

The logo for the Jackson Symphony Orchestra features the word "jackson" in a large, elegant, cursive script. A horizontal line passes through the middle of the "j" and "s". Below this line, the words "SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" are written in a clean, all-caps, sans-serif font.

JACKSON
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Stephen Osmond, Music Director

NEWS RELEASE

215 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson, MI 49201

SECOND SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT, 60TH SEASON

8 P.M. NOVEMBER 7, 2009

POTTER CENTER MUSIC HALL

JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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JSO'S NOVEMBER CONCERT PROGRAM TO TRIGGER EMOTIONS

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra's second concert of the season, playfully titled "Some of the Parts," will begin by highlighting the string section of the orchestra — violin, viola, cello and bass. The second half of the concert will bring together the entire complement of instruments. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Potter Center at Jackson Community College — Performance home of the JSO Subscription Series.

This program is a variation on last season's "Sum of the Parts," which featured smaller sections of the orchestra during the first half and concluded with a grand finale of "all the parts."

The first four compositions on the program will take the audience on "a journey from the distant to the recent past featuring the music of Anton Dvořák, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Edvard Grieg and Samuel Barber," JSO Maestro Osmond said. "Winds will join the strings during the second half for Felix Mendelssohn's vibrant and energetic *Italian Symphony*."

The "journey" will be an emotional one. Each composition that the JSO plans to play will tug at a different heartstring and each is an example of the composer's best work.

The opening piece will be Dvořák's 5-piece *Serenade for Strings op. 22*, written in 1875 when he was 33 and enjoying a happy period in his life. He was newly married and had received a substantial government grant to continue his work. The *Serenade* has been described as "a composition of great spontaneity ... its sunny and straightforward charm accounted for the work's immediate success."

Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue k. 546*, is turbulent and intense. Originally written as a fugue for piano duet when Mozart was 27, it took new shape five years later when Mozart rearranged the fugue for string orchestration and prefaced it with a brief and dark adagio. This music has been called both "dangerous" and "an exquisite example of Mozart's mature excellence."

Grieg's 5-piece *Holberg Suite* is celebratory and reflective of the baroque period. It was originally written for the bicentennial of the birth of Norway's beloved writer and dramatist Ludwig Holberg, whose lifetime spanned the High Baroque period. Traditional baroque melodies and dances can be heard in Grieg's work.

The final pre-intermission piece, Barber's emotive *Adagio for Strings*, has become associated with mourning after being played at several prominent funerals — those of Prince Ranier of Monaco and Albert Einstein, for example. It was also heard at memorial services for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. The world premiere of *Adagio for Strings* was on a radio broadcast in New York on Nov. 5, 1938. Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini conducted the NBC Symphony Orchestra and the piece became an immediate success. Used on many soundtracks and in major films such as *Platoon* and *Elephant Man*, the piece was voted by *BBC Today* listeners in 2004 to be the "saddest classical work ever."

After intermission, the JSO will conclude with Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 4*, which he called *Italian Symphony* because he was inspired to start writing it while on a tour of Europe and Italy when he was in his early 20s. Mendelssohn reportedly wrote to his sister: "The Italian Symphony is making great progress. It will be the jolliest piece I have ever done, especially the last movement. I have not found anything for the slow movement yet, and I think that I will save that for Naples." In fact, he found inspiration for the second of four movements from a religious procession he saw in Naples.

Concert sponsor is Spring Arbor University.

Individual tickets to the Nov. 7 concert are \$18, \$27, \$32 and can be purchased over the phone, 517-782-3221, or in person at the JSO Box Office, 215 W. Michigan Ave., downtown Jackson.