



THUNDER BAY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Paul Haas
Music Director

SEASON 59.5

The TBSO Virtual Tour Atikokan

May 28, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

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TBSO Virtual Tour - Atikokan

May 28, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Featuring Cassandra Star, vocals



Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno

Jacques Arcadelt
(1504-1568)

Luise Heyerhoff, trumpet; Janelle Wiebe & Damian Rivers-Moore, horn;
Erik Hongisto, trombone

Jacques Arcadelt was an inspirational Franco-Flemish composer whose madrigals became “the ideal” for other composers. Originally written for voices, *Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno* (the sweet white swan) tells the bittersweet story of a man dying yet fulfilled with his life and is perfect for the soft sweet sound of the brass.

String Quartet No. 53 “The Lark”, Op. 64 No. 5

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

I – Allegro Moderato

Kathlyn Stevens & Adora Wong, violin; Marlena Pellegrino, viola;
Marc Palmquist, cello

Perhaps the most popular of Haydn’s eighty-three string quartets, it became known as “The Lark” because of the unforgettable soaring, circling violin melody at the very beginning. Elegantly prancing staccato in the lower three strings provides the perfect foil for the first violin’s exquisite high register. Haydn manages to bring this music back several times providing a wonderful sense of spaciousness and a chance to hear the lovely melody yet again.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)

V – Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks

Doris Dungan, flute; Gwendolyn Buttemer, oboe;
Peter Shackleton, clarinet; Kristy Tucker, bassoon;
Damian Rivers-Moore, horn

Mussorgsky wrote his *Pictures at an Exhibition* in 1874 in the form of an imaginary tour around an art gallery. The *Ballet of the unhatched chicks* imagines the picture of a canary-chick ballet costume. This colourful music is full of grace notes and trills imitating the pecking, shrieking and fluttering of little birds.

Little Suite for String Orchestra

Harry Somers
(1925-1999)

II – She’s Like the Swallow

Thomas Cosbey & Lindsey Herle, violin; Marlena Pellegrino, viola;
Peter Cosbey, cello

This hauntingly beautiful melody is from a Newfoundland Folk Song arranged by distinguished Canadian composer Harry Somers in 1955. Somers wrote: ‘I was born into a generation for which the “natural world” around us as well as the human history connected to it were profound influences.’ As you listen, we hope you will enjoy some photos celebrating our north-western Ontario environment.



Flight of the Bumblebee

Rimsky-Korsakov
(1845-1908)

Thomas Cosbey, violin; Kevin Brohman, marimba

Flight of the Bumblebee is one of the most highly recognizable pieces there is. Surprisingly, it comes from an opera Rimsky-Korsakov wrote in 1890, *The Tale of Tsar Sultan*, in which a dashing young prince is transformed into a bumble bee to make a flying visit to his father's court. Over the centuries, great violinists like Jascha Heifetz adapted the piece to show off their talents and dazzle the audience. Though only a couple of minutes long, it is wonderfully vivid and illustrative.

Woodwings

Emily Doolittle
(b. 1972)

I – Bobolink
III – Winter Wren
V – Night Owl

Doris Dungan, flute; Gwendolyn Buttemer, oboe;
Peter Shackleton, clarinet; Kristy Tucker, bassoon;
Damian Rivers-Moore, horn

Emily Doolittle is a Canadian composer based in Scotland. *Woodwings*, written in 2018, is a reflection of her ongoing research and musical interest in zoomusicology, the study of music-like aspects of animal songs. Here each bird is represented in an eclectic mix of calls, trills and peeps from the woodwind instruments.

Clair de Lune

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Doris Dungan, flute; Gwendolyn Buttemer, oboe;
Peter Shackleton, clarinet; Kristy Tucker, bassoon;
Damian Rivers-Moore, horn

Clair de Lune, the third and most famous movement from Debussy's *Suite Bergamasque*, was written in 1890. This lovely depiction of moonlight has great beauty through simplicity and showcases the expressive playing of the woodwind quintet.

Trio for Brass

Ian McDougall
(b. 1938)

I – Recitative and Fanfare

Luise Heyerhoff, trumpet; Janelle Wiebe, horn ; Erik Hongisto, trombone

Jazz trombonist and composer Ian McDougall was a former member of the Toronto based Boss Brass and wrote his epic *Trio for Brass* in 1981. The first movement is in two parts, a slow recitative featuring the trombone followed by a driving jazzy fanfare.



Ah! Toi, belle, hirondelle
Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser

arr. George Coutts
(1910-1985)

Cassandra Star, vocals; Thomas Cosbey & Lindsey Herle, violin;
Marlena Pellegrino, viola; Peter Cosbey, cello

Canadian George Coutts arranged 12 French Canadian Folk Songs for voice and piano in 1958. In 'Ah! Toi, belle, hirondelle', separated lovers keep their love alive with the help of a swallow. The bird flies over the high seas to send the message that they will remain faithful and true to one another. 'Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser' is a play on words: "moine" means both a spinning top and a monk. To encourage him to dance, the monk is offered – in fun – now a hood or cap, now a rosary. We welcome the very talented Cassandra Star from Fort Frances to sing these wonderful songs accompanied by a TBSO string quartet.

Carnival of the Animals

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

XIII – The Swan

Marc Palmquist, solo cello; Kathlyn Stevens & Adora Wong, violin;
Marlena Pellegrino, viola; Peter Cosbey, cello

Saint-Saëns suppressed performances of Carnival while he was alive. It is speculated that he was concerned the piece was too frivolous and yet it has become one his most popular and frequently performed pieces. The majestic swan glides elegantly along in what has become one of the most famous cello solos of all time.

Lullaby of Birdland

George Shearing
(1919-2011)

Susanna DiGiuseppe, vocals; Kathlyn Stevens, violin;
Martin Blanchet, bass; Peter Shackleton, clarinet;
Luise Heyerhoff, trumpet; Kevin Brohman, drums

Sir George Shearing wrote the delightful piece in 1952 for the New York jazz club Birdland, (named in honour of jazz great Charlie "Bird" Parker). The English pianist and composer was born blind and was a self-taught musician. His career was spent in the US, he won fame and fortune and eventually a knighthood for a lifetime of elegant jazz. Apparently, he tossed off the writing of the iconic Lullaby of Birdland in just 10 minutes!

Violin Concerto Op. 8 No. 1, RV 269 "Spring"

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)

I – Allegro

Thomas Cosbey, solo violin; Adora Wong & Michelle Zapf-Bélanger, violin;
Marlena Pellegrino, viola; Marc Palmquist, cello

Vivaldi wrote the opus 8 Four Seasons (four violin concertos celebrating different times of the year) in 1725. The first movement of the first concerto, Spring, is arguably his most famous work. This is music to tell a story and Vivaldi even provided a storyline in the form of a poem to accompany the movement. Let your imagination wander as you hear springtime bird calls, gentle breezes, murmuring streams, the roar of thunder that dies and the charming songs of birds once again. As Vivaldi wrote, "Springtime is upon us."