

NOTES

PROGRAMME

Conductor: Carlos Vasquez
Piano: Michael Berkovsky

"Around The World in 80 Minutes"

Gioachino Rossini

Overture to La Gazza Ladra

Edvard Grieg

Piano Concerto in A minor
Op.16

- I. *Allegro moderato*
- II. *Andante con moto*
- III. *Rondo (Vivace)*

(15 minute intermission)

Johann Strauss II

Voices of Spring Waltz
Op.410

Inocente Carreño

"Margariteña"
Glosa Sinfónica

Alexander Borodin

Polovtsian Dances from
Prince Igor (Nos. 8 & 17)

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868): Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*

The Overture begins with a bold, military rattle of snare drums, a nod to the "thieving magpie" at the heart of this tale. Legend has it that the conductor for the premiere, fed up with Rossini's procrastination, locked the composer in a top-floor room at La Scala the day before the curtain rose. Guarded by stagehands, Rossini was forced to write page by page, tossing each sheet out the window to copyists waiting below. The result is a masterpiece blending rhythmic wit with frantic, last-minute energy.

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907): Piano Concerto in A minor Op.16

From the opening timpani roll that leads to a dramatic piano entrance, the first movement alternates between moments of intense lyricism and dramatic flourishes, concluding with a virtuosic cadenza. The second movement is lyrical, in the distant key of D flat major and leads directly into the finale, which opens with an energetic Norwegian dance. A contrasting lyrical theme forms the basis of the middle section and that same theme is transformed into a "Hollywood style" conclusion.

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899): Voices of Spring Waltz Op.410

The famous grand entry is followed by the first waltz's gentle and swirling melody. The second waltz invokes the joys of spring with the flute imitating birdsong and a pastoral scene. The plaintive and dramatic third waltz might suggest spring showers whereas the fourth waltz breaks away from the pensive mood with another cheerful melody. Finally, the familiar first waltz melody makes a grand reentrance followed by a breathless finish, the usual timpani drumroll, and warm brass flourish.

Inocente Carreño (1919-2016): "Margariteña" Glosa Sinfónica

The title refers both to the island of Margarita, Carreño's birthplace, and to the Venezuelan song "Margarita is a Tear" that is the main theme. The theme is introduced by the solo horn and later played by the cello section. Episodes follow using two other traditional melodies, "Song of Pilon" and a vibrant version of "Song of Velorio", punctuated by echoes of the opening in the horns. A brief pause leads to a playful treatment of the children's song "Tiguitiguitos" before a return to the main theme that closes a landmark work of Venezuelan musical nationalism.

Alexander Borodin (1833-1887): Polovtsian Dances from *Prince Igor* (Nos. 8 & 17)

These dances are popular orchestral showpieces, performed with the choral parts omitted. No.8 ("Dance of the Polovtsian Maidens") is a lively dance that opens with a virtuosic and long clarinet solo and continues with a driving rhythm. No.17 ("Polovtsian Dance with Chorus") is a series of dances in contrasting sections. The first dance ("Gliding Dance of the Maidens") contains perhaps the most recognizable melody of the piece that appears numerous times.

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Dean Wang, concertmaster
Jean-Paul Desaulniers
Paul Froese
Julie Kerekes
Josh Lau
Lea Ollagnier
Hiroko Sawai
Nick Xie

Violin II

Michael Lee*
Linda Byron
Gillian Chen
Wendy Frey
Boekhren Karyostyko
Jeanine Mollineau
Alexandra Solomon

Viola

Velma Ko*
Ivanka Ivicevic
Veronica Koopmans
Caroline Pai
Jessamyn Schertz
Madeleine Spence
Beverlee Swayze

Cello

Leanne Wright*
Tom Lee
Warren Lee
Robert Rinkoff
Amit Rotem
Stephany Seki
Robert Wu

Double Bass

Stone He*
Anthony Damtsis
Ian Werker

Harp

Catherine Liu

Flute

Laurie Hamilton
Jaye Marsh
Hyejin (Jinny) Yoon

Oboe

Eric Dai*
Klein Li
Cristina Sewerin

Clarinet

Jennifer Bucci
Danielle Waxer

Bassoon

Dorothy Ward
Roland Wilk

Horn

Chris Buchner*
Duncan Andrews
Rebecca Davies
Derek Ellis

Trumpet

Claire Dossantos*
Emanuel Ciucur
Simon Leung

Trombone

Sophie Chiu*
Chenaho Gong
Shaiyan Keshvari

Tuba

Masaru (Xian) Lin

Timpani

Tim Francom

Percussion

Christopher Wong*
Vincent Jia
Sydney Orlander
Marion Wilk
Yvonne Yik



Rosedale
Symphony
Orchestra

Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*
Rossini

Piano Concerto in A minor Op.16
Grieg

Glosa Sinfónica "Margariteña"
Carreño

Voices of Spring Waltz Op.410
Strauss II

"Polovtsian Dances" from
Prince Igor (Nos. 8 & 17)
Borodin

Conductor

Carlos Vasquez

Soloist

Michael Berkovsky

TICKETS

Admission is by donation

VENUE

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
26 Delisle Ave, Toronto

FEB 8
2026
8pm