

# The Renaissance

2008-09: volume 33

MANSFIELD  
SYMPHONY

Robert Franz  
Music Director

## Waltzing with the Stars February 21, 2009 at 8:00 PM

### *Waltzing with the Stars* The Program:

*Wellington's Victory*  
- Ludwig von Beethoven

*Blue Danube Waltz*  
- Johan Strauss II

*Der Rosenkavalier Suite*  
- Richard Strauss

Guest Artist: Neos Dance Theatre



Neos Dance Theatre: Bobby & Brooke Wesner



### From Music Director Robert Franz:

“OK, so I admit it, I’m hooked. *Dancing with the Stars* is so much fun to watch and I end up rooting for my favorites each week. Ever since I saw the show I thought it would be fun to do a similar contest on the stage of the Renaissance... but who to help me put this program together. Then I met Bobby and Brooke Wesner and all became clear. Bobby and Brooke (Neos Dance Theatre) have a way of connecting with people that is nothing short of extraordinary, and so I asked them to create this program with me. Here’s the best part... there will be no judges. The audience will vote for their favorites and the winner will give a portion of that evening ticket proceeds to the charity of their choice. Now, Viennese music will be the genre of the evening, so you will hear a Strauss waltz and some polkas, along with works by other Viennese masters like Beethoven and Richard Strauss (no relation to the waltz king).”

*WELLINGTON'S VICTORY*, Op. 91  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
1770-1827

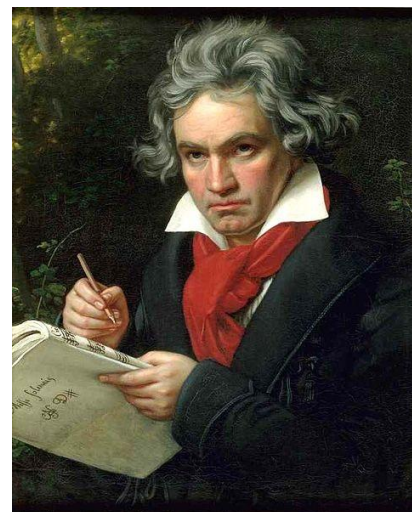
*Wellington's Victory* started life as a short Battle Symphony for the Panharmonicon – a mechanical contraption that was able to play many of the military band instruments of the day – the creation of mechanical genius and tinkerer Johann Mälzel, the inventor of the metronome. And it was Mälzel who urged Beethoven to orchestrate it. Beethoven complied, expanding the short work into two parts: Battle and Victory Symphony. The work became at once a smashing success throughout Europe – and a bone of contention and source of lawsuits between Beethoven and Mälzel.

*AN DER SCHÖNEN, BLAUEN DONAU*  
(Blue Danube), Op. 314  
Johann Strauss II  
1825-1899

Johann Strauss II, by far the best known of nineteenth century Vienna's composers of dance music, was adored by high society who fondly named him the Waltz King. He was by nature shy, self-effacing and insecure, far removed in nature from the light-heartedness and exuberance expressed in his music. *An der schönen, blauen Donau*, known here as the "The Blue Danube," was composed in 1867, and became Vienna's consolation prize for the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the hands of Prussia the year before.

Suite from  
*DER ROSENKAVALIER*  
Richard Strauss  
1864-1949

In a note to the composer, playwright Hugo von Hofmannsthal wrote, "I have...worked out a complete and entirely new scenario for a grand opera with downright comic figures and situations, and action as colorful and almost as obvious as a pantomime." The result was the immensely successful *Der Rosenkavalier*, premiered in 1911. Set in the eighteenth-century Vienna of Maria Theresa, it is an extravagantly complicated plot, including a string of farcical situations and characters.



Ludwig van Beethoven



Johann Strauss II



Richard Strauss

presented by:  
**GRAHAM  
AUTOMALL**