



**Warren Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Susan Davenny Wyner, Music Director & Conductor**  
**SCHOOL CONCERTS**  
*Lakeview High School, Cortland, Ohio*

**Friday November 17, 2017 9:15am & 10:30am**

**STORIES and SURPRISES!**

**School Concert Notes From Susan Davenny Wyner**

*A Giant's sea cave, a tiny Empress, a Bumblebee who is really a Prince, a magic Harp and Flute, special soloists, and 'You can't stop the feeling' ~ Welcome to our School Concerts made just for you!*

Our All-star orchestra has over 50 players—with over 60 different instruments made of metal, brass, wood, hair from a horse's tail, sheep's gut, and all kinds of interesting things. You will meet them all.

Each piece of music on our program weaves a spell and has its own story to tell. But our composers don't just tell us what is going on by using words. Instead they use all the different instruments to create pictures in our minds so we can imagine our own way of hearing their story.

*We have 2 famous soloists joining us for these concerts:*

Katherine Thomas Umble, flute, studied in France, performs throughout the USA and Europe, and is WPO's Principal Flute. She is also a professor at YSU.

Marissa Knaub Avon, harp, performs widely as a soloist and also has played Jazz Harp at the White House with some great headliners such as Ray Charles.

***PLUS we invite YOU TO CREATE ART*** about our music and the pictures you see in your own mind. Please be part of our school-wide **"Art in Music" Contest**. We will exhibit many of your drawings and select winners for prizes, which will be awarded at the Philharmonic's 3pm Sunday afternoon November 19<sup>th</sup> Family Concert at Christ Episcopal Church!

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**School Concert Program**

Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave

Rimsky-Korsakov: Flight of the Bumblebee

Mozart: *Allegro* from Concerto for Flute and Harp

Kathryn Thomas Umble, flute

Marissa Knaub Avon, harp

Ravel: 'Empress of the Pagodas' from *Mother Goose*

Yehudi Wyner: NEW piece with *Strings of Joy* student violin, cello soloists  
Timberlake: Can't stop the feeling!

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First we will introduce you to all the instruments of the orchestra. Our star players will take turns showing you how each instrument looks and sounds by itself.

You will meet the amazing *String* instruments, which go from the violin, which is small enough to fit under your chin, to the Double Bass, which is so monstrously large that the player has to stand up to play it and 4 small children could fit inside its “belly”! You will meet the *Woodwinds*, from the tiniest piccolo, which is the size of a fat straw, to the tall, skinny bassoon. You will meet the *Brass* family—the trumpets and the 20-foot-long French Horns, which are all curled up so they can fit into the players’ arms. And you will hear from the *Percussion* family—cymbals, snare drum, xylophone, kettledrums, big bass drum and Chinese gong—the loudest of all.

*Now let me tell you about our musical stories.*

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**Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)**

***Fingal's Cave (Hebrides Overture), Opus 26* (#1 excerpt on the DEMO CD) 3:33**

Far north on a lonely Island off Scotland a giant lived in a cave with only puffins—birds with fancy fat beaks—and sea creatures to keep him company. He loved his cave, which made strange musical sounds as the sea rushed in and out, and he decorated it with huge round stepping-stones and columns so his feet wouldn’t get wet. Often the clouds and mists were so thick that humans in their boats couldn’t find him or even see his island. When Mendelssohn, our young composer, heard about this mysterious place he set off in a boat to find it. The seas were stormy, the waves high, but when he finally saw the cave, music rushed into his head. So in his letters back home, instead of drawing a picture, he wrote down the notes of the music he was imagining. Later he made a whole piece called “Fingal’s Cave” for the orchestra to play.

As you hear the music he wrote—does it make you think of waves and sky and birds and maybe a place where a giant could hide and ancient warriors could roam?

Listen to how he uses the different families of the orchestra—the strings often play fast notes maybe to suggest rushing water; the trumpets and horns and woodwinds often use short motifs to call out to one another. Mendelssohn loved to draw and paint, and was very fine at it. Do you think his music helps us ‘see’ the light shining on the water and through the clouds, as well as feel what he felt when he found the giant’s cave and thought of ancient times?

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)**

***"Flight of the Bumblebee" from The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (#2 on the DEMO CD) 1:37**

This short excerpt is from a Russian fairytale written by Aleksandr Pushkin--and talk about a trick disguise! Here’s the story: a young prince has been stranded on an island and separated from his father, the Tsar, who thinks he is dead. The prince rescues a Swan who is about to be killed. When she hears why he is sad, she magically changes him into a Bumblebee so he can fly across the ocean to find his father. The music portrays the Bumblebee as he happily circles around and whizzes off to sea. Listen to how the flutes and strings buzz so quickly—how is it possible for fingers to move so fast?

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)**

***Concerto for Flute, Harp, & Orchestra in C major K. 299/297c* (#4 on the DEMO CD) 9:51**

## ***I. Allegro***

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart started writing music when he was 5 and travelled all over Europe by stagecoach and horses while he was still so small his feet couldn't reach the floor when he sat on the bench to play the piano. He performed for Kings and Queens, often with his older sister Nannerl.

We are playing the opening of a concerto Mozart wrote for a Duke (a flutist) and the Duke's young daughter (a harpist) to perform with orchestra. Having 2 soloists with orchestra – especially a harp and a flute – is a bit unusual, but Mozart loved stories and different characters and making surprises. The orchestra instruments show off the themes and tunes first—we hear horn fanfares, twirling strings, chirpy oboes marching and dancing, and maybe even parading a bit in their fancy clothes. (Remember in Mozart's time even men wore high-heeled shoes, flaring silk coat/jackets with ruffled shirts and powdered wigs!)

Finally after about a minute and a half, our soloists enter. The high flute and nimble-fingered harp present their version of the tunes we've been hearing. A *Concerto* is like a conversation—sometimes the instruments copy one another, sometimes they change the subject, or even play tug-o-war and argue and end up in completely different moods. Mozart called this first movement an *Allegro*, which means 'cheerful' or 'lively' in Italian, and he organized it in an ABA or sonata three-part form. The beginning and ending sections have almost exactly the same music. The middle section changes the mood and goes into darker, minor keys. See if you can feel how Mozart explores light and dark sides of things—it's not always just "happy" music. In Italian there is a wonderful word for combining light and dark: *chiaroscuro* [kee-aro-sku-ro]

## **Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)**

***Empress of the Pagodas* from *Mother Goose Suite* (#3 on the CD) 3:30**

We've had a giant and a bumblebee—what could be next? A princess, a green serpent, and magic spells! Ravel was a French composer who loved to write music for young people. He wrote this little ("ABA form") piece for a brother and sister who played the piano. It is based on an old story about a beautiful princess who was made ugly by a wicked witch. She meets a Green Serpent who takes her to sea in a small boat. They are shipwrecked on an island which is inhabited by *pagodins and pagodas*—little, miniature creatures whose bodies are made of crystal, diamonds, rubies, sapphire, gold, silver, and wood.

Ravel's music starts when all the little *pagodas* begin to dance and play for the princess on their tiny instruments. The music sounds oriental, with a lively pentatonic melody (playable on the black keys of the piano), played by woodwinds and plucking strings. Suddenly a big gong announces the Green Serpent (who will turn out to be Prince Charming, also disguised by an evil spell). His music is slow and mysterious, a duet between the low clarinet and high flute (B section). The first dance of the *pagodas* returns (A section) and comes to an excited end. The spell is broken! The prince and princess marry, become Emperor and Empress of the Pagodas, and of course live happily ever after!

## **Yehudi Wyner (b.1929)**

***A-MAZE II* (a sneak peak!) for *Strings of Joy* student soloists**

A famous prize-winning composer has created special music for our young violinists and cellist. These *Strings of Joy* students have been taking lessons and learning how to play *string instruments* which are made of beautiful wood and have steel and gut strings stretched over a carved wooden *bridge*. To make the sounds, our young players use a *bow*—which is a long springy stick that has hair from a horse's tail attached to it. How amazing is that?

**Justin Timberlake (b.1981)**

***"Can't Stop the Feeling!" arranged for orchestra by L. Moore***

We will finish our concert together with a version of a hit song Timberlake wrote along with Max Martin and Karl Johan Schuster for the film *Trolls* (2016). He said he was inspired to write it for his little baby Silas and that the simple tune and upbeat words were meant to capture the feeling of Happiness.

"I got that sunshine in my pocket,  
Got that good soul in my feet...  
I can't stop the feeling,  
So just dance, dance, dance, come on"

I suspect you might know it and want to sing along!

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**A SPECIAL INVITATION:**

**Please also bring your family and friends to our regular concert ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 19th AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH** so they can also share all these musical adventures. **They can come FREE if they are with you.** Just tell the people at the door that Susan said you could come!

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**Warren Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Susan Davenny Wyner, Music Director & Conductor**  
**www.warrenphilharmonic.org**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**2627 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, OH**

**Sunday NOVEMBER 19, 2017, 3 p.m.**  
**Stories and Surprises: A Family Concert!**

Art in Music Prize Winners • Strings of Joy Students play a World Premiere  
**Two Star Soloists**

**Kathryn Thomas Umble, flute**  
**Marissa Knaub Avon, harp**

*A magic harp and flute, a Giant in his sea cave, a Prince turned into a Bumblebee, a tiny Empress, a green serpent, Sleeping Beauty, young string players, Can't stop the feeling!*

**Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave (*Hebrides Overture*) Op.26**

**Rimsky-Korsakov: Flight of the Bumblebee from *Tsar Saltan***

**Ravel: 'Sleeping Beauty' & 'Empress of the Pagodas' from *Mother Goose***

**Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Harp in C major**

**Kathryn Thomas Umble, flute**

**Marissa Knaub Avon, harp**

**Yehudi Wyner: A-MAZE II\* for *Strings of Joy* student soloists**

**Timberlake: *Can't stop the feeling!***

\*world premiere

**Please contact the WPO office for more information:**

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