

Hear holiday classics and decorate holiday cookies at San Bernardino Symphony concert

PE pe.com/articles/holiday-820820-concert-symphony.html

12/13/2016

IF YOU GO

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17; Pre-concert presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Where: California Theatre of the Performing Arts, 562 W. 4th St., San Bernardino.

Admission: \$25-\$60; \$10 for students and military with ID

Information: 909-381-5388; sanbernardinosymphony.org

The holiday season is the time for traditions and soon the San Bernardino Symphony will celebrate one of its own – the annual “Home for the Holidays” concert at the California Theatre of the Performing Arts on Saturday, Dec. 17.

“We’re featuring music that reflects the overall season, the sense of peace and brotherhood that all of the holiday celebrations manifest,” Conductor Frank Paul Fetta said in a recent interview. “No other piece embodies these ideas more than the final movement of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, the choral movement we know as ‘Ode to Joy.’”

Symphony No. 9 was Beethoven’s final complete symphony and the words in the final movement are from Friedrich Schiller’s poem “Ode to Joy.” At the concert, the final movement will be sung by the San Bernardino Choral Union from Cal State San Bernardino and the Los Robles Master Chorale.

Also on the program are segments of Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker,” a symphonic work written for a two-act ballet in 1892. Among its many uses is Disney’s 1940 classic “Fantasia.”

“We’ll offer a wonderful symphonic version of Irving Berlin’s ‘White Christmas,’” Fetta said, about the song made famous in 1942 when it was recorded by Bing Crosby and featured in the film of the same name. Fetta noted that it reminisces about an old-fashioned holiday.

Jeffrey Biegel’s “Hanukkah Fantasy” will also be on the program for both the orchestra and the chorus. The work incorporates “Ma’oz Tzur (Rock of Ages),” “I Have a Little Dreidel,” “Yerushalayim Shel Zahav (Jerusalem of Gold)” and “Hanukkah, O Hanukkah.”

Fetta said that other selections include Leroy Anderson’s “Christmas Fantasy” and that the concert will conclude with the song “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

“This is a very nifty family-oriented Christmas program,” said Anne Viricel, executive director of the orchestra.

Members of the Inland Valley Repertory Theatre will present the “Meet the Composers” pre-concert talk in the main hall, bringing at least two of the program’s composers back to life for the evening. Upstairs in the California Room, young people will be able to decorate holiday cookies, which they can either eat or take home and hang from the tree, Viricel said. Throughout the hall and in the foyer, strolling carolers will entertain guests as they arrive.

All of the pre-concert activities are included with admission and open to all.

“We hope our audience will be warmed and inspired by what we offer at this concert,” Fetta said. “We hope they will take the messages laid down in our music and find ways to fold them into their lives. It’s a complete holiday

experience with world-class performances."

Contact the writer: features@pe.com