

Itasca Symphony Orchestra Personnel

1st Violin

Mary LaPlant
Concertmaster
Kristine Arntson
Sarah Kowitz
Steve Highland
Olga Chernyshev

2nd Violin

Amanda Wirta
Kelli Bishop
Kolton Graf
Andie Chase
IOSP Student
Katelyn Taplin
IOSP Student
Rebecca Petersen
Kristin Sande
Roger Solie
*April Clayton
IOSP Student
*Rain Skyles
IOSP Student

Viola

Jesse Davis
Kevin Hoeschen
Ron Kari
Kevin Peterson

Cello

Becky Loomis
Elizabeth Taplin
IOSP Student
Marissa Faerber
Rebecca Peterson
Mark Solie

Bass

Tom Nelson
IOSP Student
Vince Osborn

Flute

Aaron Swanson
Kirsten Siegle
Lila Dezelske
Piccolo

Oboe

Madeline Miller
Kimberley Dillon

Clarinet

Jan McKinney

Bassoon

Mack Swanson

French Horn

Deena Skaja
Heidi Wick
Brianna Roberts

Trumpet

Cassie Thuen
Dan Carlson

Trombone

Thomas Patnaude
David Grosland

Tuba

Phil Kneeland

Percussion

Peter Kneeland
Abi Mason
Darcy Reich
Piano

Harp

Janell Lamier

***IOSP Student
participating in
Jurassic Park**

Itasca Symphony Orchestra

February 15, 2020

7:00pm

Wilcox Theater, Reif Center

Thank you for joining us tonight. We hope you enjoy the performance.

Overture to *Coriolan*

Ludwig Van Beethoven
1770-1827

The year 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birthday. We celebrate Beethoven's musical genius and his outstanding contributions to music with the piece he wrote as an overture for the five-act tragedy *Coriolan*. The hero, Coriolanus, was a semi-fictional Roman General who turned against the Empire after being denied its leadership. The overture begins with war-like severity as Coriolanus prepares to sack the city with an army of his former enemies. But just then his mother and wife appear, beseeching for mercy. A second theme, quieter but firm in character, contrasts with the opening scenario, but is interrupted several times with moments of Coriolanus' rage. The clipped rhythms that accompany this more tender theme in the violins and winds symbolize both the royalty of the hero (resembling a French Overture), and at the same time anticipate his coming death at the hands of his mercenaries after the General betrays their cause in favor of the Roman people. The clipped rhythms are also associated with a funeral march. Eventually the dialogue between military might and familial tenderness culminates in one last heroic stand, followed by the death of Coriolanus and heard as final fading heartbeats in the pizzicato strings.

Meditation from *Thais*

Kristine Arntson, violin soloist

Jules Frederic Massenet
1842-1912

The Nineteenth Century French composer Jules Massenet was quoted as saying "Melody is the foundation of all music as our good earth is beneath us all." As you listen to the solo violin in this selection from his popular opera *Thais* you will be inclined to agree. The opera is set on the River Nile in the early first century and tells the tragic story of a priest and the dancer Thais in a romantic battle between sin and piety. The violin evokes the "Meditation" of Thais as she contemplates repentance; it appears as an instrumental solo between the acts of the opera, and originally included a chorus in the accompaniment. The famous violin solo is delicate and captivating and has become a popular concert piece for other orchestral instruments as well as violin.

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Suite No 1 from CarmenGeorges Bizet
1838-1875

- I. Prelude
- II. Aragonaise
- III. Intermezzo
- IV. Seguedille
- V. Les Dragons d'Alcala
- VI. Les Toréadors

Carmen Suite No. 1 contains selections from Georges Bizet's famous opera *Carmen*. The music from the opera was arranged for orchestra by his friend Ernest Guirard, because Bizet himself had passed away during the opera's initial run at Paris. He was only 37 years of age. Paris audiences were accustomed to wholesome family friendly operas with happy endings. They were shocked to see a seduction and murder transpire on stage and ticket sales fell flat. It is said that Bizet's "failure" contributed to his early demise. Later that same year, the opera achieved great success in Vienna, and it went on to become one of the most beloved operas. This will be familiar music even to those who have never seen the opera.

Bizet's variety in orchestration and strong ability to define character and mood in composition are evident in this music, composed by a Frenchman with a Spanish inflection. The ominous "Prelude" foreshadows the tragic ending. "Aragonaise" is a lively dance number that sets the tune of the colorful and simmering Spanish bullfighting scene. The "Intermezzo" evokes the tranquil mountain hideaway of the smugglers at night with lyrical woodwind solos. The woodwind section portrays the fiery gypsy Carmen as she attempts to seduce Don Jose' in "Seguidille". "Les Dragons d'Alcala" is a march which introduces Don Jose's regiment during the opening of the 2nd act. The third player in the love triangle, the bullfighter Escamillo, is depicted in "Les Toreadors" for an exciting and rousing finale.

INTERMISSION

Allegro from Symphony No. 31 in D Major
("The Hornsignal")Joseph Haydn
1732-1809

Joseph Haydn wrote his Symphony No. 31 in 1765 for his employer, the wealthy Esterhazy family of Hungary. The first movement of the symphony opens with a hunting call featuring four horns answered by the orchestra. When Haydn and his musicians performed the piece at the Esterhazy Court there were only 12-15 musicians, so the prominent role of four horns was a bold departure from the normal symphonic personnel. Horns in Haydn's day signaled the mail delivery, progress of the hunt, arrival of special guests and a coachman's desire to pass on the road. This movement contains many horn signals thus the reason for the nickname, "The Hornsignal". Conductor Keith Swanson chose this piece to highlight our outstanding horn section.

Larghetto from Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A-major
*Janice McKinney, clarinet soloist*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
1756-1791

This stunning quintet written by Mozart in 1789 is an unquestionable masterpiece. Mozart showcases the clarinet's warmth, wide range and agility while balancing the sound perfectly with the accompanying string instruments. This is the first known composition of a clarinet with a string quartet. The clarinet was a relatively new instrument in Mozart's time and he was one of the first Composers to include the clarinet regularly. It was the Viennese clarinetist Anton Sadler who inspired Mozart to write the piece. Mozart wrote to Sadler, "Indeed, your instrument has so soft and lovely a tone that no one can resist it."

Highlights from Jurassic ParkJohn William
Arranged by Calvin Custer

Itasca Strings Program students join the Itasca Symphony Orchestra in this arrangement of John William's soundtrack written for the 1993 movie *Jurassic Park*. As a curiosity, the chaotic ending of the piece provides the players with a bit of "Augenmusik," or eye music, in which the shape of the notation resembles the jaws of the dinosaurs!

76 Trombones from the Music ManMeredith Wilson
Arranged by Ted Ricketts

Ted Rickett's arrangement of 76 Trombones for orchestra is a fun interpretation of the signature song from the 1957 musical *The Music Man*. Anderson mixes Sousa march phrases around Meredith Wilson's melodies in an upbeat and enjoyable creation featuring Itasca Symphony's trombone section.

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