

North Valley
Symphony
Orchestra

Presents

"Re-Opening Overtures"

October 16, 2021 - 7 p.m.

North Canyon High School
1700 E. Union Hills
Phoenix, AZ 85024

Partially funded by
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Partial funding of North Valley Symphony Orchestra is provided by the
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- Irene Kufner - irenek@northvalleysymphony.org

A Letter from the President



Welcome back! North Valley Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to be returning to live performances for our community. We have missed being able to bring people together for a shared musical experience. Thank you for joining us!

This is an exciting year for us as we are presenting our 10th concert season! Even though our 9th season was not at all what we were expecting, we are immensely proud of what we were able to accomplish during the pandemic. We kept our student musicians engaged with virtual and hybrid rehearsals throughout the year. Our adult musicians were placed into small chamber ensembles and their performances were recorded and released virtually; a new experience for all of us. We even had a few musicians who performed concerts in their driveways!

This year we celebrate our 10th anniversary and our return to live performances! NVSO's very first concert was "Opening Overtures," so we are revisiting that theme as we mark our 10th season and re-open after the pandemic. In addition to recovering and healing from the pandemic, our community is also marking the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. There are many similarities between the two events; everyday people performing heroic acts, families grieving those lost, and the community coming together to help one another. Tonight, we perform Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* to pay tribute to those everyday heroes; our first responders, the doctors and nurses, and our essential workers. They all deserve a fanfare for what they have done for our community! We remember those we have lost with the poignantly beautiful *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber.

We are looking forward to the rest of the concert season, with a traditional Christmas concert on December 18th, and the opportunity to perform the "Women in Music" and "Across America" concerts which were cancelled in 2020. The May concert will feature a World Premiere performance of a piece by James DeMars which we commissioned to celebrate our 10th year. You will not want to miss any of these concerts, and we hope you will join us again!

Liz Galpin

Biographies



Kevin Kozacek, Music Director

Originally from Colorado, Kevin Kozacek graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis in choral conducting, under the tutelage of Dr. Howard Skinner. Mr. Kozacek received both his Master of Arts and Master of Music degrees from Northern Arizona University, studying orchestral conducting under Dr. Nicholas Ross and Dr. Daniel O'Bryant. He has additionally studied conducting under Maestros Lawrence Golan, Don Thulean, Apo Hsu, Harold Farberman, Raymond

Harvey, and Zvonimir Hacko. Mr. Kozacek has guest-conducted orchestras in Kiev, Ukraine, and Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and been invited to conduct workshops and high school honor orchestras in local Arizona school districts. Mr. Kozacek has taught public school music in grades K-12, and directed theater, instrumental ensembles, and choral groups in churches and communities in England, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona. He was the founding Artistic Director for ProMusica Arizona Chorale & Orchestra where he served for 9 years. In 2012, Mr. Kozacek was invited to serve as the founding Music Director for North Valley Symphony Orchestra, and was appointed as the Music Director and Conductor for Verde Valley Sinfonietta in Sedona, AZ in 2017.



Ellen Hansbury, Concertmaster

Ellen began studying the violin at the age of four. At the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, she went on to major in violin performance under the direction of Kurt Sassmannshaus. Ellen later earned her MBA from UC and decided to pursue a career in Marketing. With a strong passion for music and performing, she continued to play in Community Orchestras. Ellen joined NVSO in 2015 and thoroughly enjoys the musicianship and sense of community this organization brings. When she's not playing the violin, Ellen explores

the outdoors with her husband and their pups Stella and Samson.

Re-Opening Overtures

Copland, Aaron
(1900-1990)

Fanfare for the Common Man

This piece is sponsored by the NVSO Board of Directors in thanks to our essential workers

Raff, Joachim
(1822-1882)

Sinfonietta for Winds, Op. 188

Allegro
Allegro molto
Larghetto
Vivace

Rossini, Gioachino
(1792-1868)

Overture to Il Barbiere di Siviglia
(The Barber of Seville)

————— 20-Minute Intermission —————

Strauss, Johann, Jr.
(1825-1899)

Die Fledermaus Overture

This piece is sponsored by Liz Galpin for her sisters

Barber, Samuel
(1910-1981)

Adagio for Strings

This piece is sponsored by the NVSO Board of Directors in memory of those we have lost

Holst, Gustav
(1874-1934)

St. Paul's Suite For String Orchestra

Jig
Ostinato
Intermezzo
Finale (The Dargason)

North Valley Symphony Orchestra
Kevin Kozacek, Conductor

Adult Orchestra

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Ellen Hansbury +
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John D. Bailey
Jonathan Barnea
Cindy Kozacek
Melissa Krout

Personnel listed
alphabetically
after principal or
concertmaster
+ Concertmaster
^ Assistant
Concertmaster
* Principal
Guest



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Program Notes

Aaron Copland (1900-1990), was one of America's most revered composers. He composed *Fanfare for the Common Man* at a request in 1942 by Eugene Goossens, conductor for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. It was written in response to the U.S. entry into World War II and was inspired in part by a famous 1942 speech where vice president Henry A. Wallace proclaimed the dawning of the "Century of the Common Man". Goossens suggested several titles depicting the heroism of those fighting the war, "to make these fanfares stirring and significant contributions to the war effort...." After considering several titles, Copland titled the piece *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Goossens wrote, "Its title is as original as its music, and I think it is so telling that it deserves a special occasion for its performance. If it is agreeable to you, we will premiere it 12 March 1943 at income tax time." Copland's reply was "I [am] all for honoring the common man at income tax time."

Joachim Raff (1822-1882) was born in the small town of Lachen, on the shores of Lake Zürich in Switzerland. As a child, Raff showed great natural talent as a pianist, violinist and organist, and taught himself the fundamentals of harmony and composition. In 1840 he began working as a teacher, and composed music in his spare time. His career began when he sent some of his piano works to Mendelssohn, who was impressed and recommended them to his publisher. Raff was the first composer to use the name "Sinfonietta" for an orchestral work in several movements similar to a symphony, but shorter and lighter in content. Written for pairs of flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns, Raff's *Sinfonietta for Winds*, written in 1873, was clearly intended as a composition greater than the wind serenades that had been popular since Mozart's time. This piece was very unique for its time, and was popular from the very first performance.

Gioachino Antonio Rossini (1792-1868) was an Italian composer who is most famous for his 39 operas, although he also wrote chamber music, piano pieces, and some sacred music. Rossini began composing by the age of 12, and was educated at music school in Bologna. His first opera was performed in Venice in 1810 when he was only 18 years old.

Program Notes continued

His most popular works include the operas *L'italiana in Algeri* (*The Italian Girl from Algiers*), and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (*The Barber of Seville*). Rossini was well known for his remarkable productivity, completing an average of two operas per year for 19 years, and in some years writing as many as four. Musicologists believe that the music for *The Barber of Seville* was composed in less than three weeks, although the famous overture was actually recycled from two earlier Rossini operas. Therefore the overture contains none of the thematic material from the actual opera *The Barber of Seville*.

Johann Strauss, II (1825-1899) was born in St. Ulrich near Vienna, to the composer Johann Strauss I. His father did not want him to become a musician but rather a banker. When his father discovered Strauss Jr. secretly practicing on a violin one day, he gave him a severe whipping, saying that he was going to beat the music out of the boy. It was only when the father abandoned his family for a mistress that the son was able to concentrate fully on a career as a composer. Strauss composed over 500 waltzes and polkas, and became known as "The Waltz King" - he was largely responsible for the popularity of the waltz in Vienna during the 19th century. Johann Strauss's most famous work is *The Blue Danube Waltz*. He also wrote several operettas and a ballet, including *Die Fledermaus* (*The Bat*), based on a popular French vaudeville comedy. At its 1874 premiere in Vienna, critics found it scandalous because its story seemed ill suited for performance on what happened to be Easter Sunday. Audiences, however, immediately loved it.

Samuel Barber (1910-1981) was an American composer and pianist, and represents one of the best examples of the lyric and romantic trends in 20th-century classical music. His style was distinctive and modern, yet retains a more traditional harmonic structure and basic tonality, which allows his compositions to be very accessible to the general public. Barber's *Adagio for Strings* was originally the second movement of his String Quartet, Op. 11, composed in 1936 during a summer stay in Europe. In January 1938, Barber sent the orchestrated version of the *Adagio for Strings* to Arturo Toscanini. The conductor returned the score without comment, which annoyed Barber. Toscanini sent word that he was planning to perform the piece and had returned it simply because he had already memorized it. It was reported that Toscanini did not look at the music again until the day before the premiere.

Program Notes continued

Gustav Holst (1874-1934), who was an English composer, arranger and teacher, is best known for his composition *The Planets*, written between 1914 and 1916. Finding it somewhat difficult to earn a living performing and composing, he turned to teaching music. Around 1904 Holst was appointed Musical Director at St. Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith, his longest teaching post. The *St. Paul's Suite*, written for the school orchestra, was originally written only for strings - Holst later added wind parts to include an entire orchestra. Holst endured a lifetime of poor health, intensified by a concussion following a backward fall off a conductor's podium. In 1934, he underwent surgery after suffering a bleeding ulcer during his last stay in the U.S., and died two days later.

Program notes by - Kevin Kozacek

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Coming Attractions

Join us for the 2021-2022 Concert Season!



"Musical Gifts for Christmas"

December 18, 2021

Many of your Christmas favorites, including the ever-popular *Sleigh Ride*, music from "The Nutcracker" and a sing-along!



"Women In Music"

Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m.

NVSO recognizes the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage by performing music composed by women, including *Sixth Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*.



"Across America"

Saturday, May 21, 7 p.m.

Enjoy music inspired by America, including *Route 66*, music by American Indian composer Jerod Tate, and Dvořák's beloved *New World Symphony*. Featuring the World Premiere performance of a work NVSO commissioned from James DeMars for our 10th anniversary.



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