

Department of Music
University of Alberta



University Symphony Orchestra

**Norman Nelson,
Conductor**

**Sunday, December 3, 1995
at 8:00 pm**

**Convocation Hall
Arts Building
University of Alberta**



Program

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Tragic Overture, Op. 81 (1881) | Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897) |
| "Caro nome"
From Rigoletto (1851) | Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901) |
| "Oh! Mio babbino caro"
From Gianni Schicchi (1918) | Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924) |
| "Ah! Je veux vivre"
From Romeo et Juliette
Soloist: Maura Sharkey, soprano
(Winner of the 1995 Concerto Competition) | Charles Gounod
(1818-1893) |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Roumanian Rhapsody
Op. 11, No. 2 in D major (1908) | Georges Enesco
(1881-1955) |
| Roumanian Rhapsody
Op. 11, no. 1 in A major (1908) | Georges Enesco
(1881-1955) |

Program Notes

Brahms completed the Tragic Overture op. 81 in 1880, the same year in which he wrote the Academic Festival Overture. In a letter to his friend and publisher, Simrock, he wrote, "I have written a very jolly Academic Festival Overture with a Gaudeamus and all sorts of things; at the same time, I could not deny my melancholy turn of mind, and have also composed a Tragedy Overture." Actually, Brahms disliked descriptive titles and was unhappy with the designation "Tragic" only using it in the end because neither he nor his friends could think of anything better.

It is thought, somewhat doubtfully though, that Brahms intended the Overture to be incidental music to a staging of Faust. Its premiere was given by the Vienna Philharmonic under the directorship of Hans Richter on December 26, 1880.

"Caro Nome"

The hunchback, Rigoletto, is a court jester in 16th century Mantua. His wife is deceased and he has concealed his daughter, Gilda, from the world. Despite this, Gilda meets a man at Mass who then sneaks into their walled garden to declare his love for her. In this aria she reflects on the emotions that his name, "Gualtier Meldi", evokes in her. She does not suspect that he is really Rigoletto's employer, the Duke of Mantua.

"Oh, Mio babbino Caro"

The relatives of Buoso Donati are shocked to discover that his entire estate has been given to charity at his death. Rinnucio, his nephew, has a girlfriend, Lauretta, whose father, Gianni Schicchi, is a very clever rogue. Rinuccio begs Schicchi to help the family win back the estate but he refuses because of their condescension toward the relationship between Rinuccio and Lauretta. At this point, Lauretta convincingly pleads with her father on Rinuccio's behalf.

"Ah! Je veux vivre"

The Capulets have thrown a masked ball to celebrate Juliette's birthday and Romeo has sneaked in to see her. Juliette, captivated by their love for one another, sings of her joy at being alive.

Forty years after his death, Georges Enesco is considered the most important musical figure in Romanian history. Born in 1881 in Moldavia, his talents as a composer and virtuoso violinist blossomed early. At the age of seven he was studying at the Vienna Conservatory and by the age of twelve he was attending the Conservatoire in Paris where he studied composition with Massenet and Fauré. Though his career centered in Paris he continued to support musical endeavours and development in his native Romania throughout his life.

The two Roumanian Rhapsodies, op. 11, were completed in 1901. The first relies on loosely connected episodes from folk dances and folk tunes. The second is based on a Moldavian ballad in which the heroic past is imaginatively recalled.

1995-1996 University Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Adrian Dyck, concertmaster
Betsy Steed
Mathais Siveira
Grant Sigurdson
Ryan Sigurdson
Mary Kagawa
Katherine Henshaw
Sam Zasadny
Helen Byron
Madeline Lussier
Gautam Karnik

Violin II

John Radosh, principal
Jim Cockell
Kenneth Heise
Barry Mabillard
Kim Bertsch
Carol Sperling
Soh Yoo
Merryn Edwards

Viola

Miriam Lewis, principal
Moni Matthew
Heidi Klann
Marnie Ozipko
Meghan Schuler
Natasha Morrow

Cello

Paul Radosh, principal
Adèle Bossé
Kerri McGonigle
Olivia Walsh
Bonnie Pollock
Sarah Tungland
Krista Mury
Jennifer Tusz
Marc Dowdell
Sarah Snihurowych
Karina Bodo

Bass

Roberta Jenkins, principal
Patrick Laska
Robert Solomons
Stephen McGonigle

Harp

Tracy Erdman, principal
Keri Zwicker

Flute

Dot Speers, principal
Susan Rostoker
Silvia Yee

Oboe

Alison Cassis, co-principal
Kathleen Murphy, co-principal

English Horn

Victor Houle

Clarinet

Curtis Bain, principal
Suzanne Vuch

Bassoon

Darryl Hartshorne, principal
Susanne Hayman
Jackie Opgenorth

French Horn

Craig Scott, principal
Jonathan Ward
Gary Grønnestad
Jennifer Green

Trumpet

Stephen Williams, principal
Kelly Mattheis
Andrea EMBERLY
Kathy Dodds

Trombone

Corinne Kessel, principal
Laurie Shapka

Bass Trombone

Hannah Currah

Tuba

Krista Gilliland

Percussion

Greg Ferguson, principal
Nicole Arendt
Tammy Morrison