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# Princeton Symphony Orchestra Announces Classical Series

by BWW News Desk Mar. 30, 2020

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The **Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO)** led by Edward T. Cone Music Director **Rossen Milanov** has announced its 2020-2021 Season. Works by living composers **Sarah Kirkland Snider** and **Andreia Pinto Correia**, and a piece by **George Walker**, the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music, are among the array of offerings. Additional highlights include performances of Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique*, Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*,

symphonies by Mozart, Brahms, and Beethoven, and multiple works by Tchaikovsky, including his programmatic symphony *Manfred* and *Variations on a Rococo Theme*.

Concertos by Sibelius, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, and Glière, and Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* showcase superb guest artists. Appearing for the first time with the orchestra are violinists **Elina Vähälä** and **Simone Porter**, pianist **Alexander Gavrylyuk**, and harpist **Alexander Boldachev**. There are also highly anticipated returns of audience favorites pianist **Inon Barnatan** and cellist **Pablo Ferrández**.

All concerts include the option of Saturday 8pm or Sunday 4pm performances at Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University.

The PSO's season-opener on September 12-13 features pianist **Inon Barnatan** performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. The virtuoso wowed PSO audiences in 2018 with stunning performances of Beethoven's five piano concertos. The orchestra under Rossen Milanov also performs *Something for the Dark* by Princeton-based composer Sarah Kirkland Snider, identified as "one of the most exciting genre-blending compositional voices at work today" (*The Michigan Daily*). **Hector Berlioz'** enticingly macabre *Symphonie fantastique* completes the program.

Spanish cellist Pablo Ferrández garnered multiple ovations in 2019 with his passionate performances of Elgar's concerto with the PSO. On October 17-18, he plays Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* on a program conducted by Rossen Milanov. The orchestra is spotlighted in performances of **Igor Stravinsky's** *Pulcinella Suite* and W.A. Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*.

The November 14-15 concerts feature US-born, Finnish violinist Elina Vähälä. Described by *The Chicago Tribune* as "a musician whose brilliant technique is matched by abundant spirit, sensitivity and imagination," she performs Jean Sibelius' *Violin Concerto*. Also on the program is *Ciprés*, a recent work by Portuguese-born composer Andreia Pinto Correia who has received critical acclaim from *The New York Classical Review*, *Boston Globe*, and *The New York Times*. **Modest Mussorgsky's** *Prelude to Khovanshchina*, as completed by **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**, and **Igor Stravinsky's** *Lush 1919 The Firebird Suite* complete the program. PSO Assistant Conductor **Nell Flanders** leads from the podium.

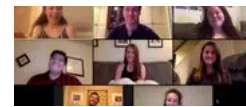
Ukrainian-born, Australian pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk may be new to the PSO stage, but he has appeared with Rossen Milanov at concerts in Columbus, Ohio and the Chautauqua Institution in New York where he is artist-in-residence and leads the piano program as artistic advisor. On January 9-10, he and Mr. Milanov again combine forces for performances of **Sergei Prokofiev's** *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the PSO. **George**

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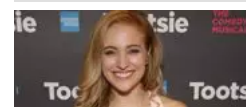
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Walker's popular Lyric for Strings, written while he was a graduate student at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 are also on the program.

On March 6-7, lovers of the harp can look forward to hearing Reinhold Glière's Harp Concerto as performed by gifted Russian soloist Alexander Boldachev, whose stated goal is "to change the image of the harp, to make people lose the stereotypes about this instrument." Also on the program is Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony in Four Scenes after the dramatic poem by [Lord Byron](#). Rossen Milanov conducts.

The Beethoven's Seventh Edward T. Cone concert on May 8-9 completes the season with emerging star violinist Simone Porter performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. "[Porter's] assured, lovingly lyrical, occasionally frisky playing only confirmed what is becoming common knowledge in the musical world: that she is on the cusp of a major career" (The Los Angeles Times). Rossen Milanov conducts the program which includes Jean Sibelius' Valse Triste and [Ludwig van Beethoven's](#) Symphony No. 7.

Each Sunday classical series concert is preceded by a pre-concert talk hosted by the conductor. Ancillary events are planned to enrich the live concert experience and encourage a dialogue connecting the community to the orchestral music heard in the concert hall.

While single tickets go on sale this summer, subscriptions to the six-concert 2020-2021 PSO Classical Series with Saturday and Sunday options are available now. All concerts will take place at Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall on the campus of Princeton University. Single-seat subscriptions are available at \$504, \$462, \$360, \$270, \$180, and \$100 for youth subscriptions (children ages 7-17).

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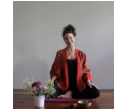
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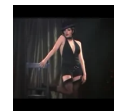
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