

**MURRAY**  
*Symphony*  
Julie Christofferson, Conductor

PRESENTS

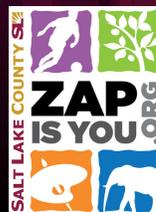
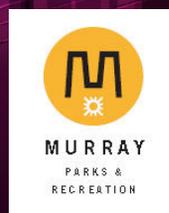
# STICKS & STRINGS AND MAGICAL THINGS

A Percussion and Strings Concert

A wonderful collection of music from classical music to show tunes, featuring our string and percussion sections.

October 17, 2020 7pm  
Hillcrest Junior High School  
Murray, UT

## PROGRAM NOTES



## Pavanne – Jay Welch



Jay Welch was a local composer, conductor and director who left a legacy of music both community and religious music organizations in Salt Lake City. He conducted the Tabernacle Choir and was responsible for creating the Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus which eventually evolved into the orchestra at Temple Square. Before this, while he was earning his Ph.D. in music at the University of Utah, he worked as the “court composer” for the drama department. He composed and conducted incidental music for University theater productions. One of these compositions was incidental music for a production of *Romeo and Juliet*. According to Emily Ricks, a violinist, performer and teacher from American Fork, she played this many times from a hand-written manuscript until she put it in computer notation software so it could be read more easily. Evidently it has never been widely published commercially so we are very happy to present it to you. It is a beautiful little dance.

## Toss the Feathers – A traditional Irish Reel, Arr. Sean O’Laughlin

In many cultures, feathers represent a connection to spiritual realms. Different feather colors represent personal characteristics. Whether this tune was used to indicate the personality of a particular person or child, perhaps is difficult to know. One writer explained that orange feathers represent energy, grey feathers indicate peace, and black and white feathers represent protection; pink feathers represent spiritual growth, blue feathers indicate that you were born with gifted hands and you should use them to help people. In another article it said brown feathers indicate that you need more stability in your life. This particular Irish reel is typically played with a tin whistle and fiddle. As with most folk tunes, it has existed in many variations and different keys it has been adapted in over 200 modern compilations including both traditional versions and modern rock groups.

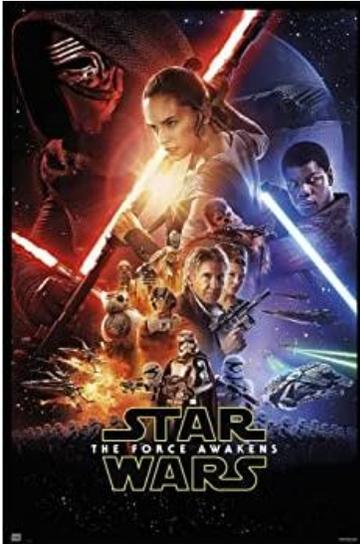
## Concerto Grosso for Strings and Piano, 1. Prelude – Ernest Block

Ernest Block was born in Switzerland and studied in Europe before he emigrated to the United States where he became a citizen in 1924. Though he lived in a time of modernists who were experimenting with avant garde ideas (think 12-tone row and other rhythmic and melodic variations of Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Paul Hindemith and others), most of his music was composed in the Romantic style. According to his daughter, some of his students in Cleveland expressed doubt that one could write a truly modern work using Baroque forms and harmonies. So he did. He asked a student orchestra to play it and they liked it. He reportedly said: “What do you think now? It has just old-fashioned notes!” He showed that new works could be created in the style of older one by using some of the new techniques. Later he added 3 other



movements, *Dirge, Pastorale and Rustic Dance* and *Fugue*. We are playing the first movement of the Concerto, *Prelude*. Bloch infused this baroque structure with the rhythmic and melodic sensibility of the romantics and the polytonal harmonies of the early 20th century, filtered through the Jewish identity which had characterized so much of his own music to this point. Though, as Bloch enthused, it was just “old-fashioned notes”, the result was something entirely new.

## March of the Resistance – John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender



When Star Wars first came on the entertainment scene, John Williams had to convince George Lucas that his original score would be better than using pre-existing works by older composers. John Williams's major contribution, says *Audissimo*, is rediscovering and revitalizing Hollywood's symphonic, neoclassical tradition of movie music. “After years of mostly market-oriented popular music, William's narrative-oriented scores, brought back to the general attention the importance and power of music as a device of cinematic art, and the fundamental help that it can give to film narration.”

*The Force Awakens*, was released in December 2015 and the story takes place some thirty years after the conclusion of *The Return of the Jedi*. As old and new characters come together in the film, Williams' score artfully weaves together familiar music from the original films with brand new themes and brilliantly highlights pivotal actions and relationships. “March of the Resistance” is the musical track and theme that represents the Resistance. It first plays when Poe Dameron and the resistance forces arrive on Takodana to fight the First Order at Takodana Castle and is continued in *Han and Leia* and *Scherzo for X-Wings*.

Later Lucas noted that 75% of the popularity of the series was the music.

## Palladio – Karl Jenkins – arr. Robert Longfield

Andrea Palladio was a sixteenth-century Italian architect whose work embodies the harmony and order of the Renaissance. He was commissioned by the wealthy families of his day to build beautiful villas and many churches. The existence of aesthetic beauty within a very defined architectural framework. He used mathematical harmony and architectural elements from classical antiquity which inspired Karl Jenkins' approach to this composition. He based his music on “harmonious mathematical principles”.

Sir Karl William Pamp Jenkins was born in 1944 in Wales. His father was a choirmaster and chapel organist who was his first teacher. He began to learn the oboe and played in the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. From there he studied at Cardiff University and then the Royal Academy of Music. He is regarded as the 'most performed living composer in the world'. He has composed for films, TV series and concert halls. In 2005, Jenkins composed the score for *River Queen*, which later won the Golden Goblet Award for Best Score.

*Palladio*, especially the first movement has been arranged for different ensembles including wind quintet and wind band. He also made a version for piano and used the motifs of movement I for an aria "*Exultate jubilate*", related to his 70th birthday. The first movement from *Palladio* has undoubtedly taken on a life of its own; called upon by television producers and event organizers the world over, often as a symbol of impending drama, the piece has become familiar to millions, even if they might not all be able to recall its creator. He provided this motif for the DeBeers, "A Diamond is Forever", commercial from 1993.

### **Music from Brave – Patrick Doyle, Arr. Robert Longfield**

As with so many of Disney/Pixar's classic movies, *Brave* tells a tale of a young woman who is a highly skilled archer, and princess, who challenges the customs of the time and causes chaos in her kingdom. Patrick Doyle brings the music of the Highlands to life. The medley includes: *Fates of Destiny; The Games; Merida's Home; Noble Maiden Fair (A Mhaighdean Bhan Uasal)* and *Touch the Sky*.

The music ranges in mood from haunting and lyrical to powerful and majestic. Robert Longfield captures the style beautifully for string orchestra.

### **Red Rhythmico – Kirt Mosier**



Kirt Mosier is an internationally known artist, both a conductor and composer and also a teacher. He has conducted performances with international orchestra and venues around the world and has won national composition awards. Recently he was awarded the Joanna Nichols Artist in Residence Grant by the Taipei American school and will be the Artist in Residence in Taipei beginning in 2020. Currently, 2019, he is the artistic director for the Youth Symphony of Kansas City and is also the associate conductor of the Lee's Summit Symphony. He also taught orchestration and was Director of Orchestras in 2 school districts in Missouri. He was the founding teacher of the Digital Media Technology program at Summit Technology Academy where students learn studio multitrack recording, video editing software and techniques. His students have won national recognition and many are in the professional industry today. He is a keynote and motivational sought by school districts and other organizations in the United States.

For a long time it was difficult to find interesting musical works for string orchestras. String teachers across the country looked for interesting and challenging works for their school groups. This was many years ago and has created a market for intermediate and High School music that has grown for some time. *Red Rhythmico* is Hard Rock for

strings! It infuses rhythmic intensity with jazz and rock melodies. It highlights unique string colors with *pizzicato* and *spiccato*. Every player in the orchestra gets challenging lines and there are great solo lines for two violins and two celli in the style of classic jazz.

## Golliwogg's Cake-Walk – Claude Debussy, arr. Bob Cerulli

Debussy composed *Children's Corner* between 1906 and 1908. He dedicated the suite to his daughter, Claude-Emma (known as "Chou-Chou"), who was born on 30 October 1905 in Paris. She is described as a lively and friendly child who was adored by her father. She was three years old when he dedicated the suite to her in 1908. In 1911, an orchestration of the work, by Debussy's friend Andre Caplet was premiered and published. It is a collection of 6 pieces depicting a child's toys that come to life and interact with each other.



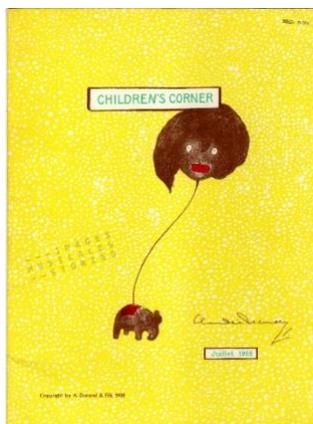
This music was inspired by a very popular series of children's picture books. This series around a 'Golliwogg' character started in 1895 when



the American-born English illustrator Florence Kate Upton drew the pictures for *The Adventures of Two Dutch Dolls and a Golliwogg*. Her mother Bertha wrote the verse. The two 'dutch dolls' referred to in the story's title were peg wooden dolls, that thanked their name to their Dutch and German toymakers. These inexpensive and very popular dolls were sold undressed.

Children would use scraps of fabric to make their clothing. For the third doll, the striking Golliwogg, Florence sought inspiration from an old rag doll from her childhood.

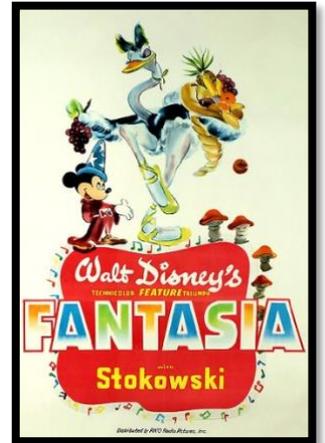
In France the Golliwogg inspired Claude Debussy. *Golliwogg's Cakewalk* is the sixth and final piece in his piano solo suite *Children's Corner* (1908). Debussy dedicated this suite, about toys coming to life, to his much beloved daughter Emma, nicknamed Chouchou. The cover with a small elephant holding a gigantic Golliwogg balloon is rather surrealistic, and was drawn by Debussy himself. The *Golliwogg's cakewalk* is clearly influenced by Afro-American ragtime and jazz. For an interesting discussion of this piece, the Golliwogg, the cakewalk and the its influence on the growing jazz music movement, go to <https://blog.imagesmusicales.be/debussys-controversial-golliwogg/>



## Themes from *Fantasia* – Arr. James Curnow

*Fantasia*, an animated film produced by Walt Disney was the third Disney animated feature film. One of Disney's goals was to accurately sync animation and the sound that went with it. There are eight animated segments set to classical music played by the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski.

The soundtrack was recorded using multiple audio channels and reproduced with *Fantasound*, a pioneering sound reproduction system that made *Fantasia* the first commercial film shown in stereophonic sound. This created a challenge for theaters who had to install Fantasound equipment to show the film. This, along with the fact that it was released in 1940, during World War II which hampered the film's distribution. As a result, it did not make a profit at first but it has been reissued multiple times with its original footage and modified, deleted or restored audio every time. *Fantasia* is the 24<sup>th</sup>-highest-grossing film of all time in the U.S. when adjusted for inflation. In 1998 the American Film Institute ranked it as the 58<sup>th</sup> greatest American film in the 100Year..100 Movies and the fifth greatest animated film in their 10 top 10 list. In 1990, *Fantasia* was selected for preservation in the United States National Films Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".



This James Curnow collection includes: *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*; *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*; *Arabian Dance*; *Russian Dance (Trepak)*; *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*; *Dance of the Hours* and *Night on Bald Mountain*.

## Rise of the Olympians – Brian Balmages

Written in the months leading up to the 2018 Winter Olympics, this piece exemplifies the building excitement and anticipation surrounding some of the



most amazing and competitive games on Earth. The music chronicles these athletes as they push their bodies and minds to the limit and beyond, willing themselves to be stronger, faster, and smarter. The soft opening has a peaceful, yet bold and determined quality to it. In addition to foreshadowing the powerful music that follows, it creates a sense of peace



and clarity – something that many of these incredible athletes are able to find as part of their training regimen. As the tempo quickens, aggressive rhythms juxtapose with soaring melodies and harmonic moments filled with tension and release. The harp part provides an additional beautiful texture throughout. *Rise of the Olympians* was commissioned by Orchard Park Middle School (New York) and conductor Julie Schara. It was made possible through generous funding by the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence.

The Composer Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer and performer. The music he has written for winds, brass, and orchestra has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras.