

The Renaissance

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Symphonie Romantique

Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64*

Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 2*

May 8, 2010 8:00 PM



From Music Director Robert Franz

For a Music Director and "his" musicians chemistry is everything. With this season, I say goodbye to my friends and colleagues in the Mansfield Symphony. It's hard to believe that it has been 7 years already. The musical relationship that we have has brought me great joy and challenged me to become a better musician. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve these fine musicians and our community.



Over the past seven years we have reached out to all facets of the community, performed great repertoire, worked with really fine soloists, and staged operas, ballets and musicals. We began "Operation Bridge Building" to create a bridge for every Kindergarten through 5th grader in our community to the Symphony. We've seen some old friends retire and many new friends join our ranks.

I put together this season to showcase the talents of our orchestra and to provide our audiences with a viscerally exciting season.

From our Holiday pops featuring the Symphony, Mansfield Symphony Chorus and NEOS Dance, to a performance of the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 by our concertmaster, Andrew Sords to a performance of the Russell Peck Timpani Concerto featuring our astounding timpanist, Matt Bassett, we will take you to new heights. Throw into the mix Mozart's great Mass in c minor, Bizet's beloved opera, Carmen and Saint Saens grand "Organ" Symphony featuring the mighty Wurlitzer and there is something for everyone.

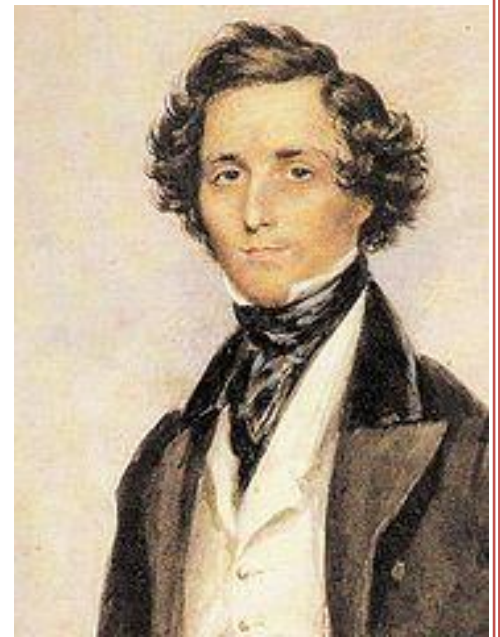
To the community of Mansfield I can only say....Thank you for the opportunity you have given to me over the past seven years. It means the world to me.

Felix Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 is his last large orchestral work. It forms an important part of the violin repertoire and is one of the most popular and most frequently performed violin concertos of all time. A typical performance lasts just under half an hour.

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, born, and generally known in English-speaking countries, as Felix Mendelssohn (February 3, 1809 – November 4, 1847) was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. He is now among the most popular composers of the Romantic era.

source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Mendelssohn



Felix Mendelssohn



Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Symphony No. 2

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. He was a crucial figure in the transitional period between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western classical music, and remains one of the most acclaimed and influential composers of all time. Born in Bonn, of the Electorate of Cologne and a part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation in present-day Germany, he moved to Vienna in his early twenties and settled there, studying with Joseph Haydn and quickly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. His hearing began to deteriorate in the late 1790s, yet he continued to compose, conduct, and perform, even after becoming completely deaf.

Beethoven's Second Symphony was mostly written during Beethoven's stay at Heiligenstadt in 1802, at which time his deafness was becoming more apparent and he began to realize that it might be incurable. Beethoven wrote the Second Symphony without having a standard minuet; a scherzo took its place, which gave the composition even greater scope and energy.

The work was premiered in the Theater an der Wien in Vienna on April 5, 1803, and was conducted by the composer. During that same performance, the Third Piano Concerto and the oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* were also debuted. It is one of the last works of Beethoven's so-called "early period".

source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven