

Programme

Overture to Fidelio Op.72

Beethoven
(1770 – 1827)

Piano Concerto no.1 in B flat minor Op.23
I. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso –
Allegro con spirito

Darren Lee, piano

Tchaikovsky
(1840 – 1893)

Siegfried Idyll

Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Overture to Fidelio Op.72

Beethoven wrote a total of four overtures to his sole opera, the overture being performed this evening is the final one written of the four. The opera's protagonist is a woman who, disguised as a man, Fidelio, rescues her husband from political imprisonment. Unlike the other three versions, this version uses more unique musical ideas from its predecessors and is a compact, energetic piece that serves as a brilliant opener to the concert.

Piano Concerto no.1 in B flat minor Op.23

One of the most famous and frequently performed piano concertos, it is known for its luscious melodies, stormy climaxes, and virtuosic piano part. The orchestra and pianist work together to tell a story that is at times light-hearted and capricious, at times reflective and melancholy, and at other times passionate and almost barbaric. The first movement being performed this evening is in a sense, a complete work of its own in an introductory flourish with a majestic sounding melody followed by many contrasting themes and episodes of great beauty that have stood the test of time. Long passages for solo piano are scattered throughout to contrast with the sonorous orchestral sounds. The movement closes with great assurance and authority with both the soloist and orchestra concluding on a series of resolute chords, signalling a feeling of conquest and triumph.

Siegfried Idyll

This symphonic poem was composed as a birthday present to his second wife, Cosima (Franz Liszt's daughter), after the birth of their son Siegfried. It was first performed on Christmas morning in 1870 by a small orchestral ensemble (originally written for 13 players but later expanded to 35 players) on the stairs of their villa in what is modern-day Lucerne, Switzerland. Cosima awoke to its opening melody. The original title of the piece makes reference to birdsong and sunrise and likely refers to moments of personal significance to the couple. There is also reference to the German lullaby 'Sleep, baby, sleep'. In contrast to much of Wagner's other music, Siegfried Idyll reflects a gentle, tender side of him and is arguably his most beloved orchestral work.

Orchestra

Violin I

Dean Wang, concertmaster
Frank Song, acting concertmaster
Josh Lau
Hiroko Sawai
Grace Tallon
Carlos Vasquez
Jennifer Wu
Hannah Zheng

Violin II

Michael Lee
Christian Camilo
Paul Froese
Jeanine Mollineau
Caroline Pai
Emily Tam

Viola

Velma Ko
Kathy Carothers
Ivanka Ivcevic
Stephen Murray
Jessamyn Schertz

Cello

Leanne Wright
Tom Lee
Warren Lee
Robert Rinkoff
Stephany Seki
Winter Wei
Robert Wu

Double Bass

Jude Littlefield Buschlen
Mira Riselli

Flute

Claire Lee
Lynn Ikeda

Oboe

Joshua Zung
Ashlyn Lee

Clarinet

Sean Lin
Daniel Choi

Bassoon

Robert Lu
Angela Gong

Horn

Chris Buchner
Duncan Andrews
Alex Buck
Kelly Kaddatz

Trumpet

Claire Dossantos
Simon Leung

Trombone

Tristan O'Rourke
Billy Graydon

Bass Trombone

Shaiyan Keshvari

Timpani

Alejandro Cespedes

Special thanks to Michael Berkovsky, Su Jeon Higuera, Ann Sublett, and Nayla Yehia.

Rosedale Symphony Orchestra

Brennan Schommer, conductor



CONDUCTOR
Brennan Schommer

SOLOIST
Darren Lee, piano

L. VAN BEETHOVEN
Fidelio Overture Op.72c

R. WAGNER
Siegfried Idyll, WWV 103

P. TCHAIKOVSKY
Piano Concerto no.1 in B flat minor Op.23

DATE
Saturday, June 15, 2024, 7:30pm

VENUE
Calvin Presbyterian Church
26 Delisle Ave, Toronto

TICKETS
Admission by donation

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7:30pm