

The Renaissance

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The Majesty of Mozart

Mass in C Minor

Mozart 40

March 6, 2010 8:00 PM



From Music Director Robert Franz

Mozart is the key to this program. Two of his finest works will show off the talents of our very own concertmaster, Andrew Sords, and the vocal talents of our very own Mansfield Symphony Chorus as well as guest soloists that you will love. Andrew begins the concert with Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5, nicknamed the "Turkish." Why? The nickname comes from the last movement when Mozart spices things up with the sounds of a Turkish March.

The second half of the program features the great C Minor Mass. Mozart was not able to finish this incredible piece of music due to his untimely death, but what we were left with is simply stunning.

Featured will be three singers that you already know: Leonard Rowe (Beethoven 9), Peri Montagne (Suzuki

in *Madame Butterfly*) and Karim Sulayman (*Candide*). Joining them will be the soprano superstar... fellow classmate of mine at the NC School of the Arts and singer on the Metropolitan Opera stage, Jennifer Welch-Babidge. Be ready for greatness with this concert!



Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major

The Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major was also written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1775, premiering during the holiday season that year in Salzburg. It follows the typical fast-slow-fast musical structure.

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Robert Franz
Music Director

Mass in C Minor

Mass in C minor is by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and is the best-known and most widely performed of Mozart's mass settings. It is considered one of this composer's major works. It is often referred to as the "C Minor Mass". The work was composed in 1782-3. It embodies all of the pomp and solemnity associated with the Salzburg traditions of the time, but it also anticipates the symphonic masses of Haydn in its solo-choral sharing. The mass shows the influence of Bach and Handel, whose music Mozart was studying at the time. The Mass was written as a result of a vow Mozart made with himself in relation to his wife Constance and his father Leopold and their strained relationship. The Mass was first performed in the Church of St. Peter's Abbey in Salzburg on October 26, 1783. The premiere took place in its natural context of a Roman Catholic mass, and the performers were members of the "Hofmusik", that is the musicians employed at the court of Salzburg's ruler, Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Tom Hulce as Mozart

Mozart in the Movies

If you're interested in the life and music of Mozart, make sure to watch *Amadeus*. *Amadeus* is a 1984 film directed by Miloš Forman and written by Peter Shaffer. Adapted from Shaffer's stage play *Amadeus*, the story is based loosely on the lives of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri: two composers who lived in Vienna, Austria, during the latter half of the 18th century.

The film was nominated for 53 awards and received 40, including 8 Academy Awards (including Best

Picture), 4 BAFTA Awards, 4 Golden Globes, and a DGA Award. In 1998, *Amadeus* was ranked #53 of the best American films by the American Film Institute on its *AFI's 100 Years... 100 Movies* list; however, the movie dropped off the AFI's 10th anniversary edition of the list in 2007.

The incredible story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is told in flashback mode by Antonio Salieri - now confined to an insane asylum. Antonio Salieri believes that Mozart's music is divine. He wishes he was himself as good a musician as Mozart so that he can praise the Lord through composing. But he can't understand why God favored Mozart, such a vulgar creature, to be his instrument. Salieri's envy has made him an enemy of God, whose greatness was evident in Mozart. He is set to take revenge.

It is a cold winter evening and a houseman attempts to rouse his master, former glorified Viennese court composer Antonio Salieri. Being unsuccessful knocking, they force Salieri's bedroom door open and find him on the floor, bleeding from a knife wound to the neck. They carry him to a mental hospital, where his wound is bound up, and a priest comes to see him the next day. The priest attempts to get him to explain why he would try to take his own life and the movie flashes back, with Salieri narrating, to how he met Mozart and became insanely jealous of his talent. Tom Hulce plays Mozart and F. Murray Abraham plays Salieri. Cynthia Nixon, Jeffrey Jones, and Roy Dotrice also co-star.