

San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra will have concert on March 26 - Fontana Herald News: Entertainment

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The San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra will perform “Masterwork Mélange,” a classical concert featuring works by Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff, and Humperdinck, on March 26 at the California Theatre of the Performing Arts.

“This is a concert that combines some fantastic elements and will take the audience on a musical journey from the whimsical to the sublime,” said Symphony Music Director and Conductor Frank Paul Fetta.

The concert will open with the prelude to 19th-century composer Engelbert Humperdinck’s operatic masterpiece “Hänsel und Gretel.” Written in 1890 for Professor Humperdinck’s nieces, the piece is loosely based on the fairytale by the Brothers Grimm.

Next will be Dmitri Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 70. The original concept for the piece, written in 1945, was as a grand celebration of the Russian victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. But before it was completed, the composer redesigned his work, creating a much lighter, more jovial symphony.

Acclaimed pianist Rufus Choi will then take the stage to perform Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18. This multi-award-winning artist brings an uncommon passion to his performances and has been featured at the Salzburg Festival, Herrenhausen Gardens, Great Hall at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, National Hall in Taipei, Sejong Hall (South Korea), and Seoul Arts Center as well as at the Los Angeles Music Center and Pasadena Ambassador Auditorium.

The Piano Concerto is one of Rachmaninoff’s most enduringly popular pieces and many believe was responsible for establishing his fame as a concerto composer.

The full concert begins at 7:30 p.m. with a pre-concert talk by “Shostakovich” and “Rachmaninoff” as portrayed by two of the talented members of the Inland Valley Repertory Theatre at 6:30 p.m. Audience members are also always invited to stay for the post concert reception to meet the musicians and chat with other music aficionados.

The California Theatre is at 562 W. 4th Street in San Bernardino. Tickets are available by calling (909) 381-5388 or visiting www.sanbernardinosymphony.org.