

NOTES

PROGRAMME

Conductor: Shawn Bennett

Piano: Gwendolyn Mok

“Voices and Visions”

Aidan Zhou *The Picture of Dorian Gray (* world premiere)*

Maurice Ravel *Piano Concerto in G major*
I. Allegramente
II. Adagio assai
III. Presto

(Intermission)

Jean Sibelius *Symphony No.1 in E minor, Op.39*
I. Andante, ma non troppo – Allegro energico
II. Andante (ma non troppo lento)
III. Scherzo (Allegro)
IV. Finale (Quasi una fantasia)

Aidan Zhou (b. 2012): *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Based on Oscar Wilde’s novel, the music captures the tension between outward beauty and inner transformation as Dorian Gray exchanges his soul with a portrait of himself. That leaves Dorian eternally young and beautiful while the painting slowly ages and disintegrates. A luminous opening theme suggests Dorian’s youthful charm but darker harmonies soon emerge as the music traces the character’s moral unraveling. Sharp rhythmic figures and shifting textures create a sense of psychological unease, while moments of elegance hint at the façade Dorian maintains. The music gets more and more dissonant until the climax, when Dorian stabs the portrait. The haunting conclusion captures the painting’s return and Dorian’s decay.

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937): *Piano Concerto in G major*

Inspired by concertante style of Mozart and Saint-Saens, Ravel’s G major concerto opens with a single sharp whipcrack and a burst of bright colour, immediately revealing his fascination with jazz, rhythmic sparkle, and Basque folk music. Ravel’s aim was to create a work clearly highlighting the soloist’s virtuosity but without seeking to show profundity. The first movement alternates between breezy melodies, blues-tinged harmonies, and brilliant piano solos, while prominently featuring the harp. The slow movement provides a striking contrast: a long, seamless piano line unfolds with serene poise over delicate woodwind exchanges. The finale snaps back to life with rapid-fire energy and syncopated drive, ending the concerto in a whirlwind of virtuosity and wit.

Jean Sibelius (1865–1957): *Symphony No.1 in E minor, Op.39*

Sibelius was already well-versed in orchestral writing by the time he wrote his first symphony, having already written masterworks such as Finlandia. The influence of Tchaikovsky is evident in the lush melodies and dramatic contrasts. A solitary clarinet over a soft timpani roll opens this work, setting a mood of brooding lyricism. The music moves between sweeping string lines, rugged rhythmic propulsion, and moments of icy stillness that evoke the Nordic landscape. The scherzo’s muscular energy contrasts with the slow movement’s expansive, song-like warmth. In the finale, much of the material recalls the opening movement. Turbulent themes and surging climaxes build toward a dramatic conclusion that ends somewhat ironically with two mere soft chords. Ultimately, Sibelius’ first symphony reveals a mature composer already in full command of his distinctive voice.

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Josh Lau, concertmaster
Richard Cao
Jean-Paul Desaulniers
Paul Froese
Lea Ollagnier
Hiroko Sawai
Dean Wang
Jennifer Wu

Violin II

Michael Lee*
Linda Byron
Gillian Chen
Parsa Hekmatpanah
Qian Li
Jeanine Mollineau

Viola

Velma Ko*
Cendri Hutcherson
Ivanka Ivcevic
Veronica Koopmans
Beverlee Swayze

Cello

Tom Lee*
Warren Lee
Claire le Riche
Stuart Mutch
Robert Rinkoff
Robert Wu
Rosalind Zhang

Double Bass

Ian Werker*
Anthony Damtsis
Jude Littlefield Buschlen

Harp

Catherine Liu

Flute

Laurie Hamilton
Lynn Ikeda
Jaye Marsh

Oboe

Eric Dai*
Klein Li

Clarinet

Danielle Waxer*
Jonathan Krehm
Joshua Zung

Bassoon

Zenghao Wang
Roland Wilk

Horn

Chris Buchner*
Duncan Andrews
Rebecca Davies
Derek Ellis

Trumpet

Brennan Schommer*
Simon Leung
Erika Schengili

Trombone

Sophie Chiu*
Chenhao Gong
Shaiyan Keshvari

Tuba

Alex Smith

Timpani

Tim Francom

Percussion

Scott McBride*
Sydney Orlander
Yvonne Yik

*Principal



Rosedale
Symphony
Orchestra



Conductor
Shawn Bennett



Piano
Gwendolyn Mok

Voices and Visions

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The Picture of Dorian Gray
World Premiere
Aidan Zhou

Piano Concerto in G major
Maurice Ravel

Symphony no.1 in E minor Op.39
Jean Sibelius

TICKETS
www.rosedalesymphonyorchestra.com
OR at the door

VENUE
Calvin Presbyterian Church,
26 Delisle Ave, Toronto

MAR 28
2026
8pm