



Tempo

Symphony Friends Newsletter

2021-22 Season - November 2021



THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH A TIME TO DISCOVER

CSO presents *A Time to Discover* on Nov. 13th, 2021 at 7:30 PM at the Cheyenne Civic Center. Masks are strongly recommended and socially distanced seating is available by request, if tickets are purchased by Fri. Nov. 12th. Livestream tickets are also available.

This unforgettable evening will feature two phenomenal guest artists performing well-loved concertos by Beethoven and Bruch. The two guest artists, husband and wife Terence Tam and Lorraine Min, will perform for the first time in Cheyenne. CSO will also present works by women composers Chen Yi and Fanny Mendelssohn.

"Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 is one of my all-time favorites," says CSO Music Director and Conductor, William Intriligator. "As many of you know, Beethoven is my hero. This piece, featuring piano soloist Lorraine Min, shows a playful and tender side of his music. The inner movement, however, portrays a struggle between soloist and orchestra, almost a 'taming of the beasts.' Beethoven's music continues to inspire every generation anew."

Chinese-American composer Chen Yi is already quite established as a very important living composer. In 1994, she turned her 1982 piece *Shuo* for string quartet into a string orchestra piece. "Shuo" in Chinese means to initiate. In this music, she initiates with pensive, Chinese folk melodies and then lets the music take off with lots of energy into a shimmering and sparkling mix of Eastern and Western musical traditions. Fanny Mendelssohn was the older sister of the famous composer Felix

Mendelssohn. After her marriage, she was known as Fanny Hensel. She was a very gifted composer and was only 27 years old in 1832 when she wrote the Overture in C major.

Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 is a great late-Romantic work whose popularity has overshadowed the composer's other fine works. Full of virtuosity and also beautiful lyricism, it will be a great way to showcase violin soloist Terence Tam.

Intriligator adds, "In this age when we are so accustomed to experiencing music and arts on screens, attending a CSO performance is even more meaningful, special, and powerful. We need you to make the magic happen. Our music is stronger when we are together, so please join us!"

After the concert, join the Maestro, guest artists, CSO musicians and other patrons for a reception at Napoli's. Select appetizers will be provided by our generous sponsor, Downtown Cheyenne, with additional food and beverages available for purchase.

Thank you to our Concert Sponsor, Riverstone Bank, formerly First State Bank of Cheyenne, and Guest Artist Underwriter Eugene Belz.



CSO AT-A-GLANCE

LUNCH & LEARN

FRI., NOV. 12TH • 12:00 PM • FREE

Join Intriligator and guest artists for a lunch time lecture at the Laramie County Public Library (or watch via the library's zoom page) and learn about the upcoming concert.

CLASSIC CONVERSATIONS

SAT., NOV. 13TH • 6:30 PM

If you can't make it to the Lunch & Learn, come early to the concert.

A TIME TO DISCOVER

SAT., NOV. 13TH • 7:30 PM

CHEYENNE CIVIC CENTER

Discover music by Fanny Mendelssohn and Chen Yi. Plus, Terence Tam performs the Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1 and Lorraine Min plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4.

HOLIDAY MAGIC

SAT., DEC. 11TH • 7:30 PM

CHEYENNE CIVIC CENTER

A Cheyenne tradition! Join the CSO, All-City Children's Chorus, Cheyenne Chamber Singers and En Evant Dance Studio to ring in the holidays with this beloved annual event!

WATCH YOUR INBOX!

Be on the lookout for Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Shop Small Saturday deals on concert tickets and packages!

SEASON SPONSORS



FANNY MENDELSSOHN HENSEL

Kicking off our journey of discovery is Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and her Overture in C Major. Mendelssohn Hensel was born in Hamburg, Germany, the oldest of four children. She and her famous brother, Felix, received a rigorous music education, however, her career was limited by the prevailing attitudes of the day towards women. Her father even said, “Music will perhaps become a profession for your brother, Felix, but for you it can and must be only an ornament.” Although her father didn’t accept her talent, Felix did and published some of her works under his name. Mendelssohn Hensel was also a highly accomplished pianist earning herself the acclaim, “she plays like a man,” which was the highest praise for a woman at that time.

During her lifetime and for more than a century afterward, Mendelssohn Hensel’s work was little known, even though she composed over 450 pieces of music, including works for the piano, arts songs, and cantatas. However, starting in the 1980s, there has since been a renewed interest in her works.

Overture in C Major demonstrates Mendelssohn Hensel’s talent as a composer, and remains her only purely orchestral work, even though she composed concert arias and several oratorios. She composed this overture in 1832, and unfortunately it was performed only once during her lifetime, with her conducting it. Like most of Mendelssohn Hensel’s works, Overture in C Major remained unpublished during her lifetime, finally being published in 1994. It is styled like many other overtures of the early Romantic Period, and is categorized as “absolute music,” without any background story or visual intention...simply music as “music.”

“MUSIC IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE” - CHEN YI

Chinese-American composer Chen Yi has established herself as an influential contemporary classical composer. Her music has been described as “a shimmering and sparkling mix of Eastern and Western musical traditions.”



Chen Yi believes that “music is a universal language; improving understanding between peoples of different cultural backgrounds and helping to bring peace in the world.” CSO will perform her piece, *Shuo*, originally composed in 1982 for string quartet and later arranged for string orchestra. “Shuo” in Chinese means to initiate, and in this music, she initiates with pensive thought Chinese folk melodies and then lets the music take off with lots of energy.

Chen was born in China in 1953; her parents were doctors and amateur musicians. Her early childhood education on violin and piano was abruptly halted by the Cultural

Revolution, and she was sent to a farm doing hard manual labor. In 1978, she was of the first 200 students admitted to the reopened Central Conservatory of Music, where she began her music composition studies.

Chen earned her doctorate from Columbia University, and after graduation taught at the Peabody Institute and was composer-in-residence with the Women’s Philharmonic, Chanticleer, and Aptos Creative Center in San Francisco. In 1998, she was appointed professor at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Chen has won several prestigious awards, including the Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2001. She was a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Music, and has received awards from the Koussevitsky Music Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

DISCOVERING MUSICAL MAGIC WITH TWO SOLOISTS



features two remarkable soloists and two concertos on one program. Husband and wife, Lorraine Min on piano and Terence Tam on violin, will make their debut performances in Cheyenne with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 and Max Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, op. 26.

Min is a Steinway artist who has won critical acclaim for her poetic artistry and virtuosity. The New York Times has praised her “impeccable phrase-shaping (and) crystalline sound,” and The Washington Post recognized her “admirable playing.” Min feels that performing is her “passion and the food for my soul.”

She has performed solo piano recitals and has made concerto appearances at New York’s Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall, Vancouver’s Orpheum Theatre and Chan Centre, and Teatro Politeamo in Palermo, Sicily. She received her Bachelors degree from the Peabody Conservatory on full scholarship, and her Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School.

Terence Tam is concert master of the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and has been performing on the violin and

piano since the age of eight. He also is an emergency room doctor. Tam has appeared as a concerto soloist with numerous orchestras in Europe, Australia and Canada. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto where he was a double major with full scholarships in violin and piano and earned a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute of Music.

While Min and Tam will perform separately for the November 13th concert, they will play together at the Hausmusik recital on November 14th. The couple met through friends in NYC while Min was studying at Juilliard. Ten years later, Tam invited Min to collaborate with him. "I'd heard her perform as a soloist and I thought she was a great pianist. It's sort of like the best food you've ever had or the best wine, you kind of tuck it away. Same goes for the artists we hear", says Tam.

Min and Tam performed together for a year and then began dating. While it is romantic to think of married musicians performing together, there are obvious challenges. Tam observes that "if there's a difference in opinion non-musically, then it can creep into the relationship musically, but we try not to let that happen and I think we're pretty successful at that." Min's take on their marriage/musical relationship is more pragmatic. She says there is no need to "tip toe around a new work partner when you have ideas for improving the performance. I know Terry is playing well because I hear it all the time. There's this ease when I play with him, because I know how he breathes and don't necessarily have to ask myself, "Oh, what's he going to do here?"

FROM BRUCH TO BEETHOVEN



Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 is one of the most frequently performed violin concertos in the symphony repertoire. While it might be familiar to many concert goers, its performance will enable concert goers to discover a deeper appreciation for its lyrical melodies, which span nearly the entire range of the instrument. The concerto is a tour de force for composer and soloist.

Bruch was a German Romantic composer, teacher, and conductor who wrote more than 200 works, including three violin concertos. His complex and well-structured Romantic musical works are in the tradition of Brahms, rather than the opposing "New Music" of Liszt and Wagner. In his time, he was known primarily as a choral composer and often, to his chagrin, was overshadowed by his friend Brahms, who was more popular and widely regarded.

While Violin Concerto No. 1 is very popular, Bruch wrote two other violin concertos, which he considered to be just as good or better than the more famous one. He was frustrated that it became a perennial audience favorite largely at the expense of his other works. Bruch's reaction to this issue is rather interesting - more than once he railed against this disparate treatment:

"Nothing compares to the laziness, stupidity and dullness of many German violinists. Every fortnight another one comes to me wanting to play the first concerto. I have now become rude; and have told them: 'I cannot listen to this concerto any more - did I perhaps write just this one? Go away and once and for all play the other concertos, which are just as good, if not better.'"

Regardless of the composer's reaction to his first violin concerto, we are sure that the CSO audience will discover why it is still so popular.

A work by Ludwig van Beethoven is always an audience pleaser. It has been said that his music helps us to discover our humanity. This is true of his Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, composed in 1805 and scored for solo piano and an orchestra consisting of a flute, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, timpani, and strings.

Beethoven was the soloist in the public premiere, which was his last appearance as a soloist with an orchestra due to his failing health. It was met with critical acclaim: "it is the most admirable, singular, artistic and complex Beethoven concerto ever." However, after its first performance, the piece was neglected until 1836, when it was revived by Felix Mendelssohn. Today, the work is widely performed and recorded, and is considered to be one of the central works of the piano concerto literature.



Beethoven's early fame derived not only from his compositions but also his brilliance as a pianist. A noted pianist of the time remarked that "Ah, Beethoven is no man, he is the devil. He will play me and all of us to death!" Beethoven's five piano concertos were written not only as important vehicles for his musical thought and innovation, but also for his own virtuosity. As a set, they contain some of Beethoven's most brilliant, heroic and exquisite writing.

Even though many of us have heard and already love his Piano Concerto No. 4, audience members can always discover something about themselves and the world by listening to it. Beethoven's observation about the joy of listening to music should be heeded:

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. It is the wine of a new procreation, and I am Bacchus who presses out this glorious wine for mankind and makes them spiritually drunk."

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JOIN THE SYMPHONY FRIENDS

*Supporting the CSO through hospitality,
fundraising & outreach*

Who are Symphony Friends? What do they do?

The answers are as diverse as the CSO's audience. But on its simplest level, the "Friends" are CSO volunteers who contribute their time, talent and energy to promote the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra.

The Friends focus on outreach and hospitality by welcoming guests at each concert and fielding questions from newcomers about upcoming events. We bake cookies, house musicians during winter storms and provide transportation for guest artists.

The Friends began hosting annual fundraisers a few years ago and you may have joined us for a French-inspired wine-tasting event, an Italian-inspired meal and wines, a Battle Carbonara with Maestro Intriligator and guest Italian violinist Dino De Palma competing to see whose version of the traditional Italian favorite our guests preferred. Most recently, we featured Hemingway-inspired cocktails and appetizers at the Atlas Theatre, accompanied by a unique presentation by Hemingway scholar and author, Phillip Greene. Many thanks to our member Wendy Owen for heading up these fundraisers!

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in volunteer work on behalf of the Cheyenne Symphony. The Friends meet on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm at the CSO office and via Zoom. To join, or for more information, check out our Facebook page and our page on the CSO website, or call the office during business hours, at 307-778-8561.



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Holiday Magic
DECEMBER 11, 2021
7:30 PM
CHEYENNE CIVIC CENTER

FEATURING:
ALL-CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS
EN AVANT DANCE STUDIO
CHEYENNE CHAMBER SINGERS

Livestream tickets
also available!



The CSO After Party Returns!



Join Maestro Intriligator, CSO musicians and other patrons after the Nov. 13th concert at Napoli's at 1901 Central Ave.!

There will be cocktails for purchase and appetizers generously sponsored by:

