Friday, May 10th, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Short Ride in a Fast Machine ................................................................. John Adams (b. 1947)

Concerto in D Major for Violin ....................................................... Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
  Toccata
  Aria I
  Aria II
  Capriccio

Annelle Gregory, violin soloist

INTERMISSION

The Impresario Overture ......................................................... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Nimrod, from Enigma Variations, Op. 36 ................................... Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Overture 1812, Op. 49 .............................................................. Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
CONCERT NOTES

Young Artist Competition
Each year since 1987, the Pasadena Community Orchestra has held a competition to identify, assist and feature talented young musicians in the furtherance of their musical career and education. This project is funded (in part) by a grant from City of Pasadena, Arts & Culture Commission.

American violinist Annelle Kazumi Gregory is a laureate of international competitions, concert soloist, and recording artist. She is 1st Prize & Audience Choice Award winner of the 2017 National Sphinx Competition and a Laureate of the 2013 Stradivarius International Violin Competition. Annelle’s love of Russian music has led her to discover and revive forgotten works of great Russian composers, presenting these works in concert and in recordings. In 2017 she released the first-ever CD of Sergei Rachmaninoff's complete violin/piano works, recorded with Russian pianist Alexander Sinchuk (Bridge Records). The CD has received international acclaim and aired on radio stations across the U.S. and Europe. Her teachers have included Michael & Irina Tsetlin and Glenn Dicterow.

Written in 1931 for Polish-born violinist Samuel Dushkin, Igor Stravinsky’s Violin Concerto in D reinvents what a solo concerto is. “You dance the ballet on the violin,” one performer states. “It reminds me of Bach but behind a structure which is more like Picasso. Stravinsky did not treat the violin as a virtuoso instrument. Rather he wanted dialog with other instruments, which is very rare in this concerto form. It still has forms, but it is unique” (P. Kopatchinskaja).

Completed in 1986, John Adam’s Short Ride in a Fast Machine is a post minimalism, polyrhythmic piece scored for a large symphonic orchestra. Adams once stated that he “seeks to enrich the experience of perceiving the way that time is divided” with this work. It begins with a pulsing woodblock which continues throughout, while the rest of the orchestra progresses into a fast-paced and energetic joy ride in a Lamborghini.

Mozart referred to his Impresario Overture as “comedy with music”. It was written as a commission for a musical competition created by Hapsburg Emperor Joseph II who wanted to showcase his two theatrical composers (Italian vs. German). The overture introduces the comedy opera that follows with swift opening fanfares made up of horns, trumpets, timpani and violins.

In a program note for Elgar’s Nimrod from Enigma Variations 1911 performance, Elgar wrote: “This work, commenced in a spirit of humour & continued in deep seriousness, contains sketches of the composer's friends. It may be understood that these personages comment or reflect on the original theme & each one attempts a solution of the Enigma, for so the theme is called.” The name Nimrod refers to a “mighty hunter”, in reference to Elgar’s close friend and music publisher, Augustus J. Jaeger.

Russian composer Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky wrote the 1812 Overture in 1880. It was a piece that he was commissioned to write in order to commemorate the successful Russian defense against Napoleon’s invading Grande Armée in 1812. Woven through with Russian folk melodies and the French anthem “La Marseillaise,” it ends in a rousing celebration of Russia’s victory with “God Save the Tsar.” It has stood the test of time and is often used to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Last Concert of the Season
June 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Annual Concert in the Park, Sierra Madre Memorial Park
PERSONNEL

CONDUCTOR
Bethany Pflueger

VIOLIN I
Hong-Yi Hon*
Ilana Amos
Alex Birkhold
Curtis Horton
Deanna Kitamura
Frank Mori
Nancy Smith
Oliver Troung

VIOLIN II
Adrienne Lee*
Carol Bruegge
Mike Fedrick
Daniel Hooper
Joe Kertes
Tim McElrath
Craig Merrill
Mary Walker
Jenna Weeks
Erica Zabowski

VIOLAS
Tammy Cognetta*
Mary Thornton House
Susie Kyropoulos
Karen Moore
Helen Row*
Bette Solomon

CELLOS
Monica Kohler*
Lara Ausubel
Marina Chen

BASSES
Keith Brown*
Aaron Blick*

FLUTES
Irene Kim*
Sally O'NEILL
Mary Brooks

OBOES
Aubree Cedillo*
Bom An

ENGLISH HORN
Linda Muggeridge*

CLARINET
Richard Holloway*
Meredith Grubbs*

BASSOONS
Donald Fisher*
Ilana Marks
Kristin Flock Ritchie*

HORNS
Tracie Scherzer*
Melissa Clemens
Jennifer Thayer
Michael Turf
Kirsten Ellis

TRUMPETS
David Russell*
Cameron Ghahremani*
Bruce Haines
Joel Stoup
Gary Urwin

TROMBONES
Lawrence Covellone*
Conrad Henning
Eric Kirchhoff

TUBA
Gary Green

PERCUSSION
Nik Keelaghan*
Caleb Connor*
Ken Erickson
Sue Hodson

KEYBOARD
Alan Prochaska*

STAGE MANAGER
Gary Green

WEBMASTER
Graziela Camacho

*Principal or Guest Artist

IN-KIND
PCO thanks Graziela Camacho, Graphic Design/Webmaster; Candace Dougherty, Videography; Joseph Bornilla, Photography; and the many volunteers whose behind-the-scenes help makes these concerts possible. We could not do it without them. PCO also thanks Arcadia High School & Tom Forbes for rehearsal space and Vons Bakery in Arcadia for providing cookies at a discount.

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FOUNDATION SUPPORT
PCO is partially funded by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts.
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