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Independence Sinfonia

presents a pastoral-themed concert "Over hill, over dale"



Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 3:00 PM Congregation Or Hadash The Independence Sinfonia and Jerome Rosen, Music Director

Incidental Music to A Midsummer Night's Dream

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Overture—Allegro di molto

- 5. Intermezzo—Allegro appassionato
- Nocturne—Con moto tranquillo
- Scherzo—Allegro vivace
- 9. Wedding March—Allegro vivace

Intermission

Symphony No. 6 in F major, The "Pastoral" Op. 68

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

- 1. Allegro ma non troppo—Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arrival in the countryside
- 2. Andante molto mosso-Scene by the brook
- 3. Allegro-Merry gathering of country folk
- 4. Allegro—Thunder. Storm
- 5. Allegretto—Shepherd's song; cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm



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Alex Ramirez Michael Kelly

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Christopher Horner

Flute

Lisa Davis Kathy Brown

Oboe

Forrest Rowland Cynthia Robinson

Clarinet

William Fullard Harriett Ranney

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Trumpet

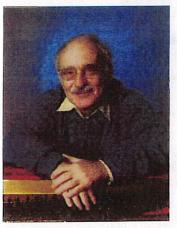
Jim Edwards Michael Bromberg

Trombones

Jim Wehner Peter Schneider Bruce Solomon

Timpani

Enid Brodsky



Jerome Rosen graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music with an Artist's Diploma in violin and from the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Bachelor's in Music. He has studied under such distinguished musicians as Henri Nosco, Josef Gingold, Ivan Galamian, and Rafael Druian on violin and Arthur Loesser and John Bloomfield on piano. In addition, Jerry has studied chamber music with Jascha Brodsky, Josef Gingold, and Leonard Rose; composition with Herbert Elwell and Marcel Dick; and conducting

with George Szell (as apprentice conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra) and James Levine.

Jerry spent a 40-year professional career as a member of some of the world's leading orchestras. He spent 27 years as a violinist and keyboardist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, from which he retired in 1999. He has also held the position of Concertmaster of the Boston Pops (where he also occasionally functioned as an arranger), Associate Concertmaster in the Detroit Symphony, and has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra, the American Symphony, the New School Chamber Orchestra and Festival Casals. Jerry's piano experience includes rehearsal accompanist for the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus under Robert Shaw and rehearsal accompanist for Lake Erie Opera.

He has had solo violin performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the Boston Symphony, and the Boston Pops, and he played Mozart Piano Concertos with the Boston Pops. In the last 15 years, he has appeared as a solo recital pianist in Cambridge MA, Newburyport MA, Boston, and New York City, where he has played the Bach "Goldberg" Variations and Beethoven's "Diabelli" Variations.

He has played chamber music as violinist with the Cleveland Piano Trio (with James Levine and Lynn Harrell), the Marlboro Festival, the St. Clair String Quartet of Michigan, and the Brattle String Quartet of Boston. As a pianist, Jerry performed the Beethoven violin sonata cycle in 1992 and in 2004, a Brahms Chamber Sonata cycle in 1996 and organized the chamber music series "Music Among Friends" with his BSO colleagues. Jerry was

The symphony has five movements, rather than the four typical of symphonies of the Classical era. The descriptive titles preceding each movement are Beethoven's own.

The symphony begins with a placid and cheerful movement depicting the composer's feelings as he arrives in the country. Beethoven builds up orchestral texture in this movement by multiple repetitions of very short motifs.

At the opening of the second movement, titled "By the brook," the strings play a motif that imitates flowing water. The cello section is divided, with just two players playing the flowing-water notes, with the remaining cellos playing mostly pizzicato notes together with the double basses. Toward the end of the movement, there is a cadenza for woodwind instruments that imitates bird calls. Beethoven helpfully identified the bird species in the score: nightingale (flute), quail (oboe), and cuckoo (two clarinets).

The third movement is a scherzo, which depicts country folk dancing and reveling that becomes loud and coarse with drink as the music progresses. The final return of the theme conveys a riotous atmosphere with a faster tempo. The movement ends abruptly, leading without a pause into the next.

The fourth movement, in F minor, depicts a violent thunderstorm with painstaking realism, building from just a few drops of rain in the second violins to a great climax of the entire orchestra (including infamous unplayable runs in the cello and bass). Listen for thunder, lightning, high winds, and sheets of rain. The storm eventually passes, with an occasional flash of lightning in the distance.

The finale is in F major. This movement emphasizes a symmetrical eight-bar theme, representing the shepherds' song of thanksgiving. The movement starts quietly and gradually builds to an ecstatic culmination for the full orchestra, with the first violins playing very rapid triplet tremolo on a high F. Towards the end is a fervent passage suggestive of prayer, marked by Beethoven "pianissimo, sotto voce" (very quietly, under the breath). After a brief period of afterglow, the work ends with two emphatic F major chords.

These notes are adapted from Wikipedia articles "A Midsummer Night's Dream (Mendelssohn)" and "Symphony No. 6 (Beethoven)" which are released under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share-Alike License 3.0.

Program Notes

At two separate times, Felix Mendelssohn composed music for William Shakespeare's play, A Midsummer Night's Dream. First in 1826, near the start of his career, he wrote a concert overture (Op. 21). Later, in 1842, only a few years before his death, he wrote incidental music (Op. 61) for a production of the play.

The Overture has been called "the greatest marvel of early maturity that the world has ever seen in music." It sets the scene with four magical opening chords in E major, quickly followed by scampering fairy feet in the strings in E minor and eventually the braying of the character Bottom transformed by magic into a donkey.

Today's performance features excerpts from the Incidental Music in a different order than the play. After the Overture, we will perform the Intermezzo. This movement depicts Hermia's frantic nighttime escape in search of Lysander, when she loses herself in the Athenian woods. The movement ends with the comic appearance of Bottom and crew, the clueless ham-handed actors who enter the woods to practice their play.

The next movement is the sublime Nocturne, which is meant to occur at the end of third act, when sleep has quietly descended upon the lovers and everyone else in the forest. The music embodies one of the loveliest passages for the horn in all music. This movement evokes the warmth and drowsiness of a lazy, mid-summer night.

We then perform the Scherzo, with its sprightly scoring, dominated by chattering winds and dancing strings. The music appears just before Act II, which begins with an unnamed fairy speaking the words "Over hill, over dale," and introduces the cavorting and mischievous sprite Puck. The end of the movement features a famous flute solo that demands endurance and expert technical skill from the most accomplished of players. The first-half of today's performance concludes with the famous Wedding March, which is today probably the most widely-known piece composed by Mendelssohn.

Beethoven was a lover of nature who spent a great deal of his time on walks in the country. His first sketches of the *Pastoral Symphony* appeared in 1802, which was composed simultaneously with Beethoven's more famous—and more fiery—Fifth Symphony. Both symphonies were premiered in a long and under-rehearsed concert in the Theater an der Wien in Vienna on 22 December 1808.

also the Music Director of Oak Park Symphony in Detroit and a Conductor of the Repertoire Orchestra at Boston University.

Jerry has been a private violin teacher; violin instructor and chamber music coach at Boston University; a chamber music coach at Tanglewood Music Center for 19 years; director of chamber music studies, Boston University Tanglewood Institute; and a coach at Heart of Chamber Music, a workshop for amateur chamber musicians at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Other than music, his hobbies and interests include mathematics and philosophy, computer science, and poetry. His ambitions include getting through the Fugue of Beethoven op. 106 without breaking down and writing a memoir.

Today marks Jerry's second to last concert as our music director. (See page 7 in this program book for information about the final concert.) Earlier this season, he announced his retirement, only because the drive to Fort Washington from the Bronx every Sunday evening for rehearsals was getting too much, especially in the winter. Under his baton over the last seven years, the Independence Sinfonia has performed all nine Beethoven Symphonies, several Mozart piano concertos with Jerry playing the solo part and conducting from the keyboard, Mahler's 4th Symphony, Mozart's Requiem, Schubert's 9th Symphony the "Great," Brahms' A German Requiem, and numerous other works from the standard canon. He has a boundless knowledge and appreciation of this music from years of studying and performing with many great musicians of the last generation, Pablo Casals in particular. Jerry's expertise, energy, leadership and profound love for music has sustained us and enabled us to grow in great measure as an ensemble during his tenure. We will miss him dearly.

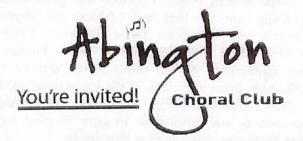
At the conclusion of today's performance, help us recognize Jerry as we announce his appointment as Conductor Emeritus of the Independence Sinfonia.

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