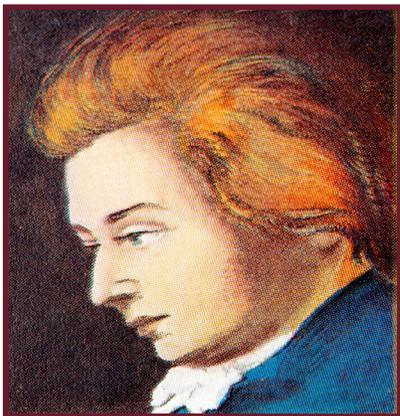
thin and pale, with a profusion of fine, fair hair of which he was rather vain,” said the tenor Michael Kelly. His complexion was uneven and blotchy, with marks left over from a childhood bout of smallpox. His speaking voice, according to his wife Constanze, was very high, but could be loud and commanding when Mozart wanted it to be.

- He loved shopping. Mozart spent lavishly on beautiful clothing as an adult. Tenor Michael Kelly remembered one outfit he wore to rehearsal: “[He] was on the stage with his crimson pelisse and gold-laced cocked hat, giving the time of the music to the orchestra.”

- He composed in short bursts throughout the day; he did a little writing in the morning, a little in the afternoon, and a little at night. He was quite a night owl and didn’t seem to need much sleep.

- He had lots of pets. At different points in his life, he kept a canary, a starling, a dog, and a horse.

- He had a strange sense of humor. The jokes Mozart told as an adult were similar to the jokes today’s young boys would laugh at. Some of Austria’s high society found his humor off-putting, especially when combined with his taste for fine clothing, but his true friends either had similar taste or found the jokes charming.



- He spoke 15 languages. Great composers have always been citizens of the world, since their commissions and gigs take them to far-flung locations. Mozart traveled extensively not only as a child but also as an adult composer in high demand, and he picked up language skills in almost every country he visited. By the time he was a teen,

he’d probably already picked up German, French, English, Dutch, and Italian, if not more.

- He hated the trumpet. When Mozart was a child, his father Leopold recounted that “he (would) turn pale and begin to collapse at the mere sound of it.” It seems Mozart was only able to compose one piece for trumpet—although that’s disputed, because all physical evidence of such a piece is lost.

- He insisted that his children not be breastfed. He wrote, “I was quite determined that even if she were able to do so, my wife was never to nurse her child. Yet I was equally determined that my child was never to take the milk of a stranger. I wanted the child to be brought up on water, like my sister and myself.” Feeding infants on barley water instead of milk was common practice among the middle classes at the time.

- About a week after Mozart’s father died on May 28, 1787, his pet starling passed away. Mozart didn’t go back to Salzburg for his father’s funeral, but he did bury his starling in the grandest way. Mourners in heavy veils marched in procession, sang hymns, and listened to Mozart recite a poem he’d written for the occasion. By a tiny graveside, the world’s greatest composer spoke with love of his starling “gay and bright” who was “not naughty, quite.”



*Fantastic Finales*

Apr. 17

2:00 PM or 7:30 PM  
Cheyenne Civic Center

Sponsored by HALLADAY MOTORS,  
TACO JOHN'S AND LAMAR ADVERTISING CO.

Beethoven  
*Piano Concerto No. 5, op. 73*  
"Emperor"

Saint-Georges  
*Symphony No. 1, op. 11 in G*

Rossini  
*William Tell Overture*

FEATURING:  
DAVID KOREVAAR,  
PIANO



## CSO Staff

William Intriligator,  
*Music Director & Conductor*

Lindsey Bird Reynolds,  
*Executive Director*

Christine Pelletier,  
*Director of Community Engagement*

Christian Cherek,  
*Director of Marketing/Development*

Kristen Beeman,  
*Orchestra Manager*

## Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra

P.O. Box 851 · Cheyenne WY 82003

307.778.8561

Newsletter: email@cheyennesymphony.org

[www.facebook.com/CheyenneSymphonyOrchestra/](http://www.facebook.com/CheyenneSymphonyOrchestra/)

[www.cheyennesymphony.org/symphony-friends/](http://www.cheyennesymphony.org/symphony-friends/)

## Symphony Friends

Steve Schmerge, *President*

Terry Ball

Chuck & Julia Burke

Denise Dijkstal

Jim Dinneen

Trudy Eisele

Mick Finnegan

Nick Fuerst

Nikki Garman

Mary Guthrie

Anna Marie Hales

Natalie Hales

Betty Lewis

Vic Lisek

Kim Lovett

Debbie McCann

Toma Nisbet

Sharon Novick

Kathy Muller Ogle

Lucie Osborn

Wendy Owen

Alaina Prestwood

Ann Ritschard

Carolyn Ritschard

Toni Rogers

Barb & Bob Ruegge

Betty Ann Shaffer

## ART IN MUSIC IN A DIGITAL ERA!

February's focus for Giving the Gift of Music involves a unique partnership between the CSO and the art students and teachers of Laramie County School District #1. The Art in Music program was conceptualized over twenty years ago, and has continued to evolve, support, and become integrated into LCSD #1's art curriculum.

During the first few years of the Art in Music program, 7th-12th grade students would come to rehearsals and draw as they listened to the symphony. With the option to sit in the audience or join the musicians on stage they had a unique glimpse into the creation of music in its most pure form...a rehearsal. Although the program has now evolved with students mainly creating artwork in their classrooms, over the years, students have still been offered the opportunity to attend rehearsals to let their creative juices flow.

After a few years the Art in Music program started to morph into the structure that many patrons know today - with students creating artwork to a piece of music that the CSO will perform live during the season. The student's artwork is displayed in the lobby of the Cheyenne Civic Center for the community to enjoy, and prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention, and Best in Show. To help students and teachers prepare for this annual program, CSO creates a video with details about the composer's life, information about the selected piece, fun facts about what was happening in the world when the music was composed, and a vocabulary slide creating cross disciplinary connections with terms used in both music and art.

This year, due to necessity, the Cheyenne community is going to witness another shift with the Art in Music program going digital. Students have created artwork to the piece *Starburst* by living composer Jessie Montgomery, however, the artwork will not be displayed in its traditional format throughout the lobby. Concert-goers will have an opportunity to view a few of the winning submissions in-person as they enter the hall, and then from their seat patrons can enjoy all the student's art via a digital slideshow projected on the stage wall. To give the audience a taste of the student's creative process, patrons will again get to see a slideshow of the winning submissions as the orchestra performs the piece *Starburst*. We are excited to share this new experience with our patrons - there is nothing like seeing and hearing both art forms together!

The Art in Music digital art show will be made available to the public via CSO's website starting Saturday, February 27th, and will continue to be available for 2 weeks after that. Please visit [www.cheyennesymphony.org](http://www.cheyennesymphony.org) to enjoy the colorful and inspirational artwork created by Cheyenne's very talented artists.

CSO's annual Gala fundraiser directly supports the Art in Music program and other education programs, and we would like to thank you, our patrons, for the generous support you've shown over the years. We would also like to extend a special thank you to LCSD #1 Art Coordinator Michele Ragaglia, Art in Music sponsor Wyoming Hereford Ranch, and LCSD #1 art teachers for helping make this Gift of Music a memorable experience for the art students!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Traditional IRA owners must take a Required Minimum Distribution starting at age 70½ or face tax penalties. You can use a directed donation to CSO, a 501(c)(3) organization, to meet all or part of your IRA's required minimum distribution for the year.

