Monday Evening, April 16, 2018, at 7:30

The Juilliard School

presents

# Juilliard Orchestra

Alan Gilbert, Conductor Giorgio Consolati, Flute

SAMUEL BARBER (1910-81) Essay No. 1 for Orchestra, Op. 12 (1937-38)

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE (b. 1949) Flute Concerto (1993)

Amhrán Alla Marcia Elegia Scherzo Amhrán GIORGIO CONSOLATI, *Flute* 

# Intermission

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–97) **Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68** (1862–76) Un poco sostenuto—Allegro Andante sostenuto Un poco allegretto e grazioso Adagio—Più andante—Allegro non troppo, ma con brio

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes, including one intermission

This concert is made possible with a generous gift from the Celia Ascher Fund for Juilliard.

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David Geffen Hall

Please make certain that all electronic devices are turned off during the performance.

# Notes on the Program

by James M. Keller

# Essay No. 1 for Orchestra, Op. 12

SAMUEL BARBER Born March 9, 1910, in West Chester, Pennsylvania Died January 23, 1981, in New York City

Samuel Barber's Essay No. 1 for Orchestra was the work of a young composer firmly on the way to a stellar career. While he was still a Curtis Institute student he began traveling to Europe with his fellow composition student and romantic partner Gian Carlo Menotti. He enjoyed fortunate familial circumstances; his aunt, the contralto Louise Homer, was a mainstay at the Metropolitan Opera, and her husband, Sidney Homer, was a well-known song composer. In August 1933 Barber and Menotti happened to pass near conductor Arturo Toscanini's villa in Lago Maggiore and made bold to drop in unannounced. They probably would have been sent away but for the fact that they introduced themselves as friends of a New York music critic Toscanini admired, and then there was the common ground of Aunt Louise, who had performed under Toscanini's baton.

Toscanini took a liking to the two young composers and floated the idea that he might be inclined to conduct a piece by Barber. Nothing resulted immediately, but in 1937 Toscanini heard Barber's Symphony in One Movement at the Salzburg Festival. He had been taking heat about not championing contemporary music, but he related to Barber's essentially conservative style and thought it might be a modern voice in line with his personal taste.

It was for Toscanini that Barber composed his Essay for Orchestra in 1937–38 (or Essay No. 1, as it became known after an

Essay No. 2 followed in 1942). It is a singlemovement work in two parts plus a coda: an opening Andante sostenuto in which the principal thematic material is presented before speeding up to a nervous Allegro molto and, at the very end, relaxing again, this time to a brief Largamente sostenuto. The doleful slow sections may call to mind Barber's most familiar composition, his Adagio for Strings. That work was arranged from the slow movement of the String Quartet he had just written (it is his Op. 11, and the Essay his Op. 12). In fact, when Barber sent the score of his Essay to Toscanini, he decided to pop a copy of the Adagio for Strings in the same envelope.

Barber's feelings were hurt when Toscanini returned the two scores without comment. Toscanini meant no offense by it, but Barber was miffed. "Tell him not to be mad." Toscanini begged Menotti. "I'm not going to play one of his pieces. I'm going to play both." This he did on the NBC Symphony broadcast of November 5, 1938, an event of surpassing historical importance as the first time the world heard the Adagio for Strings. It rather overshadowed the piece at hand, but Toscanini took the Essay just as seriously. Reviewing in the New York Times. Olin Downes reported that "Toscanini conducted the scores as if his reputation rested upon the results."

# **Flute Concerto**

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE Born February 15, 1949, in Baltimore, Maryland, where he currently resides.

Christopher Rouse is acclaimed for works of compulsive rhythm, vivid color, and catholicity in bringing together the traditions of classical and popular music. He graduated from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in 1971, and 25 years later his alma mater also awarded him an honorary doctorate. Following private study with George Crumb, he pursued composition studies with Karel Husa and Robert Palmer at Cornell University, which granted him a D.M.A. in 1977. Also influential in his formation was the composer William Schuman, past president of Juilliard and first president of Lincoln Center.

Rouse went on to teach at the University of Michigan, the Eastman School of Music, and Juilliard (where he has taught since 1997). In 1988 he received the Kennedy Center Friedheim Award for his Symphony No. 1, and in 1993 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music for his Trombone Concerto. In 2009 he was named Composer of the Year by *Musical America*, which cited particularly his skill as a composer of symphonic scores. From 2012 to 2015 he served as the Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic.

His Flute Concerto, composed in 1993, gives voice to his appreciation of Celtic traditional music. Rouse has commented about this work:

The concerto, in a general sense at least, was inspired by my reactions to and reflections upon the Celtic tradition, though in no sense is the piece intended to be heard as music to a specific program.... The kinship I feel with the heritage—reflected in musical sources as distinct as Irish folk songs, Scottish bagpipe music, and English coronation marches—never fails to summon forth from me a profoundly intense reaction of both recognition and homesickness. ...

I have attempted to reflect my responses to these stimuli in my Flute Concerto, a fivemovement work cast in a somewhat loose arch form. The first and last movements bear the title *Amhrán* (Gaelic for "song") and are simple melodic elaborations for the solo flute over the accompaniment of orchestral strings. They were intended in a general way to evoke the traditions of Celtic, especially Irish, folk music but to couch the musical utterance in what I hoped would seem a more spiritual, even metaphysical, manner through the use of extremely slow tempi, perhaps not unlike some of the recordings of the Irish singer Enya.

The second and fourth movements are both fast in tempo. The second is a rather sprightly march which shares some of its material with the fourth, a scherzo which refers more and more as it progresses to that most Irish of dances, the jig. However, by the time the jig is stated in its most obvious form, the tempo has increased to the point that the music seems almost frantic and breathless in nature.

# Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

JOHANNES BRAHMS Born May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany Died April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

"I shall never write a symphony!" Brahms famously declared in 1872 to the conductor Hermann Levi. "You can't have any idea what it's like to hear such a giant marching behind you." The giant was Beethoven, of course, and although his music provided essential inspiration for Brahms, it also set such a high standard that the younger composer found it easy to discount his own creations as negligible in comparison.

Nonetheless, the young Brahms proved relentless in confronting his compositional demons. Rather than lead to a creative block, his self-criticism pushed him to forge ahead even when his eventual path seemed obscure. He drafted the first movement of this symphony in 1862 and shared it with his friend Clara Schumann.

# Juilliard

She copied out the opening and sent it along to their friend Joseph Joachim (the violinist) with this comment: "That is rather strong, for sure, but I have grown used to it. The movement is full of wonderful beauties, and the themes are treated with a mastery that is becoming more and more characteristic of him. It is all interwoven in such an interesting way, and yet it moves forward with such momentum that it might have been poured forth in its entirety in the first flush of inspiration." Calling the opening "rather strong" is surely an understatement. That first movement's introduction is one of the most astonishing preludes in the entire symphonic literature, with throbbing timpani underpinning the orchestra's taut phrasesa texture that seizes the listener's attention and remains engraved in the memory.

Word got around that Brahms was working on a symphony, and he found himself having to deflect inquiries about his progress, most pointedly from his eager publisher, Fritz Simrock. Eleven years later Simrock wrote a beseeching letter to the composer: "Aren't you doing anything any more? Am I not to have a symphony from you in '73 either?" No, he was not—nor in '74 or '75 either. Not until 1876 did Brahms finally sign off on his First Symphony, at least provisionally, since he would revise it further prior to its publication the following year. He was 43 years old and had been struggling with the piece on and off for 14 years.

"My symphony is long and not particularly lovable," wrote Brahms to his fellow composer Carl Reinecke when this piece was unveiled. He was right about it being long, at least when compared to other "typical" symphonies of his era. He was probably also right about it not being particularly lovable. Even the warmth of the second movement and the geniality of the third are interrupted by passages of anxiety, and the outer movements are designed to impress rather than to charm. Brahms' First is a big, burly symphony, certainly when compared to his next one. It is probably no more "lovable" than Michelangelo's The Last Judgment, Shakespeare's King Lear, or Goethe's Faust.

James M. Keller is the long-time program annotator of the New York Philharmonic (The Leni and Peter May Chair) and the San Francisco Symphony, and serves as critic-at-large for The Santa Fe New Mexican.

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# Meet the Artists





# Alan Gilbert

Alan Gilbert is the first holder of the William Schuman Chair in Musical Studies at Juilliard and is director of conducting and orchestral studies at the school. He was recently named the chief conductor of Hamburg's NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, an appointment he takes up in September 2019. The Grammy Award-winning conductor previously served for more than a decade as principal quest conductor of the ensemble when it was known as NDR Symphony Orchestra Hamburg; it has since adopted the name of its already-iconic new home, the Elbphilharmonie, which opened in January 2017. Mr. Gilbert's new position follows his transformative eight-year tenure as music director of the New York Philharmonic. He is also conductor laureate of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the founder and president of Musicians for Unity.

Mr. Gilbert makes regular guest appearances with orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. He has led productions for La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Zurich Opera, Royal Swedish Opera, and Santa Fe Opera, where he was the inaugural music director. His discography includes The Nielsen Project, a boxed set recorded with the New York Philharmonic, and John Adams' Doctor Atomic, captured on DVD at the Metropolitan Opera, for which he won a Grammy Award.

Mr. Gilbert has received honorary doctor of music degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and Westminster Choir College, as well as Columbia University's Ditson Conductor's Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was named an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. After giving the 2015 lecture on "Orchestras in the 21st Century—a new paradigm" at London's Royal Philharmonic Society, he received a 2015 Foreign Policy Association Medal for his commitment to cultural diplomacy.



# Giorgio Consolati

A native of Italy, Giorgio Consolati was the first flutist in the Milan Conservatory of Music's 210-year history to graduate with top honors. Now completing his bachelor's degree at Juilliard, where he is a student of Carol Wincenc, he is a laureate of several flute competitions including the De Lorenzo and the Krakamp, and has performed in New York in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and David Geffen Hall, Mr. Consolati was recently heard as a soloist with the National Repertory Orchestra in Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto. A passionate advocate of new music, he has performed with Juilliard's AXIOM ensemble and in the annual Focus! festival, as well as at the Milano Musica Festival, where his performances were broadcast by Italy's RAI Radio 3. An avid chamber musician, he has performed at Juilliard's ChamberFest and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. and has been invited to the 2018 Marlboro Music Festival.

Kovner Fellowship

# Juilliard Orchestra

Alan Gilbert, Director of Conducting and Orchestral Studies, William Schuman Chair in Musical Studies

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# Violin II

Kyung-Ji Min, Principal Zeynep Alpan Annie Bender Jessie Chen Yimiao Chen Kit Ying Katherine Cheng Ann Sangeun Cho Alice Ivv-Pemberton Angela Kim Katherine Kyu Hyeon l im Mo Lei Luo Guangnan Yue Andi Zhang Wei Zhu

# Viola

Emily Liu, Principal Kayla Cabrera Howard Cheng Kunjing Dai Lydia Grimes Joshua SangHa Kail James Chanha Kang Natalie Loughran Alaina Rea Sequoyah Sugiyama Yin-Ying Tseng Chien Tai Ashley Wang

# Cello

Chloe Hong, *Principal* David Bender Clare Bradford John-Henry Crawford Jessica Hong Connor Kim Sanae Kodaira Jonathan Lien Emily Mantone Erik Wheeler

# Double Bass

Brittany Conrad, Principal Daniel Chan Szu Ting Chen Michael Gabriel Fox Myers Paris Myers Justin Smith Reed Tucker

# Flute

Jake Chabot, *Principal* Viola Chan, *Principal* JiHyuk Park, *Principal* 

# Oboe

Emily Beare, *Principal* Emily Moscoso, *Principal* Ryan Roberts, *Principal* 

# Clarinet

Wonchan Doh, *Principal* Kamalia Freyling, *Principal* Dan Giacobbe, *Principal* 

# Bassoon

Jonathan Gibbons, Principal Soo Yeon Lee, Principal Blair Shepperd, Principal

#### Contrabassoon Blair Shepperd

# ...

French Horn Harry Chiu Chin-pong, Principal Eric Huckins, Principal Cort Roberts, Principal Jasmine Lavariega William Loveless VI

# Trumpet

Brandon Bergeron, Principal Lasse Bjerknaes-Jacobsen, Principal Federico Montes, Principal

# Trombone

Ricardo Pedrares Patiño, *Principal* Hanae Yoshida, *Principal* George Foreman

# Bass Trombone

Aaron Albert

Tuba Samantha Lake

# Timpani

Jake Darnell, *Principal* Sae Hashimoto, *Principal* Marty Thenell, *Principal* 

# Percussion

Omar El-Abidin, *Principal* Benjamin Cornavaca Marty Thenell

Harp Madeline Olson

# Piano

Gabrielle Chou

# About the Juilliard Orchestra

Juilliard's largest and most visible student performing ensemble, the Juilliard Orchestra, is known for delivering polished and passionate performances of works spanning the repertoire. Comprising more than 350 students in the bachelor's and master's degree programs, the orchestra appears throughout the 2017-18 season in more than a dozen performances on the stages of Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall, and Juilliard's Peter Jay Sharp Theater. The season opened in August with a collaboration between Juilliard and Finland's Sibelius Academy members conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen with concerts in Alice Tully Hall, Helsinki, and Stockholm. The orchestra is a strong partner to Juilliard's other divisions, appearing in opera and dance productions. Under the musical leadership of Alan Gilbert, the director of conducting and orchestral studies, the Juilliard Orchestra welcomes an impressive roster of world-renowned guest conductors this season including Thomas Adès, Joseph Colaneri, Edo de Waart, Chen Lin, David Robertson, Speranza Scappucci, and Gerard Schwarz, as well as faculty members Jeffrey Milarsky and Mr. Gilbert. The Juilliard Orchestra has toured across the U.S. and throughout Europe, South America, and Asia, where it was the first Western conservatory ensemble allowed to visit and perform following the opening of the People's Republic of China in 1987, returning two decades later, in 2008. Other ensembles under the Juilliard Orchestra umbrella include the conductorless Juilliard Chamber Orchestra, the Juilliard Wind Orchestra, and the new-music groups AXIOM and New Juilliard Ensemble.

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