

THE MUSICAL OFFERING PRESENTS

BEHIND THE SCENES

2019/2020 PERFORMANCE SEASON



THE Musical
Offering

Chamber Music from the Heart

“Have you ever gone to a restaurant with a foodie who knew what to order?”

That’s what it’s like for me at a Musical Offering concert. I can’t wait to hear what they’re going to play next!”



**THE MUSICAL OFFERING
2019/2020 PERFORMANCE SEASON**

ECLECTIC | ELECTRIFYING | EXHILARATING

Come join us for our 49th season of discovering new treasures of chamber music together. Our world-class Minnesota Orchestra musicians perform repertoire you won't hear anywhere else in the Twin Cities. Music that will surprise you. Delight you. Inspire you.

Find out why it only takes one concert to become a fan of *The Musical Offering*.



THE Musical
Offering

*Chamber Music
from the Heart*

BEHIND THE SCENES

Have you ever wondered where composers find the inspiration to create new pieces? Or what's involved in composing the music that adds emotional depth to movies and live theater?

This season, *The Musical Offering* goes **BEHIND THE SCENES** to explore the stories and lives of composers, delving into dramas at competitions, experimentation in musical styles, the importance of patrons, and unique paths to success, including films and incidental music.

To top it off, we will celebrate the anniversaries of two towering musicians: the 200th birthday of Clara Schumann, and the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven.

ACT I

JAZZ & ROMANCE

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

THREE ROMANCES FOR OBOE AND PIANO, OP. 22

Clara Schumann

Lush and affectionate, the genius of composer Clara Schumann shines through

TRIO FOR FLUTE, CELLO, AND PIANO, OP. 86

Nikolai Kapustin

A jazzy trio of kaleidoscopic colors and dazzling energy

SERENADE NO. 1 IN D MAJOR, OP. 11

Johannes Brahms

The original nonet version of one of Brahms' most sunny and tuneful pieces

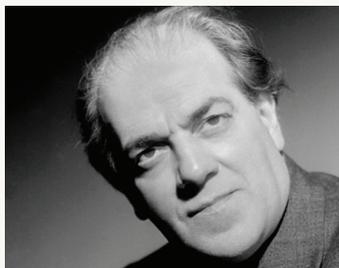


CLARA WIECK SCHUMANN was the first true female star musician in Europe. She gained fame as a touring pianist while still a child, and continued to perform throughout her life, supporting the family through her husband's (Robert Schumann) health troubles, raising eight children, and through 40 years of widowhood. She was considered one of the finest musicians ever on the stage, popularized Schumann's and Brahms' music and somehow, through all that, found time to compose her own beautiful pieces as well.

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN, a composer and pianist in Moscow, first heard jazz on Voice of America broadcasts in the 1950s. Kapustin's music was barely known in the West until after the collapse of the



Soviet Union, when his jazz-infused piano works exploded on the scene thanks to several pianists who performed and recorded them.



HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS was largely self-taught on clarinet, cello and guitar. As a teenager, after his father's untimely death, he supported his family by playing in theater and cinema orchestras. In 1958, Villa-Lobos was commissioned by MGM to write the score for the movie *Green Mansions* and he conducted the soundtrack.

ACT II

UPON A WINTER'S DAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

BACHIANAS BRASILEIRAS NO. 6 FOR FLUTE AND BASSOON

Heitor Villa-Lobos

An evocation of the sounds of the rain forest and an homage to Bach

QUINTET FOR OBOE AND STRING QUARTET

Arthur Bliss

An intricate and serious work, commissioned by Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge as Bliss was expanding his classical career while writing music for film and ballet

QUARTET IN C MAJOR, OP. 59 NO. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

The last of three magnificent quartets commissioned by the Russian Ambassador to Vienna, Count Andreas Razumovsky

ACT III

SPRING SERENADE

Join us for an afternoon of glorious music intermingled with food, wine, and lively conversation!

MARCH 8, 2020

SUITE FROM MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, OP. 11

Erich Korngold

Luscious incidental music, full of humor and love, for four scenes from Shakespeare's endearing comedy

TRIO FOR FLUTE, BASSOON, AND PIANO, WOO 37

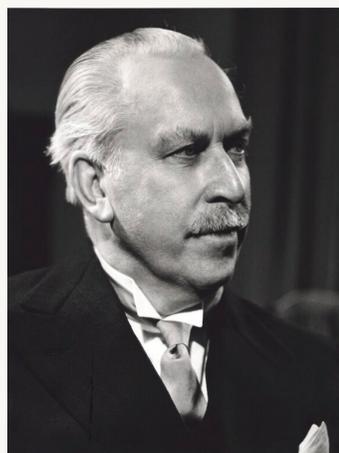
Ludwig van Beethoven

Beethoven wrote this youthful *Trio* when he was only 15 years old for one of his piano students and her family

NONETTO FOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Nino Rota

A quirky, delightful piece from the man who scored movies for the likes of Fellini, Zeffirelli, and Coppola



ARTHUR BLISS' eight film scores and several successful ballets in the 1920s and '30s led him to a job as Director of Music for the BBC in the early 1940s, and a knighthood in 1950.



Three-time Academy Award nominee ERICH KORNGOLD won an Oscar in 1939 for his score to *The Adventures of Robin Hood* starring Errol Flynn.



NINO ROTA created the score for *The Godfather*, featuring his beautiful main theme, and won an Oscar in 1975 for his score to *The Godfather Part II*.



REBECCA CLARKE was an English classical composer and violist best known for her chamber music featuring the viola. She also was one of the first women to succeed as a professional orchestral musician in the early twentieth century.

ACT IV

ROMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

MAY 17, 2020

L'HEURE DU BERGER

Jean Françaix

A frisky romp in three scenes depicting Parisians enjoying a stylish café, complete with *very* energetic children

SONATA FOR VIOLA AND PIANO

Rebecca Clarke

Rhapsodic and warm, this sonata will win your heart as we celebrate the 100th birthday of its creation

NONET IN E-FLAT MAJOR, OP. 139

Josef Rheinberger

We end our season with the lush late romantic sonorities of Rheinberger's *Nonet*

MEET OUR MUSICAL OFFERING MUSICIANS

The Musical Offering, founded in 1971, is composed of some of Minnesota's most recognized faces from the Minnesota Orchestra. The versatility that comes from their unique complement of instruments (strings, winds, and keyboard) allows them to play a wide breadth of repertoire from the well-known to the rare.



The Musical Offering's bassoonist and co-artistic director

NORBERT NIELUBOWSKI joined the ensemble in 1988 shortly after winning a position in the Minnesota Orchestra bassoon section. A Chicago native, Norbert began his career at the Chicago Lyric Opera. He studied with Willard Elliot, John Miller and Louis Skinner as well as performing chamber music with oboist Ray Still and clarinetist Larry Combs. Alongside his musical career and teaching at the University of Minnesota's School of Music, Norbert has become a woodworker over the past

25 years, and together with his wife Caroline Lemen, horn, raised two daughters into young professional musicians.



CAROLINE LEMEN is one of Minnesota's most versatile professional

horn players, sought after by the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Ordway. She holds teaching positions at the University of Minnesota's School of Music and Macalester College. Caroline's teachers include the legendary Gail Williams of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as

well as Nick Adberg, both of whom she studied with at Northwestern University's School of Music. Caroline's expertise extends outside the concert hall: she is also a Ramsey County Master Gardener.



SUSAN BILLMEYER became co-artistic director in 2014

after years of captivating audiences from the piano bench. She brings a unique perspective as an interpreter and communicator of chamber music, and is as articulate behind a microphone as she is behind a keyboard. Billmeyer has performed

regularly with the Minnesota Orchestra since 2005, and she has appeared on recordings for the BIS and Innova labels. When she is not at the piano, she can usually be found knitting.



GARETH ZEHNGUT joined the Minnesota Orchestra viola section

in 2015 after moving from San Diego, where he performed with the San Diego Symphony. His mentors include Heidi Castleman, Jeffrey Irvine, and Melinda Daetsch. Gareth, a nationally sought-after chamber music festival musician and coach, has quickly made the Twin Cities his home, thanks in part to a newfound enthusiasm for gardening.



JOHN SNOW is the principal oboist with the Minnesota Orchestra.

A two-time McKnight Fellowship recipient (2005,

2011) and distinguished alumni of the Yale School of Music, John's professional career spans the globe, including the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, as well as dozens of chamber music festival performances. When he isn't working on reeds, John enjoys spending time in the cabin he built himself up north.



DAVID PHARRIS headed north from Florida and Santa Fe to join the

Minnesota Orchestra in 2005. He says the transition to Minnesota life wasn't hard: he was already an avid coffee drinker, and he got acquainted with winter while studying with Robert Marcellus at Northwestern University's School of Music. He briefly returned south in 2013-14 to play with the Houston Symphony during the lockout, but wouldn't trade his colleagues and musical

opportunities in Minnesota for anything.



Formerly a member of the Colorado Symphony, violinist **BEN ODHNER**

joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2017. Ben has appeared as a soloist with the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, Ashland Symphony, Warminster Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles. He was concertmaster of the Aspen Sinfonia and the Aspen Concert Orchestra, and featured on NPR's *From the Top* as part of the Gray Charitable Trust Piano Trio. Ben received his bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and his master's degree at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Ben participated in the New York String Orchestra Seminar at Carnegie Hall, and performed with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra during the first international classical music summit on the internet.

NOT A BAD SEAT IN THE HOUSE

All concerts take place in Sundin Music Hall, located on the campus of Hamline University in Saint Paul. Recognized for its intimate, warm ambiance and recording-quality acoustics, this 325-seat performance hall is the ideal place to experience *The Musical Offering* concerts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Purchase tickets online at MusicalOffering.org or by phone at 651-523-2459. Tickets purchased in advance will be available at the box office on performance days.

SEASON SUBSCRIPTION

Don't miss our season subscription package!

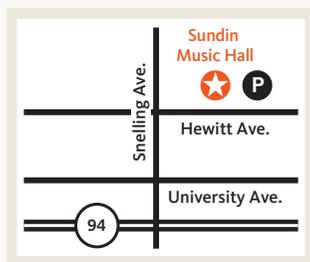
Order by September 15 (online or phone) and pay only \$120 for tickets to all four concerts, including our all-inclusive food and wine event. You'll get one concert free — a \$30 savings!

SINGLE TICKETS

Single tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students. The food and wine concert on March 8, 2020, is \$60 per ticket (all-inclusive).

FREE PARKING

Available one half-block east of Sundin. You are also invited to drop off guests at the front door, where there is a curbside entry.



TMO50 CAMPAIGN

We will celebrate *The Musical Offering's* 50th anniversary in 2020! Learn how you can help us build an even brighter future through our special TMO50 campaign. Learn more at MusicalOffering.org.

FOLLOW TMO

Stay up-to-date on TMO by subscribing to our e-newsletter, following us on Facebook or visiting us at MusicalOffering.org.

[facebook.com/TheMusicalOffering](https://www.facebook.com/TheMusicalOffering)

www.MusicalOffering.org

Thank you for supporting The Musical Offering!

The Musical Offering is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization generously sustained by individual gifts. We welcome and appreciate your support.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

"My favorite event is the food and wine concert. Where else could I have a beer with a musician from the Minnesota Orchestra?"



The Musical Offering
1750 Lincoln Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105

Return Service Requested

THE MUSICAL OFFERING PRESENTS

BEHIND THE SCENES

2019/2020 PERFORMANCE SEASON



THE Musical
Offering

Chamber Music from the Heart