

‘Beethoven, Brahms and Bartholdy’ symphony concert in San Bernardino

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The San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra will present an evening of music and art in its “Beethoven, Brahms and Bartholdy” concert Saturday in the California Theatre, 562 W. Fourth St., San Bernardino.

“We wanted to present a concert that honored three much-loved classical composers in a way that simultaneously appeals to a wide cross-section of our community,” said Frank Fetta, the orchestra’s conductor and artistic director.

“Our ongoing goal is to create a concert experience that engages diverse audiences in new and exciting ways, and I think audiences will be delighted with this event,” Fetta said.

The evening will begin one hour earlier than usual, with a 6:30 p.m. performance by Symphonie Jeunesse, a local youth string ensemble, under the baton of conductor and founder Michele Tacchia. Symphony Jeunesse will play two pieces by Telemann — the Concerto in G Major for Two Violas featuring Cajon High School seniors Alejandra Davila and Miranda Stuart and the Viola Concerto in G Major featuring Cajon High School senior Andrew Polley — and several other pieces.

There will also be an exhibit of art by high school seniors, based upon their interpretations of Mendelssohn-Bartholdy’s Symphony No. 3, the “Scottish” Symphony. The artists will be on hand to discuss their process and artistic goals.

Photographs of the artworks will be projected above the orchestra as the orchestra plays the “Scottish” Symphony in the concert that begins at 7:30 p.m.

“Our goal is to create a multi-media concert experience for the audience to both see and hear this evocative composition,” said Anne Viricel, executive director of the San Bernardino Symphony.

“Our sincere hope is that those who are already familiar with the piece will become aware of its nuances in a new way as they see the interpretations of the various young artists. And for those who are new to the piece, or to orchestral music, we hope this multi-media offering will inspire them to explore a new entertainment option not just at this concert, but well into the future,” Viricel said.

This concept attracted the eye of National Endowment for the Arts grantors, who awarded the project a \$10,000 Challenge America grant earlier this year.

The concert will open with Beethoven’s “Egmont Overture.” Beethoven wrote it in a style similar to that of his Fifth Symphony.

Following will be the “Scottish” Symphony, which Mendelssohn-Bartholdy wrote based upon his travels in Scotland. It was at the ruins of a chapel in Edinburgh that the then 20-year-old composer had the inspiration for this composition. However, it took him more than 10 years to complete it.

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“We are excited to see what the young artists will take away from the piece as they seek to find deeper meaning in a composition written even before their grandparents were born,” Fetta said.

“At the same time, though, we know the scope of this piece will resonate with them because beautiful music is surely as timeless as the feelings of curiosity and wonder Mendelssohn must have experienced rambling through the craggy Scottish countryside,” Fetta said.

Following intermission, the orchestra’s concertmaster Todor Pelev and principal cellist Ana Maria Maldonado will play Brahms’ Concerto for Violin and Violoncello.

Written in 1887, this piece was Brahms’ final work for orchestra and considered as a gesture of reconciliation toward a lost friend.

“It is an honor to perform the Brahms double concerto with my friend and colleague Todor Pelev,” Maldonado said. “This is one of the great concertos of the classical repertoire. And to have an opportunity to perform it with the best symphony in the area is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

The presenting sponsor for this concert is the San Bernardino Valley Concert Association.

For tickets call 909-381-5388 or visit sanbernardinosymphony.org.

Source: San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra