20TH CENTURY TITALS

MASTERWORKS SERIES

April 27-28, 2024

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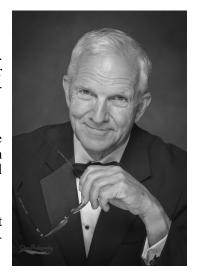


Welcome to SEISO'S 2023-24 Season.

We consider SEISO to be a "Quality of Life" organization. Live musical performances provide a unifying occasion for people of all ages and beliefs; yet orchestras, and their musicians, rarely thrive outside of metropolitan areas.

We are the exception. During our 73 years of existence SESIO has evolved from an informal gathering into a high quality regional musical ensemble that serves a largely rural area.

With SEISO, several hundred regional musicians can take part in the performance of a variety of music from Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms to Broadway, Star Wars and Encanto.



SEISO provides an outlet for the most talented students and musicians who study, live, and teach in the area. They, in turn, also increase the regional quality of life by providing teachers, cultural enrichment, and live music for schools, theaters, weddings, funerals, church services and celebrations. SEISO also serves as an umbrella group offering talented residents additional singing and performing opportunities and coordinating with other musical ensembles.

For years, we focused solely on becoming a quality musical ensemble. In a self-evaluation following the closing of Iowa Wesleyan University, SEISO has made the decision to match our on-stage excellence by developing an off-stage support team that will allow us to thrive in the future.

All of this is made possible by your past and future financial support, so THANK YOU.

Sit back and enjoy our unique group as we join together in a "Quality of Life" experience.

Robert McConnell Musical Director The Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra proudly presents the

2024 MARILYN MINFORD MCCOID YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Open to Instrumentalists and Vocalists

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Audition Schedule Sent November 8, 2024 Auditions Take Place December 7, 2024

FIRST PRIZE \$300

SECOND PRIZE: \$200

The first place winner may be presented with the Orchestra during the School Tour concerts and may perform during the 2024 Masterworks Series Concerts in Ottumwa, Mt. Pleasant, and Burlington.

APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2024

For more information, competition application, and a complete set of rules, visit www.seiso.us/youngartist



NOW OPEN TO STUDENTS IN IOWA, MISSOURI, & ILLINOIS

The competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists, ages 18 or younger, who reside or go to school in Appanoose, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Mahaska, Monroe, Muscatine, Van Buren, Washington, and Wapello counties in Iowa; Hancock, Henderson, and Mercer counties in Illinois; and Clark, Schuyler, Scotland, and Putnam counties in Missouri.

WWW.SEISO.US/YOUNGARTIST



Hello Friends of Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra,

The closing of Iowa Wesleyan University last spring was both unfortunate and sad. SEISO has a proud and rich history of music collaboration with IW. We will be forever grateful for all that IW has done to support the SEISO mission.

The good news is the music lives on! We are excited to experience SEISO's 73rd season of live symphonic music. (That means the 75th Anniversary of our own premier orchestra will be right around the corner!)

The season Masterworks Series is packed full with exciting programming. I am not a musical "smarty pants", so all the musical selections will be a wonderful surprise of mostly new music to me. For our younger audience, Kidsymphony is bringing back professional storyteller Michael Boudewyns for the wonderfully fun performance of Peter and Wolf. Older kids, like me, will enjoy Kidsymphony too! In keeping with our mission of rural outreach additional performances have been added in Fairfield and Highland Schools.

If you want to relax and slow down and feel the Christmas spirit, you must come to the annual Hollydaze performance December 9 in Mt. Pleasant. It's free! Think of it as SEISO's Christmas gift to you! This concert is generously underwritten by Stan and Lillian Curtis of Mt. Pleasant.



We, the volunteers and musicians of SEISO, appreciate your presence at our concerts. All the discipline and work involved is for you. Thank you for coming. We also want to thank our supportive donors and sponsors.

If you would like to learn more about how to keep the music living on in our communities, please contact me at jennisonlisa@aol.com or 319-752-9533 or our Executive Director Jeffrey Phillips at seiso@seiso.us

See you at the Symphony!

Lisa Jennison

SEISO Governing Board President, RN, SEISO volunteer groupie and roadie crew







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SPECIAL EVENTS

Symphonic Blast

An outdoor Pops concert accompanied by fantastic fireworks display.

Saturday, July 6, 2024. 8pm Crapo Park, Burlington

RAGBRAI

SEISO concert for Iowa's iconic RAGBRAI ride in a free concert in the Chapel Auditorium.

Friday, July 26, 2024. 7pm Chapel Auditorium, Mt. Pleasant

Pops

SEISO performing a pops program with guest artists with an optional dinner/wine beforehand.

Saturday, September 14, 2024. 7.30pm Bridge View Center, Ottumwa

Sunday, September 15, 2024. 6.30pm Capitol Theater, Burlington

Kidsymphony

Kid-centric concerts featuring <u>Britten's Young</u> Persons Guide to the Orchestra.

Saturday, November 2, 2024
Bridge View Center, Ottumwa
Chapel Auditorium, Mt. Pleasant
Capitol Theater, Burlington

Sunday, November 3, 2024
Fairfield Arts & Convention Center
TBA, Washington

MASTERWORKS SERIES

Masterworks Series 1 October 13-14, 2024

Beethoven Symphony No. 5
Debussy La Mer
Debussy Afternoon of a Faun
Linda Robbins Coleman In Good King Charles's
Golden Days

Masterworks Series 2 March 8-9, 2025

Dvorak Symphony No. 8 Elaine Hagenberg *Illuminare* with SEISO Chorus SEISO 2024 Young Artist Competition winner

Masterworks Series 3 April 26-27, 2025

Rossini William Tell Overture
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5
Reena Esmail Clarinet Concerto with Guest
Artist Anoushka Divekar

Clear Creek Heritage Society

Holiday chamber concert featuring both singers and instrumentalists in a wonderful country church setting.

Sunday, December 8, 2024. 2pm Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Harper, IA

Hollydaze

A free holiday concert that brings together musicians and singers from the region.

Saturday, December 14, 2024. 3pm Chapel Auditorium, Mt. Pleasant

Summer Concerts @ Crapo Park Band Shell Sundays 7:30 pm

Burlington Municipal Band

www.muniband.org



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DONORS

The Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges all of the contributors who ensure the success and continuity of the orchestra. Listed in the current program are all donors who supported us between April 11, 2023 and April 11, 2024. Contributions received after this date will be listed in the October 2024 Masterworks Series concert programs.

*New Donors An asterisk indicates those who have given in the past year but not in the

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Increased Donors Bold type indicates those who have increased their giving to the next giving

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(Continued on page 13)



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SUNDAY

Oct 29th 2:00 PM

SATURDAY

Dec 2nd 7:00 PM

SUNDAY

Dec 3rd 2:00 PM

Festival of Lessons & Carols **Spring Concert**

SUNDAY

April 14th 2:00 PM

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(Continued from page 11)

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(Continued on page 15)





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Robert McConnell, Director

The Southeast Iowa Band (SEIB) is a limited size 50-piece regional wind/percussion ensemble. We prepare a program with a variety of music—classical, pops, show tunes, marches, and folk music—presented in an entertaining fashion.

The band is an outlet for regional and a handful of high school musicians seeking to maintain their skills at the highest level. Most programs are put together in a series of five Sunday night rehearsals.

Many of the SEIB members perform and teach professionally throughout the region. Much of the group includes adults who travel long distance because they are dedicated to performing in a band of the highest quality.

The SEIB is under the direction of Robert McConnell who first started working with the group in the fall of 1982. The director provides some dialogue and musical demonstrations that enhance the programs.

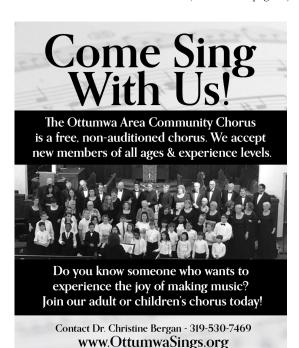
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(Continued on page 19)





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In Memoriam

Gifts to SEISO received between April 11, 2023
and April 11, 2024 in memory of:

Ruth Keraus

Donna Nelson

Carol Nemitz

CULTIVATE OUR FUTURE

For decades, SEISO focused solely on becoming a quality musical ensemble. Following the closing of Iowa Wesleyan University, SEISO has made the decision to match our on-stage excellence with an off-stage support team that will enable us to thrive in the future. These initiatives will require a substantial investment in resources and new sources of revenue.

Here's how you can help:

- Connect us with corporate sponsors and donors
- Invite your friends to our concerts
- Follow and engage with us on Facebook
- · Join a local board or become a volunteer
- · Give us your feedback after concerts and events
- Plan to give to SEISO in 2024 and 2025



TWO WAYS TO GIVE

IMMEDIATE GIVING

SEISO is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. The money we raise stays in our region. If you are able, we ask you to **support the new positions and initiatives today with a transition donation** by designating SEISO in a donor-advised fund, by sending us a check, or by using the QR code.

Please inform us if your company offers matching funds.

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If you are interested in donating to the endowment fund we are establishing, you may be eligible to combine a 25% Endow lowa income tax credit with the federal deduction to reduce the cost of your gift to 50%. You may also make non-cash gifts of personal property, grain, appreciated stock, or IRA Charitable Rollovers. If any of this interests you, please contact Jason Edwards, Fundraising Coordinator, directly at jasedwar@aol.com.



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There are two open campaigns to endow specific chairs: the principal cello chair in honor of Donna Nelson and the timpani chair in honor of David Scott. If you would like to donate to either please send a check to SEISO at PO Box 271, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 stating which chair you would like to support.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Your donation will be matched dollar for dollar by two of our generous supporters. Help us reach our goal!

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20TH CENTURY TITANS

Masterworks Series concert 3

Special thanks to the **Mount Pleasant Community School District** for allowing us
to rehearse at the Middle School and for
their continued support.

Robert McConnell, Music Director

Magdiell Antequera, Violin Soloist & Guest Artist-in-Residence

An Introduction to Leonard Bernstein's Serenade

Serenade (after Plato's "Symposium") (1954)

Leonard Bernstein

(1918-1990)

- I. Phaedrus: PausaniasII. Aristophanes
- III. Eryximachus, the doctor
- IV. Agathon
- V. Socrates: Alcibiades

Magdiell Antequera, violin soloist

-I N T E R M I S S I O N-

Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, op. 47 (1937)

Moderato

II. Allegretto

III. Largo

IV. Allegro non troppo

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Saturday, April 27, 2024. 7:30 PM Sunday, April 28, 2024. 2:00 PM Sunday, April 28, 2024. 6:30 PM Capitol Theater, Burlington Bridge View Center, Ottumwa First United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant

Burlington Lunchtime Chamber Music Series 2023 - 2024 · SEASON 8

12.15 - 12.45 PM

3rd Wednesday of each month

September - June

First United Methodist Church

421 Washington Street Burlington, Iowa 2023

September 20

Donna DeBose Chamber Ensemble

October 18

Yeon-Kyung Kim, piano

November 15

Rose Bishop, flute & Abbie Brewer, piano

December 20

Annual Holiday Concert

2024

January 17

Ben Grochowsky, saxophone

February 21

Reptile Party String Trio

March 20

Abby Chen, organ

April 17

SEISO Artist-in-Residence

Magdiell Antequera, violin

May 15

Daniel Pappas, composer **x** BLCMS Ensemble

June 19

SEISO Chamber Players

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Jeffrey Phillips & Roger Hatteberg

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Artist-in Residence & Conducting Fellow Biographies



Venezuelan violinist, **Magdiell Antequera**, started attending the internationally recognized *El Sistema* music program at the age of eight. *El Sistema* provided training and performance opportunities in orchestras under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Barenboim, and Claudio Abbado. He made his first debut as a soloist in Venezuela with the Falcon Symphony Orchestra at the age of 10 and has continued to play as a guest soloist in various orchestras in South America and the US. His work has been praised by legendary violinists such as Anne Sophie Mutter, Midori Goto, and Gil Shaham.

Magdiell has won and received recognition from important competitions, such as the solo competition at the Academia Latinoamericana de Violín (Venezuela), Thursday Musical Competition (Minnesota), Schubert Club Competition (Minnesota), Texas Rising Stars, Rodolfo Lipizer International Violin Competition (Italy), and others. He has also been a scholar of the Schubert Club Competition and the Virtu Foundation.

Magdiell attended Shattuck-St. Mary's School as a member of the Pre-Conservatory Program, where he studied with Sally O'Reilly at the University of Minnesota. He continued his studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with violinist Brian Lewis. Later, Magdiell completed his Masters in Music Performance at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music along with a fellowship with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, Magdiell completed a Professional Studies Certificate at Manhattan School of Music where he studied with New York Philharmonic associate concertmaster, Sheryl Staples. While in New York, he became a member of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, as well as a substitute violinist with the New York Philharmonic.

Magdiell is currently a member of the Naples Philharmonic at Artis Naples and also serves as a coach for the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

He currently plays on an 18th century Joseph Guarnerius copy from acclaimed violinist Giora Schmidt.



Jilly Cooke is in her second year of the SEISO Conducting Fellowship program during the 2023-2024 season.

This fellowship offers training in both conducting and operating an independent music ensemble and will be a valuable experience for anyone following the training path in both academic and independent music organization leadership.

Jilly is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa School of Music and will serve as an assistant to Music Director Robert McConnell who will help guide her through his various duties.

"It is difficult for young musicians interested in conducting to get the needed insight and experience," said SEISO Music Director Robert McConnell. "You can be taught the basics of conducting in college, but you need so many different sets of

skills for this job and I think this program will be one of the best ways to boost that."

Jilly Cooke stated, "This is an amazing opportunity for which I am very grateful. I have already learned a great deal, and I look forward to continuing to work and grow with the wonderful SEISO community."



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PROGRAM NOTES

Dr. Jason Edwards, Professor Emeritus Iowa Wesleyan University

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: Serenade, after Plato's Symposium

- I. Phaedrus; Pausanias
- II. Aristophanes
- III. Eryximachus
- IV. Agathon
- V. Socrates; Alcibiades

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)—composer, conductor, educator, author—was one of the most remarkable American musicians of the last century, or perhaps ever. At age twenty-five, he was appointed assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic. Just three months in the position, he suddenly came to prominence when guest conductor Bruno Walter fell ill just before a concert in 1943. On a few hours' notice (and no rehearsal), Bernstein took the helm of the orchestra for that concert to great acclaim. In a review of the performance in the *New York Times*, music critic Olin Downes proclaimed that Bernstein was "one of the very few conductors of the rising generation who are indubitably to be reckoned with." And indeed, he was indubitably reckoned with on national and international stages from that point forward, going on to lead dozens of the world's major orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, London Symphony, Bos-

Pronunciation Guide by Dr. Christine Bergan

Phaedrus (Feh D (th) ROSS) the D is more like a TH

Pausanias (Pah – sah – NEE – us)

Eryximachus (Eh – ree – ksee – MAH – kus)

Aristophanes (Eh – ruh – STAA – fuh - neez)

Agathon (AE – geh - thawn) AE is short "a", as in "apple"

Socrates (SAH - kruh - teez)

Alcibiades (All key b(v)ee-AH-dees)

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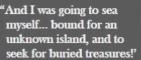


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(Continued from page 27)

ton Symphony, and Orchestre National de France. But his work went beyond the baton: he also assumed the role of educator in the New York Philharmonic's "Young People's Concerts," which he elevated to a new level of significance and popularity. These concerts, broadcast on national television, introduced untold numbers of children to the magic of music.

Despite his hectic performance schedule, Bernstein was an active composer throughout his career. He was particularly drawn to works for the stage. In more abstract genres, his works (such as his three symphonies) often have some sort of literary connection as well. Such is the case with the work on this concert. *Serenade, after Plato's Symposium*, a five -movement work for solo violin, strings, and percussion draws inspiration from a Socratic dialogue by Plato, which portrays a gathering of notable individuals giving extemporaneous speeches. The term "symposium" in this context refers not to a scholarly conference as one might suppose, but rather something more akin to a drinking party. Shortly after completing the work, Bernstein wrote the following description:

There is no literal program for this *Serenade*, despite the fact that it resulted from a re-reading of Plato's charming dialogue, "The Symposium." The music, like the dialogue, is a series of related statements in praise of love, and generally follows the Platonic form through the succession of speakers at the banquet. The 'relatedness' of the movements does not depend on common thematic material, but rather on a system whereby each movement evolves out of elements in the preceding one.

For the benefit of those interested in literary allusion, I might suggest the following points as guideposts:

- **I.** *Phaedrus; Pausanias* (Lento; Allegro). Phaedrus opens the symposium with a lyrical oration in praise of Eros, the god of love. (Fugato, begun by the solo violin.) Pausanias continues by describing the duality of the lover as compared with the beloved. This is expressed in a classical sonataallegro, based on the material of the opening fugato.
- **II.** *Aristophanes* (Allegretto). Aristophanes does not play the role of clown in this dialogue, but instead that of the bedtime-storyteller, invoking the fairy-tale mythology of love.



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(Continued from page 29)

- **III.** *Eryximachus* (**Presto**). The physician speaks of bodily harmony as a scientific model for the workings of love-patterns. This is an extremely short fugato-scherzo, born of a blend of mystery and humor.
- **IV.** Agathon (Adagio). Perhaps the most moving speech of the dialogue, Agathon's panegyric embraces all aspects of love's powers, charms and functions. This movement is a simple three-part song.
- V. Socrates; Alcibiades (Molto tenuto; Allegro molto vivace). Socrates describes his visit to the seer Diotima, quoting her speech on the demonology of love. Love as a daemon is Socrates' image for the profundity of love; and his seniority adds to the feeling of didactic soberness in an otherwise pleasant and convivial after-dinner discussion. This is a slow introduction of greater weight than any of the preceding movements, and serves as a highly developed reprise of the middle section of the Agathon movement, thus suggesting a hidden sonata-form. The famous interruption by Alcibiades and his band of drunken revelers ushers in the Allegro, which is an extended rondo ranging in spirit from agitation through jig-like dance music to joyful celebration. If there is a hint of jazz in the celebration, I hope it will not be taken as anachronistic Greek party-music, but rather the natural expression of a contemporary American composer imbued with the spirit of that timeless dinner party.

Bernstein's *Serenade* is a lyrical, expressive, dramatic, and virtuosic work (and in some places, one might detect hints of themes to come a few years later in *West Side Story*). Written in 1954 for his friend, eminent violinist Isaac Stern, this "symposium" runs the gamut from earnest elocution (the fugue at the beginning), to more carefree (even slightly inebriated) discourse, and the muttering of side conversations. Sometimes lively and playful, other times in quiet, almost lethargic repose, at this dinner party one can hear everything from the pontificator to the fast-talking jokester, with moods ranging from convivial and humorous to intense and even angry. Or, the work can be, as biographer Humphrey Burton put it, "perceived as a portrait of Bernstein himself: grand and noble in the first movement, childlike in the second, boisterous and playful in the third, serenely calm and tender in the fourth, a doom-laden prophet and then a jazzy iconoclast in the finale."



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(Continued from page 31)

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 5 in D minor, opus 47

- I. Moderato
- II. Alegretto
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegro non troppo

"Without 'Party guidance'...I would have displayed more brilliance, used more sarcasm, I could have revealed my ideas openly instead of having to resort to camouflage." (Shostakovich in 1970)

At age nineteen, Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975) culminated his studies at the Leningrad Conservatory with his senior project, Symphony No. 1 in F minor. The premiere performance of his debut symphony in 1926 was met with great acclaim and quickly thrust him into the national and international spotlight. Although it was performed frequently within a year of its composition, Shostakovich came to feel that his first symphony was too traditional. His next two symphonies were relatively short, single movement works with a more experimental approach to manipulating musical materials. Both included choral forces to present patriotic texts; in fact, the second was commissioned by "Muzsektor," the Soviet state music publisher, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the October 1917 revolution that brought Vladimir Lenin to power (a topic he would revisit in his Symphony No. 12, subtitled "1917"). But his first symphony prevailed as his most popular.

Shostakovich had other notable successes early in his career, such as his opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (1934). Performances of the work in its first couple of years were lauded in the Soviet Union and abroad, but things took a turn for the worse when Joseph Stalin, Lenin's successor, attended a performance in early 1936. Now, the official doctrine of "Socialist Realism" held that artistic works should idealize the beauty, simplicity, and optimism of Soviet life, as well as the glory of the Soviet state and culture. The plot of *Lady Macbeth* involves a neglected wife who takes on a lover (whom she meets when he and some other men are attempting to sexually abuse another woman). The pair end up murdering her husband and father-in-law (bludgeoning and poisoning, respectively). Then on their way to prison, he betrays her, she gets into an altercation with another woman, both fall into an icy river and die. Not exactly an uplifting portrait of an ideal society. Stalin was livid and left before the final act. Shortly thereafter, the official newspaper *Pravda* published a review excoriating the work (perhaps dictated by Stalin himself) titled "Muddle instead of Music." The article was scathing: "From the





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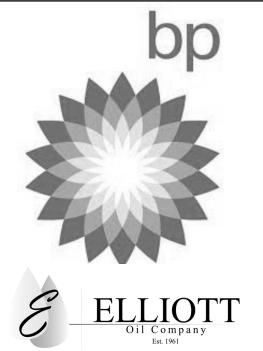
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(Continued from page 33)

first minute, the listener is shocked by deliberate dissonance, by a confused stream of sound. Snatches of melody, beginnings of musical phrases, are drowned, emerge again, and disappear in a grinding and squealing roar." And the review blasts the lack of "wholesome taste" in favor of "coarse and vulgar inclinations and behavior." Suddenly, public performances of Shostakovich's music all but ceased.

In the Soviet Union, the mid-1930s was also the time of "The Great Terror," Stalin's campaign to consolidate power and purge those who failed to tow the party line. There was little pretense—dissidents were simply hauled off and imprisoned or summarily executed, including artists whose work did not support official ideology. So, Shostakovich was on thin ice (he kept a small suitcase packed in case of sudden arrest). His fourth symphony was in rehearsals, but the long, complex, at times dissonant work seemed likely to fall afoul of official artistic taste. With another *Pravda* article critical of Shostakovich titled "Clear and Simple Language in Art," its premiere performance was cancelled.

Which brings us to Symphony No. 5 in D minor (1937). The composer wrote this new, musically more conservative symphony in part to combat his denunciation; his score bore the subtitle "Practical Creative Reply of a Soviet Musician to Just Criticism." The powerfully moving first performance of the work was well received in all quarters. Some in the audience, drawn into the tragic core of the work, were moved to weep openly. At the end, the enthusiastic response culminated in a thirty-minute ovation. Shostakovich was again in favor. With this symphony, though, he managed to thread the needle of expressing himself artistically while still passing official muster. Hidden within his "creative reply" to "just criticism" was a repudiation of Socialist Realism—no "happy ending" in oppressive Soviet life. The composer carefully elaborated on the meaning of his new work in an article published prior to its premiere:

The theme of my symphony is the development of the individual. I saw a man with all his sufferings as the central idea of the work, which is lyrical in mood from start to finish. The finale resolves the tragedy and tension of the earlier movements on a joyous, optimistic note.

We are sometimes faced with the question of whether tragedy is even a legitimate genre in Soviet art. Here, however, genuine tragedy is often confused with resignation and pessimism. I think that Soviet tragedy has every right to exist. But the contents must be suffused with positive inspiration.

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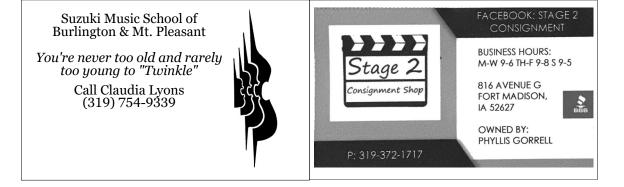
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(Continued from page 35)

The "practical" aspect of his "creative reply" included the obligatory triumphant, celebratory finale. But it seems he did not intend to fully dispel the underlying sense of tragedy. Anguish and despair are apparent in the first movement and particularly the third (when the weeping occurred at the premiere). The gloom likewise pervades the second movement, the scherzo, which in a symphony would generally be lighter in character, playful and dancelike. But this scherzo is heavy-footed and grotesque—a satire of levity. And, as Shostakovich himself revealed in later years, the exultant celebration of the last movement isn't all it seems, either: "The rejoicing is forced, created under threat…it's as if someone is beating you with a stick, saying, 'Your business is rejoicing, your business is rejoicing,' and you rise, shaky, muttering, 'Our business is rejoicing, our business is rejoicing'."

And yet, listening to it, one can't help but feel that the message of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 ultimately *is* triumphant, a victory of the human spirit over suffering and despair. That triumph *is* worth celebrating.



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