



# Tempo



Symphony Friends Newsletter

2019-20 Season - November 2019

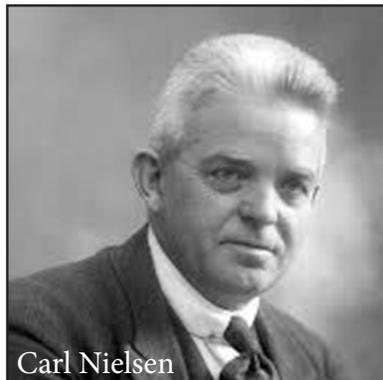
## “Nordic Triumph” Will Warm the Hearts of the CSO Audience

The CSO concert on November 16th will feature the works of three Scandinavian composers, from Denmark, Norway and Finland. Maestro Intriligator has, as usual, demonstrated his creative programming skills by combining music by Carl Nielsen, Edvard Grieg, and Jean Sibelius. His enthusiasm for the concert is reflected by this observation, “I’m so excited about this concert! The program has three Scandinavian works on it, and all three of these pieces are beautiful, exciting, and triumphant.”

The first selection is by Carl Nielsen (1865-1931), who is widely recognized as Denmark’s most prominent composer. His parents were amateur musicians, who early on exposed him to music. He demonstrated his musical abilities at an early age, premiering his first work at 23. The following year, he became a second violinist in the royal Danish Orchestra where he served for 16 years. Nielsen is especially noted for his six symphonies, his Wind Quintet, and concertos for violin, flute and clarinet. In Denmark, his opera *Maskarade* and many of his songs are an important part of the national heritage. Nielsen was considered a musical outsider during his lifetime, both in his own country and internationally. In the 1960’s his works entered the international repertoire, because they were recognized by Leonard Bernstein.

The CSO will play Nielsen’s rarely performed *Maskarade Overture*. The opera on which the Overture is based is considered Denmark’s national opera.

It features two young persons who meet and fall in love at a masquerade ball. Intriligator’s description of the Overture is apt: *“It’s festive and lively, as one would expect in an overture to an opera about Carnival. I’m surprised it isn’t performed more often. In fact, I wasn’t aware of it until I stumbled upon this little musical gem on YouTube one day! It will be my first time conducting this piece and I’m guessing the orchestra musicians haven’t played it before either. I’m sure our audience will enjoy this overture.”*



Carl Nielsen

Next on the program is Edvard Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16, which was composed in 1868 and first performed in 1869. It was the only concerto Grieg completed and is among the most popular of all the piano concertos.

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) is widely considered one of the leading Romantic era composers, and his music is part of the standard classical repertoire worldwide. He was the

## CSO AT-A-GLANCE

### CSO on the RADIO

TUNE IN throughout each concert week to listen to Maestro Intriligator talk about the upcoming concert AM 650 or [www.KGAB.com](http://www.KGAB.com)!

### LUNCH & LEARN

**FRI., NOV. 15TH • 12:00 PM • FREE**

Join Intriligator and guest artist Silvana Santinelli for a lunch time lecture at the Laramie County Public Library and learn about the upcoming concert.

### CLASSIC CONVERSATIONS

**SAT., NOV. 16TH • 6:30 PM**

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

### HOLIDAY MAGIC

**SAT., DEC. 14TH • 7:30 PM**

**CHEYENNE CIVIC CENTER**

Ring in the season and enjoy beloved holiday favorites with the CSO, Cheyenne Chamber Singers, All-City Children’s Chorus and dancers from En Avant Dance Studio!

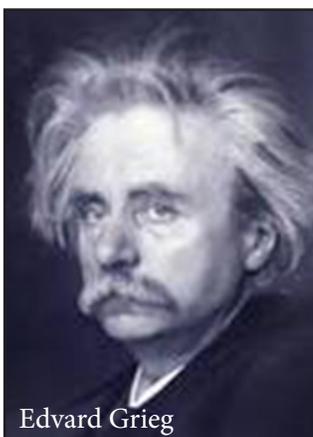
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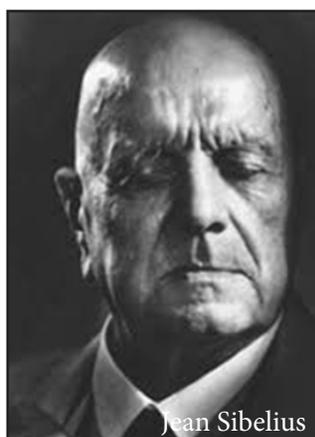
founder of the Norwegian nationalist school of music. Rooted in the Norwegian folk tradition, Grieg’s music is noted for a refined lyrical sense.

The concerto is often compared to Robert Schumann’s Piano Concerto. It is in the same key; the opening descending flourish on the piano is similar; and the overall style is considered to be closer to Schumann than any other composer. Incidentally, both composers wrote only one concerto for piano. Grieg had heard Schumann’s concerto played by Clara Schumann in Leipzig in 1858, and was greatly influenced by Schumann’s style generally.

Maestro Intriligator has an interesting story about the selection of this piece for the November concert: “By contrast, Grieg’s Piano Concerto is such a well-known favorite! It was suggested for this concert by Dr. JJ Chen, who won the opportunity to program a piece at our 2018 CSO Gala. I was so glad he chose this piece, since audiences always love this Norwegian ‘greatest hit,’ and the orchestra always enjoys performing it.”



Edvard Grieg



Jean Sibelius

The last piece on the program is Sibelius’ Second Symphony. Maestro Intriligator lyrically describes why it was chosen: “I absolutely love this piece! It has an amazing balance between conveying human emotions and depicting elemental landscapes. There is so much heart in the piece! In fact, the composer himself called it “a confession of the soul.” Yet it has moments sounding like birds flying and other moments that sound like slipping on ice in Finland. Plus, it has one of the most splendid finales in all of symphonic literature, so don’t miss it!”

Jean Sibelius, (1865-1957), a Finnish composer and violinist of the late Romantic and early-modern periods, is widely recognized as his country’s greatest composer and, through his music, is often credited with having helped Finland to develop a national identity during its struggle for independence from Russia. The core of his work is his set of seven symphonies; his other best-known compositions are *Finlandia* and the *Karelia Suite*.

The Second Symphony was first performed in 1902. While critics were divided following the symphony’s premiere, the public generally admired the piece as its grandiose finale was connected by some with the struggle for Finland’s independence, so that it was even popularly dubbed the “Symphony of Independence.” Finnish composer Sulho Ranta said, “There is something about this music — at least for us — that leads us to ecstasy; almost like a shaman with his magic drum.” The symphony has been called “one of the few symphonic creations of our time that point in the same direction as Beethoven’s symphonies.”

Some critics did not so highly praise the work. However, such a reaction did not faze Sibelius who was famously dismissive of professional music critics saying, “Pay no attention to what the critics say. No statue has ever been put up to a critic.”



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## SILVANA SANTINELLI WILL MAKE HER DEBUT WITH THE CSO



In an effort to promote regional musicians, the CSO is featuring pianist Silvana Santinelli, DMA, who is based in Fort Collins. Originally from Mexico, Silvana was a professor of piano at CSU for nine years. We are excited for her to make her CSO debut!

Silvana Santinelli has performed in Russia, the Czech Republic, France, Canada, China and Switzerland, in addition to the United States and her native Mexico. Dr. Santinelli graduated with a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park.

A former Fulbright scholar, Dr. Santinelli's many accomplishments include first prize winner of the Mexican National piano Competition. At the age of fourteen, she made her solo debut with the San Antonio

Symphony. Other prizes and awards include winning the Ulrich Piano Competition in Maryland, the French International Piano Festival Competition in Paris, and the Josef Hoffman International Piano Competition. She was a semifinalist in the San Antonio International Piano Competition, the Missouri International Piano Competition, and the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

Santinelli's two-CD set of the "Most Representative Piano Works" by Mexican Composer Rodolfo Halffter on Centaur Records label has been internationally acclaimed. Her recent CD with violinist Ron Francois (Duo Francois) "México City Blues" has won the Silver Medal in the "Golden Global Awards" in the category of Best Duo and emerging Artists.

In addition to her extensive career as a soloist, Silvana Santinelli is a member of the "Duo Francois" with violinist Ron Francois. She maintains a flourishing private studio in Fort Collins, Colorado, and is the President of the Fort Collins Music Teachers National Association (FCMTNA).

## GRIEG'S PIANO CONCERTO HAS GREATLY INFLUENCED POP CULTURE

The enduring popularity of Grieg's Piano Concerto has ensured its use in a wide variety of contexts!

- The first movement's coda is featured in the film *Intermezzo* (1939) starring Leslie Howard and Ingrid Bergman.
- The Concerto was featured in the film *The Seventh Veil* (1945) as the piece played by the young concert pianist.
- The opening theme of the first movement was used by Jimmy Wisner, recording under the name "Kokomo", in the song "Asia Minor", a top-ten pop hit in the U.S. in 1961. The title of the song was also based on the key of the concerto, A minor.
- Excerpts from the first movement are incorporated into the number "Rosemary" in the Broadway musical "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" (1961).
- The concerto was used in a sketch by the British comedians Morecambe and Wise in their 1971 Christmas show. Conducted by André Previn, with Eric Morecambe as soloist, Morecambe claims he is playing "all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order." In fact, he was playing a simplified version of the correct music, but in a completely inappropriate style.
- Jethro Tull played a short excerpt of the second movement live as part of the *Thick as a Brick* tour of 1972.
- The comedian Bill Bailey is a skilled musician and used Grieg's piano concerto for comic effect; in the TV Series *Black Books*, it is played by his character Manny Bianco and is cited as an example in his solo mock-scholarly sketch on cockney music.
- The introductory motif opens "Make the Most of Your Music", in the 1987 revised version of *Follies*.
- Cuban bandleader Alfredo Valdés repeatedly references the first movement of the concerto in *Canto a La Vueltabajera*.
- The strategy video game *Civilization IV* also uses the second movement in its soundtrack.
- The second movement's theme features in the spy thriller *Red Sparrow* (2018).

# OCTOBER WAS A MAGICAL MONTH OF MUSIC AND MUSINGS!

The first CSO concert and all of its attendant events gave us the appreciation of how unique our Cheyenne experiences are. In addition to enjoying an amazing concert presented by talented symphony members and the special guest artist, we had other experiences that folks who live in other places simply do not have.

“To Have and to Have Another: A Hemingway Cocktail Companion”, presented by the Symphony Friends was a fun, instructive evening. About 80 persons enjoyed Hemingway-inspired cocktails that were paired with heavy appetizers. Phil Greene, writer and cocktail historian, presented an informative program that traced how Hemingway’s characters enjoyed alcohol. The event was catered by the Plains, which did a superb job.

The “Lunch and Learn” presentation at the Laramie County Library is always a hit. This time the session was magic. William and Zuill Bailey mesmerized the audience for over an hour. Their knowledge of music and their friendship was reflected in their dialogue. One attendee remarked that she would have paid \$200 just to hear them!

On the eve of the concert, Maestro Intriligator, Zuill Bailey, and Hemingway scholar, Charles Fournier, presented the Hemingway Round Table at the Atlas Theater. This event, which was hosted by the Wyoming Humanities Council, explored the interaction of music and literature, particularly the work of Ernest Hemingway. About 65 people attended this event. A young man got up during the Q&A and said that he had come from Colorado because of his interest in Hemingway. One of the CSO supporters happened to have two extra tickets which she gave to him so that he and his father could attend. He was touched by Cheyenne’s hospitality.

Finally, the Hausmusik presentation at the Cheyenne Depot was memorable. Zuill Bailey spent almost two hours entrancing the large audience with beautiful music and regaling them with stories of how music had shaped his life. Of special interest was his description of playing at different venues after the tragic shooting in El Paso last year. The depot was chosen for the event because Ernest Hemingway and his third wife Martha had their wedding reception there after the wedding earlier that day at a Cheyenne Justice of the Peace’s office.

We are so lucky to have the CSO as a part of our lives!

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