

A bee is shown in flight, hovering over a cluster of pink flowers with long, thin stamens. The background is a solid, vibrant green. The text 'SUMMER with the SYMPHONY' is overlaid on the top left in a yellow, sans-serif font, with 'with the' in a smaller, italicized font and underlined.

SUMMER *with the* SYMPHONY

CONCERT GUIDE

*A Celebration of Summer
Allegheny County Parks Summer Concert Series
July 12, 2020*



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



We are thrilled to be able to be back together for this concert at Hartwood Acres and to perform on Allegheny County's Summer Concert Series—a fantastic partnership since 1992. This concert is the first time since early March that the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has been able to come together in person to perform a concert.

We wish that we could be in person with you at beautiful Hartwood Acres and South Park. While we can't do that this year in observance of health and safety regulations during this pandemic, our great friends at Allegheny County have creatively brought this series online, continuing the tradition of bringing music to the public at the County parks during the summer season, free of charge. We wouldn't miss it—and we hope you will tune in for all of the artists who are performing in this series.

The Pittsburgh Symphony will look a bit different at Hartwood Acres this year as our musicians perform in masks and in small groups. But, the sound of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra remains the same: great music and great musicians.

We thank County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Allegheny County Parks for this opportunity and for supporting great music. Thank you to Robert Peirce & Associates, P.C., for sponsoring this concert. We are so grateful to you, our beloved community, for your continued support of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Warmest best wishes,
Melia Tourangeau
President & CEO

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Alexandra Thompson Lee, Cello, Andrew Wickesberg, Viola, and Marylène Gingras-Roy, Viola, performing at Hartwood Acres, June 2020.

"A Celebration of Summer" concert is available to view on the Facebook pages and YouTube channels of the Allegheny County Parks and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and at www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

“A CELEBRATION OF SUMMER”

Imagine the joy of returning to live music-making after nearly four long months of separation! A chance for orchestra colleagues to see each other for the first time, rehearse, play and work together, and perform and create once again (though socially distanced) side by side. Such was the case for 24 of our Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Musicians who came together for this performance, “A Celebration of Summer,” as part of the Allegheny County’s Summer Concert Series.

Working within the current government regulations, and health and safety protocols, we sought to showcase the full range and virtuosity of our Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians in as many creative formations and combinations as could be possible. For this program, we drew upon our string and percussion sections, and put together a dynamic and diverse mix of sonorities and instruments. We looked for depth and dimension within the various ensembles—for example, two violinists within an ensemble of seven could also become a violin duo, a string octet becomes a small string orchestra with the addition of a double bass player, and the addition of three percussionists to that small string orchestra of nine players expanded to take on the full orchestral parts of Sousa’s *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Of utmost importance, as well, was our continuing commitment to create a program reflective of our community, culture and society at large.

A quick look at each work on the program:

Grieg *Holberg Suite* - The fast-paced and energetic opening movement, Praeludium, was the perfect curtain opener for our return to the stage. With its bright, sprightly character and galloping rhythms, this work encapsulates “A Celebration of Summer” and our excitement in performing together once again.

Dvořák *String Quartet in F major, Opus 96 “American”*- Inspired by the sights and sounds of the tiny farming community of Spillville, Iowa, Dvořák penned his most famous string quartet surrounded by nature. The Finale movement leaps off the page with lively rhythms, joy and good humor.

Walker *String Quartet No. 1, Molto adagio*- Written in 1946, this remains as George Walker’s best known and most-performed work. It proved to be so popular that it was repurposed into a larger orchestral work, titled *Lyric for Strings*. George Walker was the first African American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize in music.

Vivaldi *Concerto for Four Violins in B minor*- This Concerto for Four Violins is the best known of Vivaldi’s concerti grossi. The work overflows with rapid exchanges of passages, ingenious contrapuntal textures, energetic tutti and vigorous dialogue among the voices.

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges *Duo Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major*- Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges was a virtuoso violinist, accomplished harpsichordist, composer, conductor of the leading symphony orchestra in Paris, and champion fencer. A prolific writer, he is regarded as the first classical composer of African ancestry, with an enormous output of more than fourteen violin concertos, eight symphonie concertantes, six violin duos, three sets of string quartets, two symphonies and a number of songs. His set of duo sonatas are marked by incredible invention and virtuosity.

Daryl Runswick *Strauss in the Doghouse and Amazing Grace (Traditional/White)* - A quartet of four bass players takes center stage in two works--- the first, *Strauss in the Doghouse*, a delightful mix and match of a skillful arrangement of some of the best loved and known Strauss Dynasty tunes. The bass quartet also shares a moving rendition of *Amazing Grace*, arranged by one of our own, PSO bassist Aaron White.

Mendelssohn *String Octet in E-flat major*- The final movement of the Mendelssohn Octet, the work completed when the composer was only sixteen years of age, showcases the extraordinary genius of the young Mendelssohn. It teems with youthful brilliance, spirit and verve, making it one of the most known and loved works in the chamber music repertoire. The strikingly rich sound that is achieved from the eight string instruments is remarkable, as is the enormous vitality, melodic inspiration and dramatic impact of the music. Mendelssohn himself admitted to Schumann that among all of his early compositions, the Octet was his favorite.

Sousa *Stars and Stripes Forever*- It is hard to imagine a summer concert without a march of John Phillip Sousa. *Stars and Stripes Forever* is, by far, the most widely performed on any orchestra’s menu. If the spirit moves you, feel free to clap along!

We thank you for joining us for “A Celebration of Summer!”

- Mary Persin, Vice President of Artistic Planning

PERFORMING DURING THE PANDEMIC



“The last concert I played was down in Bradenton for the Pirates spring training. It’s good to be working, good to see my friends, and my colleagues. We’re like a big family and I’ve missed them terribly during this time.”

*Anne Martindale Williams, Cello,
performing at Hartwood Acres, June 2020.*



“When we go out to the parks like here at Hartwood Acres, it is a gift to see all of the people lined up with their picnic baskets and their blankets. We see so many people and we miss it! We’ve missed being able to play at South Park, being able to play here at Hartwood Acres, so we’re grateful to the County and their love of our music and their love of sharing it with the people of Pittsburgh.”

*Christopher Wu, Violin, performing at
Hartwood Acres, June, 2020*

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020 AT 8:00 P.M.

RECORDED LIVE AT HARTWOOD ACRES

Justine Campagna, Violin
Christopher Wu, Violin
Louis Lev, Violin
Dennis O'Boyle, Violin
Marylène Gingras-Roy, Viola
Andrew Wickesberg, Viola
Anne Martindale Williams, Cello
Alexandra Thompson Lee, Cello
Brandon McLean, Bass
Andrew Fuller, Violin
Alison Fujito, Violin
Laura Fuller, Viola
Bronwyn Banerdt, Cello
Irene Cheng, Violin
Ellen Chen-Livingston, Violin
Kristina Yoder, Violin
Sarah Clendenning, Violin
John Moore, Bass
Micah Howard, Bass
Aaron White, Bass
Jeffrey Grubbs, Bass
Andrew Reamer, Percussion
Jeremy Branson, Percussion
Christopher Allen, Percussion

Edvard Grieg

Holberg Suite, Opus 40

I. Praeludium

Ms. Campagna
Mr. Wu
Mr. Lev
Mr. O'Boyle
Ms. Gingras-Roy
Mr. Wickesberg
Ms. Williams
Ms. Lee
Mr. McLean

Antonín Dvořák

String Quartet in F major, Opus 96 (*American*)

IV. Finale: vivace ma non troppo

Mr. Fuller
Ms. Fujito
Ms. Fuller
Ms. Banerdt

George Walker

String Quartet No. 1

II. Molto Adagio

Mr. Fuller
Ms. Fujito
Ms. Fuller
Ms. Banerdt

Antonio Vivaldi

Concerto for Four Violins in B minor, Opus 3, No. 10

I. Allegro

III. Allegro

Ms. Cheng
Ms. Chen-Livingston
Ms. Yoder
Ms. Clendenning
Mr. Wickesberg
Ms. Williams
Mr. Moore

This evening's program has been produced by the Allegheny County Parks Department
as part of the Summer Concert Series.

Kevin Evanto, Executive Producer

PROGRAM

Joseph Bologna,
Chevalier de Saint-Georges

Duo Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major
I. Allegro

Ms. Cheng
Ms. Clendenning

Daryl Runswick

Strauss in the Doghouse

Mr. White
Mr. Grubbs
Mr. Moore
Mr. Howard

Traditional
(arr. White)

Amazing Grace

Mr. Moore
Mr. Howard
Mr. Grubbs
Mr. White

Felix Mendelssohn

String Octet in E-flat major, Opus 20
IV. Presto

Ms. Campagna
Mr. Wu
Mr. Lev
Mr. O'Boyle
Ms. Gingras-Roy
Mr. Wickesberg
Ms. Williams
Ms. Lee

John Phillip Sousa

Stars and Stripes Forever

Ms. Campagna
Mr. Wu
Mr. Lev
Mr. O'Boyle
Ms. Gingras-Roy
Mr. Wickesberg
Ms. Williams
Ms. Lee
Mr. McLean
Mr. Reamer
Mr. Branson
Mr. Allen



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