GET CLOSER TO THE MUSIC

2020 2021

WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
This season is a celebration and a bit of a liberation.

As orchestras across the globe celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, we have his first and last concertos planned to open and close our Masterworks series. New and neglected works mix with familiar favorites – Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms – contributing to a stunning season. Often overlooked works by Cherubini, Blake, Kabalevsky, and Stravinsky round out our Masterworks series at the Capitol Theater.

New soloist, virtuoso Spanish guitarist Mabel Millán, makes her US debut in March performing Ponce’s Guitar Concerto. World-class soloists, pianist John O’Conor, cellist Amit Peled, violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky, and pianist Michael Mizrahi, return to perform with the WCO.

We are excited to take select Masterworks performances to Brookfield at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts. Concerts on the Square®, our signature summer concert series, kicks off on Tuesday, July 28, and will feature guests from the Ho-Chunk Nation and a return of Jeans ‘n Classics.

Thank you for keeping the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra close as your go-to classical music experience.

Andrew Sewell
Music Director

Joe Loehnis
CEO
MADISON PRE-CONCERT DINNERS

Enjoy a delightful evening at Madison’s Overture Center beginning with a delicious dinner served buffet-style and a lively discussion held in the Wisconsin Studio. Maestro Andrew Sewell, Wisconsin Public Radio’s Norman Gilliland, and the concert guest artist will enlighten you with insights into the evening’s Masterworks concert repertoire.

Reservations for the intimate pre-concert dinners must be made at least one week prior to the concerts.

Pre-Concert Dinners are offered prior to Madison Masterworks performances only.

Dinners are $45. Cash bar is available.

To reserve your spot, call 608.257.0638.

- Doors open at 5:30 PM
- Dinner is served at 6:00 PM
- Discussion begins at 6:30 PM

Subscribe at wcoconcerts.org/subscribe, by phone at 608.257.0638, or by mail.

MADISON, WI
Capitol Theater
7:30 PM
I: November 20, 2020
John O’Conor
PIANO
II: January 15, 2021
Amit Peled
CELLO
III: February 19, 2021
Alexander Sitkovetsky
VIOLIN
IV: March 19, 2021
Mabel Millán
GUITAR
V: April 9, 2021
Michael Mizrahi
PIANO

BROOKFIELD, WI
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
7:30 PM
February 20, 2021
Alexander Sitkovetsky
VIOLIN
April 10, 2021
Michael Mizrahi
PIANO
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Cellist Amit Peled is an audience favorite, proven to be a big player with a big sound and a big heart. He performs two works, the rarely performed concerto by Kabalevsky that requires some muscle, and Offenbach’s Andante. I heard Offenbach’s Andante on the radio, didn’t recognize it and was enthralled. It’s soulful and Romantic, showing a serious side to this composer otherwise known for writing the Can-Can.

In Dvořák’s Serenade for winds and Christopher Blake’s Pawarenga for strings, we hear both sections shine, concluding with Mozart’s Symphony No. 34.

Dvořák’s Wind Serenade is a grand work without violins or violas, just cellos, basses, and woodwinds, and consequently unusual to program. Since the strings are engaged with the Blake piece, it gives plenty for the winds to do, and as such, makes a great pairing. Finally, Mozart’s Symphony No. 34 in C is a shorter symphony of only three movements, aligning this rather diverse repertoire combination onto familiar ground.
Alexander Sitkovetsky
VIOLIN

REPERTOIRE
Leoš Janáček | Suite for Strings
Astor Piazzolla | The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires
Antonio Vivaldi | The Four Seasons

DIRECTOR’S NOTES
We cannot wait to hear the Vivaldi Four Seasons performed by London-based virtuoso Alexander (Sasha) Sitkovetsky, paired with Astor Piazzolla’s The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires in this all-strings program. Janáček’s Suite for strings, just as soulful as compatriot Antonín Dvořák, is rarely heard outside the Czech Republic and deserves a wider audience.

Sasha Sitkovetsky and I first worked together in Monterey in 2009 performing Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1, then performed Beethoven together in 2012 and Barber in 2015 with the WCO. When invited to play Vivaldi this season, Sasha, known for his gusto and stamina, immediately suggested the pairing with Piazzolla’s iconic The Four Seasons.

Mabel Millán
GUITAR

REPERTOIRE
Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga | Los Esclavos Felices Overture
Manuel Ponce | Concierto del Sur
Ernesto Halffter | Sinfonietta in D major

DIRECTOR’S NOTES
Spanish guitarist and rising star, Mabel Millán makes her US debut performing Manuel Ponce’s Guitar Concerto along with an all-Spanish program of early classical composer Arriaga’s Los Esclavos Felices Overture and Halffter’s Sinfonietta for chamber orchestra, a vibrant work akin to Stravinsky’s Pulcinella.

As fortune would have it, I was originally scheduled to conduct this in Hong Kong in November 2019, along with the Halffter Sinfonietta. However, the concerto was changed. The idea of an all-Spanish program intrigued me, especially with a Spanish guitarist. The Halffter was an incredible find. It has a Stravinskian influence yet is entirely unique. Halffter was Manuel de Falla’s protégé and catalogued all his works posthumously.
MASTERWORKS V
April 9, 2021 – Madison
April 10, 2021 – Brookfield

Michael Mizrahi
PIANO

REPERTOIRE
Ludwig van Beethoven | Piano Concerto No. 1
Johannes Brahms | Serenade No. 1

DIRECTOR’S NOTES
Michael Mizrahi teaches at Lawrence Conservatory and has appeared twice with us on the Square. We wanted to introduce him to our Masterworks audience and asked which Beethoven Concerto he would enjoy – the No. 1. With the variety of repertoire and composers in Masterworks II, III, and IV, we want to close the 20/21 Masterworks series by reintroducing lesser-known masterpieces truly written for chamber orchestra.

In Brahms’ case we see his development and transition to the eventual symphonic form. His two serenades were indeed orchestral studies. As a serenade, it was customary to vary the performance and orders of movements. In keeping with tradition we will open with the fifth movement Scherzo, treating it like an overture, then complete the serenade following the Beethoven Concerto. Serenades were considered to be an entire evening entertainment with self-contained movements. It is a glorious indulgence, well-balanced.

FAMILY SERIES
October 10, 2020 at 9:30 AM
Goodman Center-Ironworks, Madison
March 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM
Goodman Center-Brassworks, Madison

VERONA AREA PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY
November 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Verona Area Performing Arts Center

HANDEL’S MESSIAH
December 9, 2020 at 7 PM
Blackhawk Church, Middleton
December 12, 2020 at 2 PM
Hamel Music Center, Madison

THE NUTCRACKER WITH MADISON BALLET
December 17-27, 2020
Overture Hall, Madison

MASTERWORKS VI
May 14, 2021 at 7:30 PM
Capitol Theater, Madison

Yolanda Kondonassis | HARP
Prokofiev | Sinfonietta
Ginastera | Harp Concerto
Haydn | Symphony No. 88

WYSO SIDE BY SIDE PROJECT PERFORMANCE
May 22, 2021
Hamel Music Center, Madison
New Schedule for 2020

NOW TUESDAYS AT 6 PM
King Street Corner of the Capitol Square

CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

2020

Tuesday, July 28
TCHAIKOVSKY ROCKS
Maxim Lando, piano, 2020 Gilmore Young Artist Award
Mussorgsky | Night on Bald Mountain
Tchaikovsky | Piano Concerto No. 1
Rimsky-Korsakov | Scheherazade

Tuesday, August 4
GOSPEL AND SYMPHONY
Leatha Stanley & Friends
Middleton High School Choir, dir. Jamie Pitt
Mechem | Blow Ye the Trumpet from Songs of the Slave suite
O’Landa Draper | Praise the Lord Everybody
Borodin | Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor

Tuesday, August 11
HO-CHUNK NATION AND THE PLANETS
Elliott Funmaker and Wisconsin Dells Singers and Dancers
Holst | Mars, the Bringer of War
Traditional, arr. Funmaker | Flag Song, Dejope Song
Holst | Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity

Tuesday, August 18
LIBERTY
Antonio Wu, piano, 2020 Young Artist Concerto Competition Winner
Gershin | Girl Crazy Overture
Lowden | Armed Forces Salute
Tchaikovsky | 1812 Overture

Tuesday, August 25
THAT’S MY JAM
Jeans ‘n Classics
Faith Evans | Love Like This
Gotye | Somebody That I Used to Know
Pharrell Williams | Happy

Tuesday, September 1
FOR THE GREATER GROOVE
Tracy Silverman, electric violin
Tchaikovsky | Sleeping Beauty Waltz
Silverman | For the Greater Groove (world premiere
Ellington | Nutcracker Suite

*Programs subject to change
The WCO’s Family Series is a free program that offers an engaging exploration of music for families with children of all ages. The format is purposefully different from typical concert settings, so moving around or making noise during the show is welcomed and encouraged!

Beethoven Lives Next Door follows the story of the famous classical composer, Beethoven, who is struggling with his loss of hearing, love of music, and acceptance of his fate as he writes his Fifth Symphony. Excerpts from the symphony highlight the strong emotions Beethoven is feeling while he writes. The program teaches children about the orchestra and the musical concepts of melody and dynamics, all while exposing them to the sounds of live orchestral music and connecting music to their emotions.

Developed by Maestro Sewell in 2016, the Super Strings Program connects early-elementary school children at Madison’s Lussier Community Education Center with a WCO musician who provides the students with a music education curriculum and violin lessons.

The curriculum includes basic violin techniques, including care for the instrument and bow, learning how to hold the bow, practicing rhythm, and bow arm exercises.
SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

For six decades, your support of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra has made life-affirming performances accessible to thousands. Together, we can strengthen the future of our community through the transformative power of music. Join us today by making a donation in support of this mission.

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