

SFCM Orchestra

Earl Lee, conductor

Julia Pyke,

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 7:30 PM Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

David Baker, conductor

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 39 Lowell Liebermann I. Moderato (b. 1961) II. Molto adagio III. Presto

Julia Pyke, flute

- Intermission -

Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64Pyotr Ilyich TchaikovskyI. Andante - Allegro con anima(1840–1893)

II. Andante cantabile, con alcuna licenza

III. Valse: Allegro moderato

IV. Finale: Andante maestoso - Allegro vivace

SFCM Orchestra

Violin 1 Shintaro Taneda. concertmaster Mathea Goh Chantel Davis Annemarie Schubert Magdalena Zaczek Cuna Kim Daniel Tan Diego de la Cruz Iwadare Timothy Ryan Parham Adrian Wu Hanbo Wang Lavinia Chen Xiaomeng Ma# ZhiJian Yang# Lara Narkiewicz#

Violin 2

Unji Hong, principal PoYu Lee Rose Crelli Jessica Folson Hannah Park Xiaoman Ke Narain Darakananda Mingyue Xia Tabitha Mason Matthew Vousé II TianQi Liu Seunghye Park Josiah de la Motte[#] Wenxin Xi[#] Viola Yu-Chen Yang, principal Sarah Hooton Paulina Flores Chaemyung Lee Yu-Hsuan Chen Isabel Tannenbaum Archer Brown Ricardo Ibarra James Nelson Conor McAvinue Anna Brooke[#]

Cello

Matthew Park, principal Eli Lacin Hung-Yu (YoYo) Lin Weian Gu Octavio Mujica Teo Dage Chen Cao David Au Yeung[^] Shea Yurdana[#] Matthew Linaman^{*}

Double Bass

Christian Hales, principal Alexandria Kelley Lalita Perez Acosta Yuchen Liu* Richard Worn*

Flute

Jolie Fitch[⊤] Alina Kwon Owen Wells Meehan[∟] Alexei Wade^B

Piccolo Hyejung Baik^{™,B} Alexei Wade[⊥]

Oboe/English Horn

Jini Baik Adam Cardinal-Fleming[⊥] Daniel Gurevich[®] Andrew Port[⊤] Quinton Christopher Bodnár-Smith

Clarinet

Taylor Barlow Lindsay Ha Clayton Luckadoo^L Caleb Rose^B Yijin Wang^T

Bassoon

Shelby Capozzoli⁸ Oleksandr Kashlyuk^T Yufeng Liu^L Ben Wehtje

SFCM Orchestra, cont.

French Horn Gretchen Bonnema Ben Engelmann Sophia Chen^B Jenessa Hettwer^L Henry Nordhorn^T Seth Parker Shumate Nicholas Sosa Yuan Hong (Yolanda) Zheng Bass Trombone Jeremy Mojado^{T, B}

Tuba Jacob Malek^{™, B}

Timpani Jonas Koh[⊥] Mattijs van Maaren[₿] Eric Stoss[™]

Trumpet

Caleb Brosnac Jacob Merrill[⊥] Michail Thompson[⊤] Abner Wong Karlee Wood^B

Trombone

Ned Harlan Reece MacDonald[®] Carlos Reyes[⊤] Miriam Snyder Austin Talbot **Percussion** Carlos Alvarez Kobe Lester Sean Swenson Eddie Virtgaym

Harp Jiayin Cao[∟]

Piano Connor Buckley *indicates guest artist ^indicates Brahms only strings #indicates Liebermann only strings

Superscripts indicate principal players: B - Brahms L - Liebermann T - Tchaikovsky

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Artist Profiles

A 2021 Solti Foundation U.S Career Assistance Award recipient and a current Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, **Earl Lee** is a renowned Korean born Canadian performer who has captivated audiences worldwide. Earl's passion for music is reflected in his diverse career as both a conductor and cellist. His recent appearances include leading the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. His guest conducting appearances include concerts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, New Japan Philharmonic, Gangnam Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra along other orchestras worldwide.

Earl recently concluded his position as the Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra where he led various concerts and its programming. He also served as the Resident Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra from 2015 to 2018.

Earl was the recipient of the 50th Anniversary Heinz Unger Award from the Ontario Arts Council in 2018. In 2013, Earl was one of two performers to receive the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Scholarship, chosen by a renowned conductor Kurt Masur to travel to Leipzig and study the music and life of Felix Mendelssohn. That same year, Lee was awarded the Ansbacher Fellowship by the American Austrian Foundation and members of the Vienna Philharmonic, and spent six weeks at the Salzburg Festival in Austria.

In all of his professional activities, Earl seeks ways to connect with fellow musicians and audiences on a personal level. His concerts to date in Canada, the U.S., China and South Korea have often been accompanied by outreach events beyond the concert hall in the community at large. He has taken great pleasure in mentoring young musicians as former Artistic Director and Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, and as Music Director of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra.

As a cellist, Earl toured with the acclaimed duet of Gary Burton & Chick Corea as a guest member of the Harlem String Quartet in 2012, performing in notable venues including Symphony Hall in Boston, Maison symphonique de Montréal, and the iconic Blue Note jazz club in New York City. Earl has also toured the United States as part of ensembles including Musicians from Marlboro, and his performance frequently appears on air such as American Public Media's Saint Paul Sunday. Earl has performed at prestigious summer festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival, Music from Angel Fire, Caramoor Rising Stars, and Ravinia's Steans Institute. He is currently a member of a conductorless chamber ensemble, the East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO).

Artist Profiles

Earl has degrees in cello from the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. He began his conducting studies in 2010 with Ignat Solzhenitsyn, and received his Masters in 2013 from the Manhattan School of Music with George Manahan. Earl pursued postgraduate studies in conducting at the New England Conservatory with Hugh Wolff prior to his tenure with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Seattle, Washington, **Julia Pyke** is pursuing a Performance Certificate at San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Timothy Day. She previously completed a Master of Music at SFCM, and a Bachelor of Music at Oberlin Conservatory of Music under Dr. Alexa Still. She has attended Music Academy of the West, Aspen Music Festival, and Texas Music Festival, and has performed with the New World Symphony as well as members of the Cleveland Orchestra and in Carnegie Hall. She has performed under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas, Marin Alsop, Larry Rachleff, John Adams, Hans Graf, Tim Weiss, Hugh Wolff, Markus Stenz, Andre Boreyko, and Ludovic Morlot.

Born and raised in the Greater New York City area, **David Baker** is a conductor and currently an orchestral conducting student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he will regularly assist and conduct the SFCM Orchestra under the tutelage of Edwin Outwater. Before moving to San Francisco, David was a graduate assistant at the Eastman School of Music, where he was named as the recipient of the Donald and Polly Hunsberger Fellowship. David served as Assistant Conductor for the Eastman Wind Ensemble, the Eastman Wind Orchestra, and the Eastman Harmonie, a professional chamber winds group based at Eastman. During his undergraduate studies at the Crane School of Music, he has had the opportunity to conduct both the Crane Wind Ensemble and Crane Symphony Orchestra. David has immersed himself in the repertoire of both the wind ensemble and orchestral fields.

David is a strong advocate for new music, premiering many works as both a conductor and a saxophonist. At Eastman, he was a frequent conductor for the OSSIA New Music Ensemble, with whom he conducted works by Georg Friedrich Haas and Alex Temple. In 2018, he attended the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy as a performance fellow.

David's main conducting mentors are Edwin Outwater, Mark Davis Scatterday, Brad Lubman, and Brian K. Doyle. He also studied saxophone with Casey Grev and Robert Young. David has worked with many other esteemed conductors, including Leonard Slatkin, Neil Varon, Michael Haithcock, Frank Battisti, and Charles Peltz.

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 (1880)

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833; Hamburg, German Confederation. Died: April 3, 1897; Vienna, Empire of Austria-Hungary.

Instrumentation: piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Despite never attending college, Brahms was twice offered an honorary doctorate in his lifetime. He declined the first of these, from Cambridge University in 1876 due to his crippling fear of sailing which kept him from his required presence for the awad. The opportunity presented itself again in 1879 from the University of Breslau (now the University of Wroclaw) who wished to award him an honorary Doctorate in Philosophy -- Brahms accepted the invitation and would attend inperson under the university's condition that he commemorate the event with a new composition. It was for this ceremony that the *Academic Festival Overture* came to be.

Being one of the most famous composers alive at this time and having written some of the most refined and beloved works in the romantic era, the expectations were set for an extremely sophisticated piece of musical literature to be performed in this academic setting. Brahms had another idea, however, and shocked the audience with an almost comic compilation of youthful tunes which he referred to as a "rollicking potpourri of student songs." Within these references are college party and drinking songs such as "Wir hatten gebauet ein stattliches Haus" (We have built a stately house), "Der Landesvator" ("The father of our country"), and "Was komm dort von der Hoh'?" ("What comes from afar?"), in addition to the last song heard in the piece "Gaudeamus igitur" ("There, let us be merry"), which was an academic song often used in ceremonies such as commencement as an anthem. There is no doubt that the students in the audience of this event must have been quite entertained with the cheeky nod to student life at the time. The first song that is referenced in the piece, heard in the trumpets, is "We have built a stately house," which was used by student organizations in support of joining together different regions under monarchical rule. This song had stirred up so much trouble that officials had banned it for decades prior. With the song still banned in Vienna at the time, Brahms's overture had a two week delay for the Viennese premiere.

The overture is an adapted sonata-allegro form. It opens in a minor key with a

soft, suspenseful marchlike feel with a bouncing effect in the strings, horn, and bassoons which contrasts the suspicious lyrical line in the clarinets and lower strings. The rebellious protest song "We have built a stately house" introduced by the trumpets soon interrupts. The next song, "The father of our country" appears in the violins and violas, as if singing. Soon after, the orchestra transitions into a brisk tempo with the bassoons playing "What comes from afar," a freshman initiation song also known as The Fox-Ride. After reusing the material from earlier in the overture, Brahms features the song "There, let us be merry" in the entire orchestra.

While the officials at the time were not entirely pleased with this piece due to its outright rebellious and juvenile nature, the piece has become a success and is considered standard concert overture repertoire.

- Chantel Charis, M.M

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 39 (1992)

Lowell Liebermann

Born: February 22, 1961; New York City, New York.

Instrumentation: piccolo, flute, oboe, english horn, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, contrabassoon, horns, trumpets, percussion, harp, piano, solo flute, and strings.

Lowell Liebermann is among the most performed and recorded living composers in the world. His catalogue boasts nearly 140 compositions to date including two operas, a ballet, and myriad chamber and orchestral works. One of the earlier and most lauded, his Sonata for Flute and Piano, brought him world renown. It also garnered the attention of celebrated flutist James Galway, who commissioned Concerto for flute and orchestra.

Liebermann spent the bulk of his childhood in Queens, New York, later moving north to Westchester. He began studying composition at age 14 with Ruth Schonthal, a scion of German composer Paul Hindemith. Just two years later, at 16, he premiered his Piano Sonata No. 1 at Carnegie Hall. This would help him earn a full scholarship at the Juilliard school, where he studied with David Diamond and Vincent Perischetti.

Despite his early success as a composer, Liebermann faced challenges from his new teachers, most of whom were disciples of the serialism and atonality that had emerged around the beginning of the twentieth century. Schonthal had warned him of this "aesthetic dictatorship" and implored the young composer to "remain true to his artistic vision." His own pedagogy reflects that of his first teacher— since joining the Mannes School of Music faculty in 2012 he has encouraged his students to compose the music that they want to hear.

In 1988 Liebermann premiered Sonata for flute and piano, his first piece for the instrument. It received high acclaim and led to a busy few years for the composer. In 1990 he had a chance encounter with James Galway in New York, who asked if he would orchestrate the sonata. Libermann replied, "for you I would orchestrate it, but I would actually much rather write a new concerto." Galway agreed and commissioned what would become Liebermann's Opus 39, the first of three flute works requested by the flutist. Concerto for flute and orchestra premiered on November 6, 1992, performed by Galway and the St. Louis Symphony. It has since been recorded nearly two-dozen times, including in 1998 by Galway and

the London Mozart Players, which Liebermann himself conducted along with his other two flute concertos.

The concerto begins with a soft, marching ostinato in the trumpets and violins, over which the solo flute plays its primary theme. There is an element of fantasy to the line; a product of Liebermann's use of the lydian mode (a major scale with a raised fourth degree) throughout the entire first movement. As the movement reaches its climax, the solo flute erupts into an animated variation of its theme, to which the winds entwine one by one. Gradually, the orchestra's intensity diminishes giving way to the gentle march that began the movement. The primary theme is again stated but now in the first violins, gilded by the solo flute's descant. The two weave around each other until a final ascent in the flute closes the movement.

The second movement is also set in the lydian mode. A pulse beats tranquilly under the solo flute, whose pensive song spreads through the orchestra and builds to a breathtaking climax. The orchestra then gently recedes, again to a gentle pulse, before coming to rest on the movement's final chord. The third movement erupts into an unrelenting presto with the solo flute surging up and down octatonic scales (an eight-tone scale with alternating whole-steps and half-steps). The trumpets interject with a delirious fanfare which the solo flute echoes before resuming its Prokofiev-esque flutter. The back and forth continues and more join the fray until the solo flute recalls the lyricism of the first two movements. A clamer among tutti winds and piano herald a return to the movement's opening mania before pushing on to the prestissimo coda.

Much like the iconic Concerto for flute and orchestra, Liebermann's output has been unyielding; since its composition he has written 100 works. Among the more recent is his first ballet, Frankenstein, which had its U.S. premiere only blocks from SFCM, at the San Francisco Ballet in 2017. His latest, Sonata for clarinet and piano, was premiered this past October by the Boston Chamber Music Society.

- Samuel C. Nedel, B.M. '22

Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Born: May 7, 1840; Votnisk, Russia. Died: November 6, 1863; Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Instrumentation: 3 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, and strings.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is considered the first Russian composer to assimilate Western symphonic norms into a new type of Russian music, an accomplishment that made him a celebrity during his lifetime, despite his disdain for being in the public eye. To this day, the frequency of his music in the United States concert repertoire is second only to Beethoven. Despite rampant success, Tchaikovsky was plagued by a malady many people know well: insecurity. This was a theme throughout his long career, and greatly affected him while writing his fifth symphony.

Tchaikovsky's failed marriage, among other personal crises, had much to do with his anxieties. He married Antonina Ivatovna Milyukova in 1877, and they separated after just two months, although they never divorced. Not only was their marriage arranged for the sole reason of concealing Tchaikovsky's sexuality, but they were also wholly incompatible. Tchaikovsky's creativity seems to have been permanently affected by the crisis. He confessed this sentiment to his patron, Nadezhda von Meck, saying, "I am exceedingly anxious to prove to myself, as to others, that I am not played out as a composer." Von Meck was a wealthy widow eccentrically attached to his music, and ultimately the most significant woman in his life, although they never met. She supported him professionally and personally for 14 years, and he wrote often to her as a friend. After a whirlwind tour of Europe, during which he worked mainly as a conductor, he returned to a quiet life at his vacation home in Frolovskoe; the peaceful, natural world inspired him, and he wrote the symphony in four months. At the same time, he was also working on the overture for Hamlet. Traces from the previous Manfred Symphony can be found in both of these compositions.

Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 is characterized by his colorful use of a classically proportioned orchestra. As is characteristic of his symphonic style, this symphony seems programmatic due to the main theme and how it brings in a dramatic spectrum of musical character, sounding at times poignant, dramatic, wistful, and eventually triumphant. The symphony is generally considered an absolute symphony (one without a true narrative), however, the motivic

repetition presented throughout creates a cyclic dimension and a trajectory to the triumphal manifestation at the end of the piece that may seem narrativedriven. In the context of Tchaikovsky's passionate style, and with the knowledge of his personal turmoil, perhaps some of the story is untold.

The unifying motive, referred to by scholars as the fate motive, is first heard in the clarinets during the first movement. The second movement begins with a trio of melodies from horn, oboe, and clarinet with bassoon which are interrupted by the fate motive. By the end of the graceful, ballet-like third movement, fate intrudes again, heard in the clarinets and bassoons. In the fourth movement, the persistent motive is fully integrated into, and while it had been interruptive and in a melancholy minor key in prior movements, it is now in a victorious major key. Although much of the symphony sounds bleak, "shafts of sunlight" shine through: graceful passages, illuminating secondary harmonies, and vivacious rhythms give a sense of hope to this symphony.

Tchaikovsky's ability to synthesize the traditional with the novel shines through in the third movement: this movement fulfills the 19th-century expectations of a dance movement, but Tchaikovsky chose to compose a waltz. This was an unexpected, contemporary choice. He put aside the typical, humorous scherzo, while still incorporating a triple meter dance type in a way that recalls the heritage of earlier symphonies of the classical era.

Although Tchaikovsky was dissatisfied with his final draft of the symphony, its vast popularity in the symphonic repertoire challenged his dim perspective. He believed its success came only from his previous successes and wrote to his patron, "There is something repellent in it, some over-exaggerated color, some insincerity of fabrication which the public instinctively recognizes...the applause and ovations referred not to this but to other works of mine." He also felt the structure was mis-managed, further writing, "I cannot complain of lack of inventive power, but I have always suffered from lack of skill in the management of form." Many agreed the structure seems a bit patch-work, especially compared to his previous, more-cohesive symphonies. However, Symphony No. 5 has been oftenperformed and well-loved for its lush, romantic melodies, and the poignancy of the victorious fate theme, the very same aspects Tchaikovsky criticized himself for; where Tchaikovsky heard over-exaggerated color, most audiences hear his expressive genius. Not unlike the symphony's bleakness that resigned to jubilant triumph, were Tchaikovsky's personal feelings of crippling self-doubt as he wrote and released the symphony, and the eventual triumph of the symphony's legacy.

- Monica Slater and Camryn Finn, M.M. '23

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