

Bainbridge Performing Arts 2009-2010 Season

News from Bainbridge Performing Arts

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**Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra presents “From the New World”
April 17 & 18: Saturday @ 7:30 p.m. & Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.
At Bainbridge Performing Arts**

The third concert in the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra’s 2009-2010 Season explores America’s influence on the music of the Western world, featuring works by Ives, Delius, Gershwin, and concluding with Dvorak’s beloved Symphony No.9 in E minor “From the New World.”

For years, many Americans felt that the United States had to import its musical culture from its European roots. In the 1800s America could proclaim Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Whitman, and Melville as native sons and authors, but its most famous composers included Chadwick, MacDowell, and Gottschalk – names still less familiar today. The Bainbridge Symphony’s April concerts, however, will feature music that reversed that trend - America’s musical exports to the rest of the world.

Ironically, America’s native musical talents and resources found their greatest advocate in a European. When Antonín Dvořák’s was recruited by Jeanette Thurber to become director of The National Conservatory of Music in New York in 1892, he set out to discover American music and incorporate it into his composition, much as he had done with the folk music of his native Bohemia. He was greatly impressed by African American songs and spirituals, and became an early advocate of the African American composers whom he taught at the Conservatory. In writing his final symphony, the great Symphony No.9 in E minor, he accomplished his goal of demonstrating the great potential of America’s native resources.

Another European who was greatly impressed with America was Frederick Delius. Born in England to German parents, he requested he be sent by his father to Florida. While there running the family grapefruit plantation, young Frederick became enamored with the same songs and spirituals that had impressed Dvořák. Delius’s “Two Pieces for Small Orchestra” will be on the symphony’s April program.

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The program will also include two works by the American composers Charles Ives and George Gershwin. Charles Ives lived his whole life in New England, far removed from the mainstream of European musical culture. However, he managed to create some of the most far-reaching and radical innovations in composition. The symphony will perform his moving work entitled “The Unanswered Question.” Finally, in tribute to the great American art form of jazz, George Gershwin’s overture to the show “Crazy For You” will also be performed, including such great tunes as “I Got Rhythm,” “Embraceable You,” and “Someone to Watch Over Me.”

Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra presents “From the New World” at BPA on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. A pre-concert chat will be held 45 minutes ahead of each performance, on Saturday at 6:45 p.m. and Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Tickets, \$18 for adults, and \$15 for seniors, students, youth, military, and teachers, may be purchased online at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org, by phone at 206.842.8569 or in person at BPA, 200 Madison Avenue North, Bainbridge Island. BPA Box Office hours are 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and one hour prior to each performance. The symphony’s April program is suitable for music-lovers of all ages.

Music acquisition for the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra’s 2009-2010 Season was funded by the **Fletcher Bay Foundation**. Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra’s “Behind the Score” library lecture series is supported, in part, by **Humanities Washington**. BPA is supported, in part, by the **Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council** and the **City of Bainbridge Island**.

Find out more about BPA at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org. Check online for the latest on theatre and symphony auditions, complete theatre school and adult class offerings, performance listings, tickets, cast lists, video promos, posters, press, and more. Click on “Join Mailing List” to receive electronic performance announcements and behind-the-scenes news.

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