

Rain City Symphony Program Notes
Fall Concert 2021

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a giant of composition during the Baroque Period. Among his prodigious output were over 150 cantatas. "*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*," also known as "Sleepers Wake" was first performed in 1731. The Chorale Prelude begins with a peaceful, rolling melody introduced by the strings and then gradually taken by more and more woodwinds. In this arrangement by Eugene Ormandy, the long-standing conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the horns present the stately choral melody in juxtaposition to the undulating accompaniment. The majestic final choral statement is heard from the full brass choir.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) is the epitome of a composer in the Classical Period. Although his life was brief, his influence on music of the time was enormous. Included in his oeuvre are 22 operas. *The Magic Flute* was composed in 1791 and was a *singspiel*, an opera that included both spoken and sung words. The overture begins with an *adagio* section of three somber chords segueing into a slow melody in the first violin section, interrupted on a regular basis by more chords played by the woodwinds and brass. The second violins introduce the *allegro* section with a restless melody soon taken in turn by many other sections of the orchestra. A brief return to the *adagio* with three chords gives way to the *allegro* melody for the duration of the overture.

Franz von Suppé (1819-1895) was a leading composer and conductor in Vienna. He was most famous for his operettas, of which he composed 30. *Poet and Peasant* and *The Beautiful Galatea* are most likely his most famous overtures for operettas but *Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna* has been a delightful discovery for Rain City Symphony. It begins with a dramatic introduction before segueing into an *Andante amoroso* section featuring an expressive, pensive melody featuring solo cello, played this evening by Iman Hein. A restatement of the introductory melody then moves to a frolicking, fast-paced melody perfectly representing nightlife in glittering Vienna.

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) is most likely Norway's most famous composer. His *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* consists of four movements, with the first one (*Morning Mood*) and the fourth (*In the Hall of the Mountain King*) being the most familiar. *Morning Mood* unfolds in a peaceful manner with solos for flute and oboe before opening up to the larger orchestra. The two middle movements, *The Death of Ase* and *Anitra's Dance*, are composed for strings only (with the addition of a triangle for the dance). *The Death of Ase* is somber, as befits a death room scene. *Anitra's Dance* contains a seductive, persuasive melody. *In The Hall of the Mountain King* begins slowly but soon accelerates into a frenzied chase of Peer Gynt by imps living in subterranean mountain chambers.