



PEACEFUL, MOVING, SUBLIME: FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

Sunday October 2nd, 2022 – 3:30pm
First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

Domenico Boyagian, *Conductor*
Megan Santora, *Soprano*
Young-Kwang Yoo, *Baritone*
Choir of First Baptist Church
Don Verkuijlen, Chorus Master

A. BORODIN (1833-1887)

In the Steppes of Central Asia (1880)

G. FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Dolly Suite, Op. 56 (1906)

- I. Berceuse - Allegretto Moderato
- II. Mi-a-ou - Allegro vivo
- III. Le Jardin de Dolly - Andantino
- IV. Kitty-Valse - Tempo di valse
- V. Tendresse - Andante
- VI. Le Pas Espagnole - Allegro

~ Intermission ~

G. FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 (1890)

- I. Introit et Kyrie
 - II. Offertoire
 - III. Sanctus
 - IV. Pie Jesu
 - V. Agnus Dei
 - VI. Libera me
 - VII. In Paradisum
-

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NON-FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED
VIDEOGRAPHY NOT PERMITTED



NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

By David Clare

BORODIN AND THE STEPPES

Born: November 12, 1833, in St. Petersburg, Russia

Died: February 27, 1887, in St. Petersburg

Work composed: 1880; dedicated to Franz Liszt

World premiere: April 29, 1880, in St. Petersburg, with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov conducting the Russian Opera Orchestra

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Aside from his musical life as a composer, conductor and chamber musician, Alexander Borodin did not lead a particularly noteworthy life. He was born the illegitimate son of a Russian prince. Although he was registered as a serf at birth, his father provided for his education. Borodin showed considerable interest, most notably, in science as well as music and would spend his professional career as a research chemist and professor of science.

ABOUT THE COMPOSITION

Although music was an extracurricular activity for Borodin, he did become known later in life for his composing, to the point that he was asked to contribute a work to be premiered in a silver anniversary celebration of the somewhat enlightened despot, Tsar Alexander II of Russia. The celebration concert was to consist of works commemorating the vast territorial expansion of the Russian empire during the reign of Alexander II. Borodin chose to depict the central steppe portion of this expansion (roughly modern Kazakhstan) as his contribution. In describing the composition, Borodin explains that the music depicts a native caravan and a Russian escort traversing the vast desert, ending both socio-politically and musically with the merging of culture and melody, respectively.



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NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

By David Clare

FAURÉ, DOLLY AND THE REQUIEM

Born: May 12, 1845, Pramiers, France

Died: November 4, 1924, Paris, France

Works composed: *Dolly Suite*, 1893-1896
Requiem, 1888

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

French composer, Gabriel Fauré, began his musical studies on the organ, becoming a prominent performer in his day. Regarding composition, Camille Saint-Saëns would play a pivotal role in championing Fauré's unique compositional style as well as promoting his career. Fauré's light, transparent textures with sparse orchestration were a stark contrast to the grand, even bombastic, Austro-Germanic style used by Beethoven, Brahms, Wagner and the like.

ABOUT THE COMPOSITIONS

Fauré's *Dolly Suite* consists of a series of small pieces that celebrate aspects of the life of his mistress's daughter, Regina-Hélène, known as "Dolly". These pieces depict such things as birthdays, a pet or a special person in her life. The version for orchestra is derived from six movements of a suite for piano duet.

The *Requiem* (mass for the dead) may have been composed in response to the death of his father. Of note in this composition, is a unique departure from the traditional parts of the liturgical text. To the text, he adds Pie Jesu (pious Jesus) and In Paradisum (into paradise). These additions along with the omission of the Dies Irae (day of wrath) result in a setting that evokes a mood of peacefulness and serenity that is often described as a Requiem without the Last Judgment.



The Suburban Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, American Rescue Plan Act, and by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio legislature to the Ohio Arts Council.



INTRODUCING OUR SOLOISTS: Megan Santora, Soprano

American soprano Megan Santora is a versatile and dynamic performing artist. This year, Ms. Santora covered the role of Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* as a member of the Manetti Shrem Opera Program with Festival Napa Valley (Napa Valley, California).

She also returned to Opera Project Columbus (Columbus, OH) as Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief* and covered the role of Norina in *Don Pasquale* with Opera MODO (Detroit, MI).

The 2020 season began with the role of Adele in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera Project Columbus.

Recent engagements include Anna Gomez in *The Consul* with Opera MODO and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* with Opera Project Columbus. Ms. Santora graduated from The University of Cincinnati College- Conservatory of Music (CCM) with an Artist Diploma in Opera in 2016. She also completed a Master of Music in Voice Performance at The University of Cincinnati College- Conservatory of Music (CCM), a Master of Music in Opera Theatre at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

At The University of Cincinnati College- Conservatory of Music (CCM), Ms. Santora performed the roles of Vixen Sharp Ears in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*, Princesse Laoula in *L'etoile*, and Thibault in *Don Carlos*.

She was also the soprano soloist in Stravinsky's *Les Noces* and was featured in a Kurt Weill Cabaret. In 2013, Ms. Santora was the soprano young artist with Opera Saratoga (Saratoga Springs, NY) and Opera Columbus (Columbus, OH). She has participated in Cincinnati Opera's Opera Fusion (Cincinnati, OH): *Champion*, *Meet John Doe*, and *Shalimar the Clown*.

Ms. Santora also performed the role of Serpina in *La Serva Padrona* with the Cincinnati Chamber Opera (Cincinnati, OH). Other opera performances include Cugina in *Madama Butterfly*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Miss Jessel in *Turn of the Screw*, Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Elisetta in *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Diana in *A Wedding*, Lola in *Gallantry*, Lady Macbeth in *Lady Macbeth* by Pasatieri, and the narrator in *Sweet Betsy from Pike*.



FUN QUESTIONS WE ASKED TO OUR ARTISTS...

- ⇒ *A sloth walks into a concert hall. What's the first thing it does?*
Hahaha, he sits down and is excited because they are playing his favorite song "Don't Hurry, Be Happy."
- ⇒ *If you had to eat one type of food for a year and nothing else, what would it be?*
Any kind of Chocolate!!!



INTRODUCING OUR SOLOISTS: Young-Kwang Yoo, Baritone

Praised by Opera News for "Vocal dexterity and outstanding Italian diction.", "Mr. Yoo showcased a rich, reverberant baritone."

Baritone Young-Kwang, native of South Korea, is a graduate of the College of Music, Seoul National University. He received his Master of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Mark Oswald. Mr. Yoo also holds with Certificate from the Opera Institute at Boston University. His awards include the 1st place winner in Osaka International Competition hosted in Japan, 2nd place in the Manhattan International Music Competition and the Grand Prize of Opera Division in the Metropolitan International Vocal Competition. He also has been awarded 1st prize in the 2020 SAS performing arts company vocal competition.

Previous credits include *Rigoletto* (Rigoletto) with Seoul National University, *La Bohème* (Marcello), *Lakmé* (Frederic) and *Luisa Miller*(Miller) with Manhattan School of Music, *The Telephone*(Ben) with Te Art Ro Production, *Emmeline*(Mr. Maguire), *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Il Conte), *The War Reporter* (Paul Watson) and *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Pelléas) with Opera institute, *La Tragedie de Carmen* (Escamillo) with the City Lyric Opera in NYC and *L'enfant prodigue* (Siméon), *L'elisir d'amore* (Belcore) and *La Bohème* (Marcello) with Camerata New Jersey Foundation. He did *Don Pasquale* (Malatesta) and *Madama Butterfly* (Sharpless) with Martina Arroyo Foundation. He performed three operas with the Cleveland Opera Theater, *Madama Butterfly* (Sharpless), *La Bohème* (Marcello) and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Figaro) which was hailed by the Cleveland Classical for "Baritone Young Kwang Yoo brought an ultimate suavity, and a special combination of tone and power to Figaro."

Young-Kwang has appeared on broadcasting in US and Korea. One of his online shows that brought hope and peace to the people who have had painful moments in the pandemic situation was introduced to the CNN News and Reuters. Also, the Voice of America paid attention to his life which has been moving to his dream as an international opera singer and took a documentary show in their Korean channel. In addition, he has been showed many of famous Korean TV shows on KBS, MBC, tvN, C channel and CTS channels. Mr. Yoo is becoming a special opera singer especially among Koreans. He is not only singing but also sharing his life as an opera singer and a human being with doing performance and broadcasting.

This coming season, Young Kwang will work with the Opera Camerata New Jersey for *Don Pasquale* (Dr.Malatesta) and *L'elisir d'amore* (Belcore) presented by Marshall University. He will sing Faure's requiem with the Suburban Symphony Orchestra. Also, he will make his Florida Grand Opera debut with *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* as the title role, Figaro.



FUN QUESTIONS WE ASKED TO OUR ARTISTS...

⇒ *What was the last gift you gave someone?*

Brand New Cellphone for her birthday gift!! 📱

⇒ *If you had to eat one type of food for a year and nothing else, what would it be?*

Chicken!!!



INTRODUCING OUR SOLOISTS: Don Verkuijlen, Chorus Master

Don Verkuijlen serves as the Director of Music at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland. At First Baptist, he leads a dynamic program which performs a wide range of music and manages their active concert series. Don is also the Artistic Director of the Singers' Club of Cleveland, the city's oldest performing arts organization. In this capacity, he led the organization in commissioning a new setting of the Requiem Mass, written by the internationally renowned concert organist, David Briggs, in memory of those who lost their lives to COVID-19. Beyond his professional engagements in Cleveland, he is an active member of the performing arts scene, serving as Sub-Dean of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



In this role, he coordinates the chapter's concert series, bringing in organists of both national, and international acclaim to Cleveland.

Currently, Don is a Bachelor of Music student in Organ Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying organ with Professor Todd Wilson, and harpsichord with Dr. Peter Bennett. As part of CIM's partnership with Case Western Reserve University, Don serves as both a Keyboardist of the Case Western Reserve Baroque Orchestra, and as a member of the Case Western Reserve Chamber Ensembles, where he provides continuo realization and keyboard accompaniment to various performances throughout the academic year. Before attending CIM, he studied Organ Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where his principal teachers were Madame Marie-Louise Langlais and Professor James David Christie. Beyond his primary lessons in organ, he has studied conducting with Mr. Daniel VanSickle, Dr. Jody Kerchner, and Dr. Raphael Jiménez, sacred music with Dr. Jonathan Moyer, as well as piano with Professor Derek Nishimura. A prolific recitalist, Don has performed around the globe. Selected organ recitals include performances at two Organ Historical Society Conventions (Columbus, OH and Sunderland, MA), the Cathedral of St. Paul (St. Paul, MN), the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Crosse, WI), Conservatoire de Paris (Paris, FR), Overture Hall (Madison, WI), and the Basilica di San Giuseppe al Trionfale (Rome, IT). During his trip to Rome, he was honored to be asked to play for a Solemn Pontifical High Mass, Celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica. Don is also a composer of works for organ and choir. His Toccata for organ was premiered at the 2016 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Houston and is published by Selah. Beyond performing, he is the owner of the Verkuilen Organ Company, also based in Cleveland. He spends his free time restoring his Model T Fords and spending time with his wife, Caitlin.



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INTRODUCING OUR SOLOISTS: David Rothenberg, Pre-concert Lecturer

David J. Rothenberg is a member of the music history faculty at Case Western Reserve University, where he has taught since 2005 and been chair of the Department of Music since 2015. He received his PhD from Yale University.

Rothenberg's research focuses on music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, exploring connections between music, liturgy, visual art, and literature. His publications include *The Flower of Paradise: Marian Devotion and Secular Song in Medieval and Renaissance Music* (Oxford University Press, 2011); *Music and Culture in the Middle Ages and Beyond: Liturgy, Sources, Symbolism*, co-edited with Benjamin Brand (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and the *Oxford Anthology of Western Music, Volume 1: From the Earliest Notations to the Early Eighteenth Century*, co-edited with Robert R. Holzer (Oxford University Press, 2013, 2nd ed. 2019). He served as a senior editor of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and the Arts* (Oxford University Press, 2015), for which he wrote several entries including "Requiem."



In 2007 Rothenberg was the recipient of the Alfred Einstein Award of the American Musicological Society. He has received research grants and fellowships from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University. In addition to his academic work, he is a regular pre-concert lecturer for The Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Music Society, and other musical organizations, among which he is now happy to count the Suburban Symphony Orchestra.

He lives near Shaker Square with his wife Elizabeth, a cellist in SSO, and daughter Beatrice.

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