

Pasadena Community Orchestra

40th Anniversary Season

Bethany Pflueger, Conductor

www.pcomusic.org



Friday, May 12, 2023, 8:00 pm

First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena

Program

Overture to Don Pasquale.....Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

Concerto in e minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 64.....Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Allegro molto appassionato

Andante

Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace

Anais Feller, violin

2023 Young Artist Competition Winner

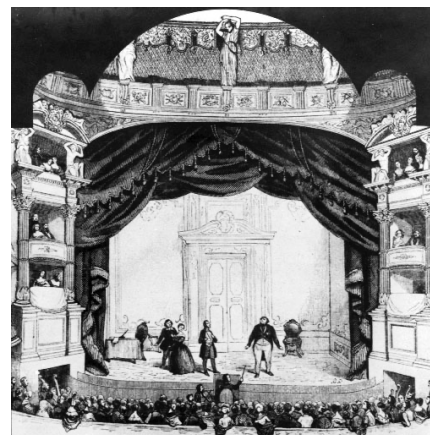
Intermission

Radetzky March, Opus 228.....Johann Strauss, Sr. (1804-1849)

Romeo and Juliet, Overture-FantasyPyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

PROGRAM NOTES

Gaetano Donizetti was a 19th century Italian composer best known for his operas – 70 in all! Along with Rossini and Bellini, he defined and popularized a style of singing for Italian opera. His influence spread through Europe and he produced his works in Naples, Rome, Paris, and Vienna. **Don Pasquale**, first performed in Paris in 1843, was written in the *opera buffa* or comic opera style, and is regarded as a pinnacle of that genre. The overture fits perfectly the mood of a comic opera, always light and lively. A forceful introduction gets the audience's attention, before shifting briefly to introspection. The mood changes repeatedly, with dance music suggesting a party atmosphere, and it ends with a brass fanfare. It provides the audience with a foretaste of the entertainment to come when the curtain rises.



Felix Mendelssohn was a German pianist, organist and composer at the start of the Romantic period in classical music. He was an astonishing child prodigy, perhaps even exceeding Mozart in the maturity of his early works. Generous encouragement from the intellectual environment at home definitely helped; his talents extended to pencil sketches and watercolor paintings. His sister Fanny was a composer and pianist whose achievements were overshadowed by her brother's fame, and have been fully recognized only recently. Felix's works include symphonies, concertos, overtures,

oratorios, organ and chamber music. The **Concerto in e minor for Violin and Orchestra** is a late work, quickly becoming one of the most beloved concerti in the classical repertoire. Although structured in the standard three movements – quick, then slow, then quick – Mendelssohn's innovation is apparent from the start: instead of an orchestral introduction, the soloist enters almost immediately, with a lyrical first theme that he said was 'stuck in his head' from several years earlier. The three movements are linked harmonically and melodically and are played with no pauses between them. It's no surprise that this lyrical and joyful work remains an audience favorite.

In musical Vienna, the Strauss family – **Johann Strauss, Sr.**, and his sons Johann, Josef, and Eduard – were beloved as creators of immensely popular dance music: waltzes, galops, polkas and marches. Johann, Sr. toured Europe with his Strauss Orchestra, with his sons continued to lead it until 1901. Johann, Jr. went on to become more famous than his father, but the **Radetzky March** has remained as popular as Junior's *The Blue Danube*. Based on a popular song of the time, and dedicated to an army officer, it became a staple of marching soldiers, though its tone is lyrical rather than martial. It is a staple of the famous Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Day concerts, with audience participation in the form of rhythmic clapping, and it is usually encored as part of the festivities.





Shakespeare's masterpiece of theatrical tragedy **Romeo and Juliet** has inspired many composers to capture the story and its powerful emotions in music. There are operas by Charles Gounod, Georg Benda, Vincenzo Bellini, Niccolò Zingarelli, and orchestral works by Hector Berlioz, Sergei Prokofiev, Constant Lambert, and Nino Rota. Leonard Bernstein's masterpiece, *West Side Story* is a New York setting of the classic story, with some of the most memorable music of the 20th century.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Overture-Fantasy *Romeo and Juliet* remains the most popular concert version of this epic tale. It is conceived as a symphonic poem in sonata form, framed by a slow introduction and a reflective then forceful epilogue. The work captures wild swings of mood that mirror the events of the story. Most famous of all is the meltingly beautiful 'love theme' introduced by the English horn and viola. No surprise that it has been used many different settings, including countless movies. In stark contrast is the violence of the warring families depicted by menacing brass and huge cymbal crashes. The transitions between the quiet and lyrical moods and the thrilling orchestra battles showcase Tchaikovsky's mastery of orchestration as artistic expression.

About our soloist. This evening's soloist in the Mendelssohn is the winner of the 2023 Young Artist Competition, **Anais Feller**. She is one of the youngest violinists to appear as a 'Performance Today' Young Artist in Residence, and has appeared in the 'From the Top' radio program and KPCC Los Angeles radio with her Olive Trio. Feller regularly participates in summer academies in Europe and the U.S. and various chamber music festivals. Currently, she is enrolled in the pre-college program at the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, California, where she studies violin performance with Professor Martin Beaver.

About the **Young Artist Competition**. Every year, the Pasadena Community Orchestra holds a competition giving young instrumentalists in the Pasadena area a chance to perform as soloist with a full orchestra and win a cash prize. Awarded every year since 1986 (except in 2021), the Competition has helped several young players to advance in careers as professional musicians. We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to talented young local musicians; and for our audience, there is the joy of witnessing and being part of the creative experience of a young artist early in their musical journey.



Program notes by Stephen Unwin, PCO Board member

PERSONNEL

CONDUCTOR

Bethany Pflueger

VIOLIN I

Hong-Yi Hon*
Ilana Amos
Alex Birkhold
Erin Chung
Deanna Kitamura
Curtis Horton
Dayna Li
Frank Mori
David Ruest
Lenoie Schonbeck
Jane Yu

VIOLIN II

Adrienne Lee*
Melissa Froehlich
Daniel Hooper
Joe Kertes
Jordan Klein
Christopher Lange
Lacey Littleton
Corinne Newbegin
Kevin Poindexter
Alex Salazar
Oliver Truong
Erica Zabowski
Ruth Bruegger*

VIOLAS

Tammy Cognetta*
Mary Thornton House
Karen Moore
Janina Morrison
Yoji Sierra
Kris Wittry

CELLOS

Adam Koot-Bascomb
Rosemary Danelski
Angela Kang
Kristin Nyquist
Michael Pinkham
Sean Wejebe
Vickie Yin

BASSES

Keith Brown*
Manny Gutierrez
Claire Mata

FLUTES

Chase Rizkalla*
Olga Bergh
Irene Kim

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Tyler Morrison

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Kaitlyn Davidson

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Joel Stoup

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Larry Covellone*
Eric Kirchhoff
Olivia Nava

TUBA

Gary Green

HARP

Alison Bjorkedal*

PERCUSSION

Matt Pollard*
Christine Gasparich
Therese Laux

STAGE MANAGER

Gary Green

*Principal or Guest Artist

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Our 40th Anniversary Season ends with our always-popular Concert in the Park, on Saturday, June 10, at 6:30 pm, at Memorial Park in Sierra Madre. Bring the family and a picnic! And be sure to sign up for our email Newsletters for details of the 2023-24 season starting in the fall.

STAY IN TOUCH

Stay informed about Orchestra events and news by visiting our website at www.pcomusic.org where you can check for up-to-date concert information. We're moving away from reliance on paper communication, but you can pick up a copy of the season brochure at any of our concerts.

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