Department of Music University of Alberta

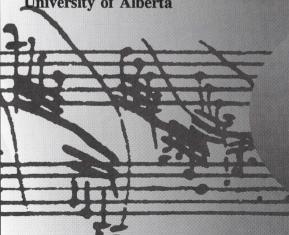


University Symphony Orchestra

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"

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

From Gianni Schicchi (1918)

Charles Gounod

"Ah! Je veux vivre"
From Romeo et Juliette

meo et Juliette (1818-1893) Soloist: Maura Sharkey, soprano

(Winner of the 1995 Concerto Competition)

INTERMISSION

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

Roumanian Rhapsody Georges Enesco Op. 11, no. 1 in A major (1908) (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 Mantura. 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 imagininatively 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

Madelaine 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

TOTAL TUBE

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 Grönnestad

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