

March 30, 2019

Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College

PROGRAM

JoAnn Falletta, Music Director
Fabio Bidini, Pianist

Overture to 'Prince Igor' Aleksandr Borodin
(1833 - 1887)

Concerto No. 2 for Piano & Orchestra,
Op. 83 Johannes Brahms

I. Allegro non troppo (1833 - 1897)

II. Allegro appassionato

III. Andante

IV. Allegro grazioso

INTERMISSION

Romeo and Juliet, selections from the Suite: Sergei Prokofiev

The Montagues and Capulets (1891 - 1953)

Young Girl Juliet

Dance

Friar Laurence

Masks

Romeo and Juliet before Parting

Death of Tybalt

Dance of the Antilles Girls

Romeo at the Grave of Juliet

NO Applause

Between Movements,

PLEASE!

Program Subject to Change

Aleksandr Borodin could never be more than an enthusiastic part-time member of the so called 'Russian Five' (a group of composers which included Modest Mussorgsky, Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and others. Borodin was principally a research chemist and a Professor of Surgery at the Medical Academy at St. Petersburg, yet his efforts at composition have left a small treasury of masterworks, including the brilliant music to his opera **Prince Igor**. However, his many professional duties prevented him from completing the work. After his death, Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Glazunov set about the task of filling in the blanks. Since its inception in 1938, the **BPO** has served as Buffalo's cultural ambassador.

After the rise and fall of several forerunners, the BPO was founded in 1935, performing most often at the Elmwood Music Hall, demolished in 1938. Over the

decades, the orchestra has matured in stature under outstanding conductors including William Steinberg, Josef Krips, Lukas Foss, Michael Tilson Thomas, Julius Rudel, Semyon Bychkov, and Maximiano Valdes. Many distinguished guest performers have graced the orchestra's stage, including Sergei Rachmaninoff, Isaac Stern, Aaron Copland, Van Cliburn, and Yo-Yo Ma. During the tenure of JoAnn Falletta, the BPO has rekindled its history of radio broadcasts and recordings. The orchestra is heard regularly on the syndicated radio program "Performance Today." It has made 47 recordings on the Naxos and Beau Fleuve labels.

JoAnn Falletta is internationally celebrated as a vibrant ambassador for music, an inspiring artistic leader, and a champion of American symphonic music. Praised by The Washington Post as having "Toscanini's tight control over ensemble, Walter's affectionate balancing of inner voices, Stokowski's gutsy showmanship, and a controlled frenzy worthy of Bernstein", she serves as the Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Brevard Music Center.

Italian pianist **Fabio Bidini** has performed with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonia Orchestra of London, New World Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra Prague, and Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra. He is the pianist of the highly acclaimed ensemble Trio Solisti, and has collaborated with many ensembles and artists.

Aware of the great talent their son possessed, **Johannes Brahms'** parents arranged for their 10-year old wunderkind to study with Eduard Marxsen of Hamburg, an elder conductor and teacher of high distinction. Born in Hamburg, Brahms ended up spending much of his professional life in Vienna. His reputation and status as a composer are such that he is often grouped with Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven as one of the "Three Bs" of music, a comment originally made by the 19th century conductor Hans von Bülow. The *Piano Concerto No. 2* is separated by a gap of 22 years from his First Piano Concerto. The premiere was given in Budapest in November 1881, with Brahms as soloist and the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, and was an immediate, huge success. Brahms proceeded to perform the piece in many cities across Europe.

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