



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL: SIBELIUS' SECOND

Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN, *conductor*

ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, *violin*

NIELSEN Overture to *Maskarade*

RAUTAVAARA *Fantasia* for Violin and Orchestra
ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, *violin*
World Premiere

RAVEL *Tzigane* for Violin and Orchestra
ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, *Violin*

INTERMISSION

SIBELIUS Symphony No. 2 in D Major, op. 43
I. Allegretto
II. Andante, ma rubato
III. Vivacissimo
IV. Finale: Allegro moderato

The 2016/17 season is generously sponsored by
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Podcast available at kcsymphony.org



Nielsen's comic masterpiece, Maskarade, is considered Denmark's national opera. The sparkling overture sets the stage for the intrigue and high spirits soon to follow.

CARL NIELSEN (1865-1931)

Overture to *Maskarade* (1904-1906)

4 minutes

Piccolo, 3 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, bass drum, cymbals and strings.

Carl Nielsen's comic opera in three acts, *Maskarade*, is the Danish composer's setting of a libretto by Vilhelm Andersen, based upon a work by the man known as the "Molière of the North," Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754). Nielsen conducted the opera's November 11, 1906, premiere at Copenhagen's Royal Danish Theater. Since its premiere, *Maskarade* has remained immensely popular in Denmark and is considered the country's national opera.

The sparkling overture sets the stage for the intrigue and high spirits that follow. The story of *Maskarade* takes place in Copenhagen in spring of 1723.

Jeronimus has promised his son, Leander, in marriage to Leonard's daughter, Leonara. Leander has never met her. At a masquerade, Leander encounters a mysterious, beautiful woman, and immediately falls in love. Despite Jeronimus' best efforts, Leander returns to the masquerade the following night. When everyone un.masks, Leander discovers that the woman he loves is none other than Leonora and all ends happily.

RECOMMENDED RECORDING

NIELSEN: Overture to *Maskarade*

Gothenburg Symphony / Neeme Järvi, *conductor*

Label: Deutsche Grammophon Catalog # 447757

48TH

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TICKETS

Beginning March 1, 2017:

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Beginning Mid-March, 2017:

-Ticket outlets (see www.showhouse.org)

\$20 in advance — \$25 at the door

SHOWHOUSE TIMES

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**Tuesday, Friday,
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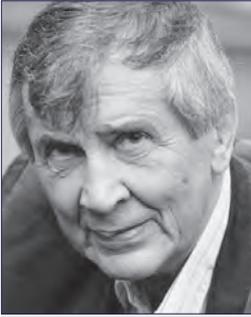
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Anne Akiko Meyers commissioned Rautavaara's Fantasia for solo violin and orchestra. It was the great Finnish composer's final work. For Meyers, "Fantasia is transcendent and has the feeling of an elegy with a very personal reflective mood."

EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA

[1928-2016]

Fantasia for Violin and Orchestra

[2015] 15 minutes

Solo violin, flute, oboe, clarinet, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, timpani, marimba and strings.

From an early age, while browsing through sheet music and CD stores, Anne Akiko Meyers became transfixed by the music of Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara. For years, Meyers dreamed of commissioning Rautavaara to compose a work for her. Finally, in 2014, she contacted Rautavaara's publisher, Boosey and Hawkes, with the request that he write a fantasy for violin and orchestra. Soon, Meyers received a reply from Rautavaara that he would be happy to compose such a work.

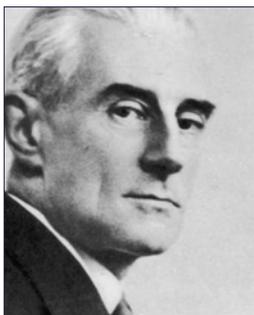
Meyers received the first draft of the score in the fall of 2015. In December, she flew to Helsinki to meet with the composer. Meyers played the score for Rautavaara, who responded, "I wrote such beautiful music!" The two collaborated on modifications of fingerings, bowings and phrasings. However, there were no changes to the notes or dynamics as

Rautavaara originally composed them. Rautavaara passed away in Helsinki on July 27, 2016, at the age of 87. *Fantasia* was his final composition. Meyers recorded *Fantasia* with the Philharmonia Orchestra and conductor Kristjan Järvi in May 2016 and that recording is currently available on iTunes and Amazon. However, these concerts are the world premiere performances of the work.

In an interview published in Gramophone (August 23, 2016), Meyers describes Rautavaara's *Fantasia*:

I think there are similar qualities to the Angel of Light and Cantus Arcticus and Rautavaara's signature soulful sound permeates throughout the piece, with fluid harmonies and deep moods — much like flowing large movements of water and majestic scenes from nature...

Fantasia is transcendent and has the feeling of an elegy with a very personal reflective mood. Rautavaara's music will live on forever and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for writing a masterpiece that makes me cry every time I listen to it.



Ravel composed his virtuoso showpiece, Tzigane ("Gypsy"), for Jelly D'Arányi, the grandniece of the legendary Austro-Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim.

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

***Tzigane* for Violin and Orchestra (1924) 9 minutes**

Solo violin, piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, trumpet, cymbals, orchestra bells, suspended cymbals, triangle, harp, celest and strings.

Maurice Ravel wrote his showpiece, *Tzigane*, for the Hungarian-born violinist Jelly D'Arányi (1893-1966). The grandniece of the legendary Austro-Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim, D'Arányi was a famous virtuoso in her own right. After playing a concert in the spring of 1922, D'Arányi bewitched Ravel for several hours with numerous gypsy melodies. This experience provided Ravel with the initial inspiration for *Tzigane* (the French word for "Gypsy").

Ravel completed *Tzigane* only two days before the work's scheduled premiere. Despite

the almost impossibly brief preparation time for a work violinist Hélène Jourdan-Morhange called “that violinists’ minefield,” D’Arányi gave the first performance in London as scheduled, on April 26, 1924.

Tzigane is a single-movement work in two principal sections. The first (Lento, quasi cadenza) is an extended, slow-tempo violin solo. A mysterious passage for the soloist, harp, cymbals and muted horns and strings leads to the second section and the soloist’s introduction of a plaintive, dance-like melody. The spirit of the dance continues throughout the remainder of the work, as *Tzigane* rushes headlong to its breathless conclusion.

RECOMMENDED RECORDING

RAVEL: *Tzigane*

Anne-Sophie Mutter, *violin*

Vienna Philharmonic / James Levine, *conductor*

Label: Deutsche Grammophon Catalog # 000531736

JEAN SIBELIUS (1865-1957)

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, op. 43 (1901-1902) 44 minutes

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

Jean Sibelius conducted the premiere of his Second Symphony in Helsinki on March 8, 1902. It was a rousing success, and Sibelius repeated the program on March 10, 14 and 16, each time to a capacity audience. This was a particularly tumultuous period, a time when Finland was under the grip of Russian domination. Patriotic emotions were at a fever pitch. Sibelius had previously composed overtly nationalistic pieces, such as *Finlandia* (1899), and the Finnish people were anxious to find a similar message in the new symphony.

Throughout his life, Sibelius was consistent in his emphatic denial that the Second Symphony was based upon any such programs. Still, it is not at all surprising that the Finnish people continued to find a personal message of hope in this fiercely dramatic (and



Sibelius conducted the world premiere of his Symphony No. 2 in March 1902. At the time, Finland was suffering under Russian domination.

in the end, triumphant) work by their greatest composer. More than a century after its premiere, the symphony remains a source of inspiration and pride for the Finnish people as well as a mainstay of the international symphonic repertoire.

The Second Symphony is in four movements. The first movement opens with a repeated ascending figure in the strings, based upon a three-pitch motif that will form the nucleus for several themes throughout the symphony. The slow-tempo second movement incorporates music Sibelius first associated with an encounter between Don Juan and Death. The third movement is a quicksilver scherzo and pastoral trio. The concluding movement follows without pause. The symphony's opening three-note

motif is now presented in a heroic guise. In the stunning climax, the motif undergoes its final and most eloquent transfiguration.

RECOMMENDED RECORDING

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 2

Lahti Symphony / Osmo Vänskä, *conductor*

Label: BIS Catalog # 862

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY **FUN FACT**

NUMBER of PEOPLE WHO ATTEND SYMPHONY CONCERTS
in HELZBERG HALL at KAUFFMAN CENTER for the
PERFORMING ARTS ANNUALLY

180,000

VIOLIN SUPERSTAR ANNE AKIKO MEYERS ACTIVELY MAINTAINS AN

extensive touring schedule and was the top-selling classical instrumental soloist on Billboard charts in 2014. She regularly performs as guest soloist with many of the world's top orchestras, presents groundbreaking recitals and commissions important new works from composers.

This spring, Meyers performs recitals in Florida, New York, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and returns to the Nashville Symphony to perform the Bernstein Serenade with Giancarlo Guerrero. In May, she will headline the Kanazawa Music Festival during Japan's "Golden Week," performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto (with



Mason Bates' cadenzas), "Archduke" Trio and "Spring" Sonata. Earlier in the season, she performed Symanowski's Violin Concerto at the "Last Night of the Proms" in Krakow and toured New Zealand playing Mason Bates' Violin Concerto, a work she co-commissioned and premiered around the world.

A champion of living composers, Meyers has actively added new works to the violin repertoire by commissioning and premiering works by composers such as Mason Bates, Jakub Ciupinski, John Corigliano, Jennifer Higdon, Samuel Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Akira Miyoshi, Arvo Pärt, Gene Pritsker, Einojuhani

Rautavaara, Huang Ruo, Somei Satoh, Adam Schoenberg and Joseph Schwantner.

She has collaborated with a diverse array of artists outside of the traditional classical world, including jazz icons Wynton Marsalis and Chris Botti, avant-garde musician Ryuichi Sakamoto, electronic music pioneer Isao Tomita, pop-era act Il Divo and singer Michael Bolton. She performed the national anthem for 42,000 fans at Safeco Field in Seattle, appeared twice on "The Tonight Show" and was featured in a segment on MSNBC's "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" that became the third most popular story of the year. Additionally, Meyers has been featured on "CBS Sunday Morning," NPR's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" as well as the popular Nick Jr. show, "Take Me to Your Mother."

Meyers was born in San Diego and grew up in Southern California. She studied with Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld at the Colburn School of Performing Arts, Josef Gingold at Indiana University, and Felix Galimir, Masao Kawasaki and Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School. She has received an Avery Fisher career grant, the Luminary Award for her support of the Pasadena Symphony, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Colburn School of Music. ■