

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor

CONCERT TIMELINE

2 hours and 30 minutes

The Merry Widow Overture			Intermission	Symphony No. 6
9 min	3 min	10 min	20 min	1 hr 23 min

Brief remarks by Leon Botstein music director



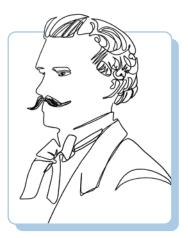
Franz Lehár

Born 4/30/1870 in Komáron, Hungary Died 10/24/1948 at age 78 in Bad Ischl, Austria

The Merry Widow Overture

Operetta Written 1905, at age 35 Operetta Premiered 12/30/1905 at Theater an der Wien in Vienna; Lehár conductor Overture Written 1940, at age 69 Overture Premiered 4/1940 in Vienna at

the composer's 70th birthday concert; Vienna Philharmonic

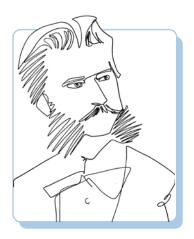


Eduard Strauss

Born 3/15/1835 in Vienna Died 12/28/1916 at age 81 in Vienna

Bahn frei!

Written 1869, at age 33 Premiered 2/17/1869 at the Diana-Saal Ballroom in Vienna



Johann Strauss II

Born 10/25/1825 in Vienna Died 6/3/1899 at age 63 in Vienna

Kaiser-Walzer (Emperor Waltz)

Written 1889, at age 63 Premiered 10/21/1889 at the Königsbau in Berlin

Intermission

MEET& GREET some of the musicians in the lobby SHAREAPHOTO @TheOrchNow #TheOrchNow REFRESHMENTS available in the lobby WIFI BardWireless RESTROOMS located on either side of the lobby

Brief remarks by Han-Yi Huang bassoon



Gustav Mahler

Born 7/7/1860 in Kaliště, Bohemia (now Czech Republic) Died 5/18/1911 at age 50 in Vienna

Symphony No. 6

- Allegro energico, ma non troppo (fast with energy, but not too fast) 24 min
- Andante moderato (moderately slow) 15 min

Scherzo: Wuchtig (powerful) 13 min

Finale: Allegro moderato—Allegro energico (moderately fast, then fast with energy) *31 min*

Written 1903–05, in Mahler's mid 40s; revised in 1906

Premiered 5/27/1906 at the Essen Festival of Contemporary Music in Essen, Germany; Mahler *conductor*

All timings are approximate.

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY KHOA DOAN



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The Music

FRANZ LEHÁR'S THE MERRY WIDOW OVERTURE

Notes by TŌN trumpet player Forrest Albano



An Iconic Musical Gem

Prepare to be transported to the charming world of 20th-century Vienna with Franz Lehár's captivating overture to his operetta *Die lustige Witwe (The Merry Widow)*. This iconic musical gem, composed in 1905, has since become a beloved staple of the classical repertoire, known for its infectious melodies and vibrant orchestration that vividly captures the essence of a bygone era. This arrangement of the overture was rewritten for a larger orchestra, presenting a broader range of the music from the operetta, as a celebration of the composer's 70th birthday in 1940.

Lilting Waltzes and Lively Rhythms

The overture serves as an introduction to the operetta's comedic and romantic escapades, set in a society of grand balls, elegant soirées, and intriguing social dynamics. Lehár crafts melodies that are both enchanting and unforgettable. From the very first notes, the overture whisks us into a world of elegance and merriment, where lilting waltzes and lively rhythms conjure images of swirling dancers and dazzling gowns. The overture's opening anthem commands attention, announcing the forthcoming musical festivities with an air of excitement and anticipation. This leads seamlessly into a spirited waltz that captures the heartbeat of Vienna's bustling social scene. As the melodies intertwine, listeners can almost envision couples gliding across ballroom floors, their laughter and elegance echoing through the music.

A Colorful Orchestration

Lehár's orchestration brims with color and vitality, featuring a balanced interplay between the various sections of the orchestra. The strings create a lush foundation, while the woodwinds add a touch of elegance and whimsy. The brass and percussion provide moments of triumphant flair, contributing to the overture's dynamic range and emotional depth. Lehár's standalone orchestral overture gives listeners a glimpse into the operatic story of mistaken identities, humorous misunderstandings and romantic entanglements, all while showcasing Vienna's elegance on the concert stage.

EDUARD STRAUSS' BAHN FREI!

Notes by TON horn player Tori Boell



Clear the Track!

Eduard Strauss' delightful composition Bahn frei! (which roughly translates to "Clear the Track!") sets a tone of boundless energy and vivacity. Premiered in 1869, this work is an exemplary display of Strauss' mastery of the polka schnell genre. A member of the Strauss musical dynasty (and brother to fellow composers Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss II), Eduard upheld the family's musical traditions of creating engaging and exuberant melodies that continue to enchant and engage audiences today.

The Music

This spirited polka captures the essence of 19th-century Vienna's bustling social life and celebration of music and dance. From it's opening bars, the piece bursts forth with vivacious enthusiasm, propelled by the brisk tempo and 2/4 time that characterizes the polka. As the piece unfolds, Strauss creates a jovial and joyful dance between the melody (carried by the woodwinds and the violins) and supportive structural lines (carried by the brass and the rest of the strings). The orchestra in its entirety seems to jump in unison into the next melody. This celebration is guided by the horns into the Trio section. Not dissimilar to the opening themes, the flutes and violins once again lead orchestra and audience into another catchy and memorable melody, once again inviting listeners (and performers) to dance along to music that begs to be participated in. With a final reprise of the opening melodies, everyone is once again swept away into a final vivacious dance to the finish.

A Beloved Gem

Bahn frei! remains a beloved gem within the Strauss family repertoire, reminding us of the power of music to evoke feelings of happiness and camaraderie. Strauss' composition continues to invite orchestras worldwide to embrace the spirit of Viennese tradition and celebrate the joyous essence of life through music.

JOHANN STRAUSS II'S KAISER-WALZER (EMPEROR WALTZ)

Notes by TON violinist Jonathan Fenwick



The Composer

Johann Strauss II was born to a musical family; his father popularized the waltz form in Vienna and wrote the famous Radetzky March. But he did not encourage young Johann Junior to follow in his footsteps. When Johann Senior found out his son had been taking secret violin lessons, he beat him severely. Still, Strauss II went on to be a well-known composer, eclipsing his father's popularity. The two developed a rivalry as positions were offered to Johann Junior rather than Senior. Today, Strauss is principally remembered for a few well-loved chestnuts, including Tales from the Vienna Woods, The Blue Danube, and Vienna Blood. But he composed an astonishing amount, primarily dance music. A project to record his complete orchestral music on the Marco Polo record label ran to 52 volumes. Being a composer of light music, some musicians today sneer at his work; however, he was greatly admired by the composers Richard Wagner, Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss (no relation), and Gustav Mahler. Before hearing his name I knew his music, thanks to the merry-go-round in the simulation game RollerCoaster Tycoon.

The Music

The Emperor Waltz was written for the 40th anniversary of the crowning of the

Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I, and to mark his friendship with the German Emperor Wilhelm II. Thus, it combines a Prussian march introduction with a main section in the form of a Viennese waltz. The march introduction has a light and charming character, like tin soldiers. A lyrical cello solo leads to the main theme, a soaring and floating waltz melody. In the middle sections Strauss gives us a variety of elegant waltz tunes, some bright and energetic in character, others nostalgic and lilting. The snare drum adds some march-like flavor to the waltz. The primary theme returns at the end after an array of colorful dances. I suspect many of you will leave the hall humming it to yourself during intermission!

GUSTAV MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 6 Notes by TON harpist Cheng Wei (Ashley) Lim



Main Character Energy

As a "Gen Z-er" the best description of Mahler's Sixth Symphony that comes to my mind is "main character energy," but crippled with intense feelings of trepidation. Whether you're a Boomer, Gen X, or Millennial, everyone can relate to the shared tragic fate of life; undeserved suffering, primal doubt, and eventual death. Despite such harsh realities, all of us still persevere in search for quixotic meaning and fulfillment. This is exactly what Mahler puts his courageous protagonist through, accompanied by his own Mephistopheles, in his most psychologically oriented and pessimistic symphony.

The Music

Ironically written during a family vacation in the Austrian alps, and a relatively happy period of his life, Mahler places the spotlight on his subconscious tormentor. The symphony begins with a grim march that shortly reveals the ever-so-present theme led by the strings. The rhythms Bum ... Bum.... Babum bum bum played by the timpani underscores the pass of harmonies from major to minor, preparing us for the next section, a complete swing in mood: a more fervent melody that his wife, Alma, said was intended to represent her. Major to minor, light to dark, hope to tragedy, as the two themes develop and circle around each other-it reminds us of a basic principle in life, that we require balance and equilibrium and should not be blinded by just one.

Now comes the middle sections where conductors have to exercise their judgment to decide the order of the middle movements. Should the Andante or Scherzo come first? Mahler couldn't make up his mind as well, having revised and experimented with the order of two inner movements multiple times. In these performances, we proceed with the dreamy Andante moderato, a balm, free of the turmoil of the rest of the work. One might liken this movement to gentle and safe nostalgic memories of childhood and the countryside. With the harp ever-so present, lulling you to sleep, and distant sounds of cowbells reminiscent of pastoral, idyllic farms. Although there are occasional impassioned moments, its overall serene mood still prevails.

The timpani introduces the scherzo, revealing a macabre, unsettling, and diabolical atmosphere, much like the first movement. Again, the darkness is relieved, this time with a trio section. Here, imagine two young children playing in the sand. Still not fully developed, their movements are a little clumsy and irregular. And while playing, a dark omen looms over them. The two different sections circle and juxtapose each other abruptly throughout the movement, forming a chilling caricature. Mahler describes the end of the Scherzo: "Horrible-those children's voices become more and more tragic, and at the end there is one fading little voice, whimpering."

Now the movement we've all been waiting for, the finale. A summary of the preceding three movement's musical and psychological ideas. Although opened with scintillating glissandos from the harp, something still feels a little alien. Terror swiftly envelops. Our protagonist goes forth to conquer but is faced with demonic violence. Both dread and hope are presented again but on a far greater scale with noticeably greater intensity. The outcome of the protagonist's struggle remains uncertain until the symphony's final moments. Headstrong and unvielding, he ventures further, but in the height of his confidence, a literal hammer-blow strikes him down. Frenzy ensues, only to be halted again by a second hammer-blow, sealing the fate of our protagonist.

The Artists

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor



Leon Botstein is founder and music director of The Orchestra Now (TON), music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO), artistic codirector of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival, and conductor laureate and principal guest conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO), where he served as music director from 2003 to 2011. He has been guest conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre, Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Taipei Symphony, Simón Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfónica Juvenil de Caracas in Venezuela, among others. In 2018, he assumed artistic directorship of Campus Grafenegg and Grafenegg Academy in Austria.

Recordings include acclaimed recordings of Othmar Schoeck's *Lebendig begraben* with TŌN, Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner* with the ASO, a Grammy-nominated recording of Popov's First Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra, and other various recordings with TŌN, ASO, the London Philharmonic, NDR Orchestra Hamburg, and JSO, among others. He is

editor of The Musical Quarterly and author of numerous articles and books, including The Compleat Brahms (Norton), Jefferson's Children (Doubleday), Judentum und Modernität (Bölau), and Von Beethoven zu Berg (Zsolnay). Honors include Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award; the American Academy of Arts and Letters award; and Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria, for his contributions to music. Other distinctions include the Bruckner Society's Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor for his interpretations of that composer's music, the Leonard Bernstein Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, and Carnegie Foundation's Academic Leadership Award. In 2011, he was inducted into the American Philosophical Society.

THE ORCHESTRA NOW



The Orchestra Now (TŌN) is a group of vibrant young musicians from across the globe who are making orchestral music relevant to 21st-century audiences by sharing their unique personal insights in a welcoming environment. Hand-picked from the world's leading conservatories—including the Yale School of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Royal Academy of Music, and the New England Conservatory of Music—the members of TŌN are enlightening curious

minds by giving on-stage introductions and demonstrations, writing concert notes from the musicians' perspective, and having oneon-one discussions with patrons during intermissions.

Conductor, educator, and music historian Leon Botstein, whom The New York Times said "draws rich, expressive playing from the orchestra," founded TON in 2015 as a graduate program at Bard College, where he is also president. TŌN offers both a three-year master's degree in Curatorial, Critical, and Performance Studies and a two-year advanced certificate in Orchestra Studies. The orchestra's home base is the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center at Bard, where it performs multiple concerts each season and takes part in the annual Bard Music Festival. It also performs regularly at the finest venues in New York, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and others across NYC and beyond. HuffPost, who has called TON's performances "dramatic and intense," praises these concerts as "an opportunity to see talented musicians early in their careers."

The orchestra has performed with many distinguished guest conductors and soloists, including Leonard Slatkin, Neeme Järvi, Gil Shaham, Fabio Luisi, Joan Tower, Vadim Repin, Hans Graf, Peter Serkin, Naomi Woo, Gerard Schwarz, Tan Dun, and JoAnn Falletta. Among TŌN's many recordings are albums featuring pianists Piers Lane, Anna Shelest, and Orion Weiss; Buried Alive with baritone Michael Nagy, which includes the first recording in almost 60 years-and only the second recording ever-of Othmar Schoeck's song-cycle Lebendia begraben; Classics of American Romanticism, featuring the first-ever complete recording of Bristow's Arcadian Symphony; and the soundtrack to the motion picture Forte. Recordings of TON's live concerts from the Fisher Center can be heard on Classical WMHT-FM and WWFM The Classical Network, and are featured regularly on Performance Today, broadcast nationwide.

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Leon Botstein, Music Director

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Enikő Samu Concertmaster Haley Schricker Judith Kim Lana Auerbach Angeles Hoyos Shengjia (Sherry) Zhang Chance McDermott Leonardo Pineda '15 TŌN '19 Zhen Liu TŌN '23 Michael Hahn Joohyun Lee Kathryn Aldous Adam Jeffreys TŌN '23 Yaewon Choi

Violin II

Yi-Ting Kuo Principal Jonathan Fenwick Emerie Mon Julián Andrés Rey Peñaranda Seunghye Park Haley Gillia Zeyi Sun Mingyue Xia Yuchen Zhao IAP '24 Luca Sakon Maya Lorenzen Jessica Belflower Samuel Frois* Nayoung Kim*

Viola

Emmanuel Koh TŌN '19 *Principal* Tania Ladino Ramirez Sydney Link Michael Halbrook Andrea Natalia Torres-Álvarez Brianne Lugo Keegan Donlon Karen Waltuch Eva Gerard Nelsy Badia

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Amelia Smerz Principal Emma Churchill Yuri Ahn Sam Boundy Elvira Hoyos Dariimaa Batsaikhan Jihyun Hwang Even Rong Ma Anita Balázs Chris van Zyl IAP '24 Eva Roebuck*

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Zachary Gassenheimer Principal^{1,2}, E-flat Clarinet² Colby Bond Principal^{3,4} David Keringer Bass Clarinet Jarrett Hoffman Sangwon Lee TŌN'18 E-flat Clarinet

Bassoon

Miranda Macias Principal^{1,3} Han-Yi Huang Principal⁴ Kylie Bartlett Briana Hoffman Philip McNaughton TŌN '23 *Contrabassoon*

Horn

Daniel Itzkowitz Principal¹ Ziming Zhu Principal² Douglas Nunes Principal³ Stefan Williams Principal⁴ Tori Boell Emily Buehler TŌN '21 Steven Harmon TŌN '22 Alberto Arias Flores '23 APS '25 Daniel Salera Assistant

Trumpet

Jid-anan Netthai Principal¹ Giulia Rath Principal^{2,3} Forrest Albano Principal⁴ Angela Gosse James Lake Zachary Silberschlag TŌN '18

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Zachary Johnson Principal ¹⁻³ Stephen Whimple Principal ⁴ Samuel Boeger Bass Trombone Benjamin Oatmen Bass Trombone

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HAN-YI HUANG bassoon



Han-Yi will talk briefly about Mahler's Symphony No. 6 on stage before the performance.

Hometown: Changhua City, Taiwan

Alma mater: New England Conservatory, B.M., 2019, M.M., 2021

What is your earliest memory of classical music? At my first piano lesson, my teacher taught me the tune from the fourth movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

How did you hear about TŌN? What inspired you to apply? I heard about TŌN from a friend. I liked how TŌN supports musicians who want to pursue an orchestral career.

Which composer do you feel you connect with the most? Beethoven

What is your favorite piece of music and why do you love it? Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. It is amazingly brutal and beautiful.

If you could play another instrument, what would it be? I would try to be a violinist.

If you weren't a musician, what would you be doing? A screenplay writer, or anything related to film.

Which three people, dead or alive, would you like to have dinner with and why? Heston Blumenthal, he can certainly prepare an unexpected meal. David Fincher, I am a big fan of his movies. Kon Satoshi, I am also a big fan of his work.

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*Deceased

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Bill Cavanaugh Environmental Specialist Drita Gjokaj Environmental Specialist Will Marvin Environmental Specialist

Marketing and Audience Services

David Steffen Director of Marketing and Audience Services Brittany Brouker Marketing Manager Maia Kaufman Audience and Member Services Manager Garrett Sager HRA '23 Assistant Marketing Manager Paulina Swierczek VAP '19 Audience and Member Services Assistant Manager

Box Office

Jardena Gertler-Jaffe VAP '21 Audience and Member Services Coordinator Sam Rauch VAP '22 Box Office Supervisor Courtney Williams Box Office Supervisor

Communications

Mark Primoff Associate Vice President of Communications Amy Murray Videographer

Front of House

Elyse Lichtenthal House Manager Lukina Andreyev '23 Assistant House Manager Ana Aparicio '24 Assistant House Manager Joas Erasmus '26 Assistant House Manager Joel Guahnich '24 Assistant House Manager Hamed Haidari '25 Assistant House Manager Asa Kaplan '23 Associate House Manager

Publications

Mary Smith Director of Publications Jenna Obrizok Production Manager

Production

Jared Goldstein Director of Production Dávid Bánóczi-Ruof '22 Production Administrator Carmine Covelli Satellite Project Manager Kat Sirico Production Manager

Audio

Lex Morton Audio Supervisor

BARD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Executive Director Irene Zedlacher

Artistic Directors Leon Botstein Christopher H. Gibbs

Associate Director Raissa St. Pierre '87

Costumes

Moe Schell Costume Supervisor Sara Sa Assistant Costume Shop Manager

Lighting

Josh Foreman Lighting Supervisor Nick Hawrylko Head Electrician

Orchestra

Stephen Dean Orchestra Production Manager Grace Locklin Orchestra Stage Manager Lydia McCaw Orchestra Stage Manager Nora Rubenstone '11 Associate Orchestra Production Manager

Scholars in Residence 2024 Francesca Brittan

Sarah Hibberd D Program Committee 2024 Ja

Byron Adams Leon Botstein V

Francesca Brittan Christopher H. Gibbs Sarah Hibberd Richard Wilson Irene Zedlacher

Scenerv

Director

Video

Rick Reiser Technical Director

Maggie McFarland Carpenter

Joe Motzkin Assistant Technical

Sam Dickson Carpenter

Kat Pagsolingan Video

Supervisor

Director of Choruses James Bagwell

Vocal Casting Joshua Winograde

Fisher Center

The Fisher Center develops, produces, and presents performing arts across disciplines through new productions and context-rich programs that challenge and inspire. As a premier professional performing arts center and a hub for research and education, the Fisher Center supports artists, students, and audiences in the development and examination of artistic ideas, offering perspectives from the past and present as well as visions of the future. The Fisher Center demonstrates Bard's commitment to the performing arts as a cultural and educational necessity. Home is the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, designed by Frank Gehry and located on the campus of Bard College in New York's Hudson Valley. The Fisher Center offers outstanding programs to many communities, including the students and faculty of Bard College, and audiences in the Hudson Valley, New York City, across the country, and around the world.

Bard College

Founded in 1860, Bard College is a four-year, residential college of the liberal arts and sciences located 90 miles north of New York City. With the addition of the Montgomery Place estate, Bard's campus consists of nearly 1,000 parklike acres in the Hudson River Valley. It offers bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, and bachelor of music degrees, with majors in nearly 40 academic programs; advanced degrees through 13 graduate centers; eight early colleges; and numerous dual-degree programs nationally and internationally. Building on its 163-year history as a competitive and innovative undergraduate institution, Bard College has expanded its mission as a private institution acting in the public interest across the country and around the world to meet broader student needs and increase access to liberal arts education. The undergraduate program at the main campus in upstate New York has a reputation for scholarly excellence, a focus on the arts, and civic engagement. Bard is committed to enriching culture, public life, and democratic discourse by training tomorrow's thought leaders. For more information about Bard College, visit bard.edu.

Land Acknowledgment for Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson

Developed in Cooperation with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community

In the spirit of truth and equity, it is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are gathered on the sacred homelands of the Munsee and Muhheaconneok people, who are the original stewards of this land. Today, due to forced removal, the community resides in Northeast Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We honor and pay respect to their ancestors past and present, as well as to future generations, and we recognize their continuing presence in their homelands. We understand that our acknowledgement requires those of us who are settlers to recognize our own place in and responsibilities towards addressing inequity, and that this ongoing and challenging work requires that we commit to real engagement with the Munsee and Mohican communities to build an inclusive and equitable space for all.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Bard College music community celebrates its wide-ranging approaches to musical studies by emphasizing creative expression and the development of each individual's artistic voice. Our programs include:

- •The Undergraduate Music Program (classical instrumental and voice, composition, electronic music, ethnomusicology, history, jazz, theory)
- •The Conservatory of Music (composition, conducting, instrumental, US-China, voice) •The Orchestra Now

Historically, classical music education has foregrounded European practices of the 17th through 20th centuries. As we become accountable for discriminations relating to that narrow focus, we affirm our intention to break down those boundaries of exclusion. Actionable steps towards equity include: the long term cultivation of a diverse faculty, staff, and student body that is inclusive of a diverse range of races, ethnicities, genders, and LGBTQ+ identities; the practice of respectful listening and communication within and between our programs; the regular review of curricula and their successful inclusion of multiple perspectives; the presentation of diverse musical programming that features and furthers collaborations across the Bard campus; and the forging of initiatives that engage with underserved communities and underrepresented populations. As we pursue these goals, we remain committed to taking actions that combat discrimination and racism in order to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive program.



Upcoming Events

Jean-Marie Zeitouni Conducts

Exodus: Jewish Composers in Exile

SATURDAY at 7 PM | SUNDAY at 2 PM

Jean-Marie Zeitouni conductor Megan Moore mezzo-soprano Ryan MacEvoy McCullough piano

SATURDAY AT 7 PM

Saint-Saëns Bacchanale from Samson et Dalila
Berlioz Les Nuits d'été (The Summer Nights)
Fauré Pelléas et Mélisande Suite
Vincent d'Indy Symphony on a French Mountain Air Leon Botstein conductor

Alexandre Tansman Polish Rhapsody Josef Tal Exodus (U.S. premiere) Walter Kaufmann An Indian Symphony (U.S. premiere) Marcel Rubin Symphony No. 4, Dies irae



Bard

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