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A Retrospective



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Jamin Hoffman, Music Director

presents its

40th Anniversary Season • 2015-2016

Music to Our Years
A Retrospective

Child's Play

featuring Julian Rhee, Violin

Saturday, October 24, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1615 Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Concord Chamber Orchestra

(414) 750-4404

www.concordorchestra.org • concordmanager@gmail.com



Program

Overture to *Agrippina* (HWV 6)..... George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

The Unanswered Question Charles Ives
(1875-1954)

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro assai

Julian Rhee, Violin
Winner of the 2015 Walter A. and Dorothy J.
Oestreich Concerto Competition

~ 15-minute Intermission ~

Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92.....Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

- I. Poco sostenuto - Vivace
- II. Allegretto
- III. Presto - Assai meno presto
- IV. Allegro con brio

Personnel

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Biographies



Jamin Hoffman

has had an extensive career as a conductor, serving for thirteen years as the Assistant

and then Resident Conductor for the Milwaukee Ballet (1989-2002), as Conductor of UW-Milwaukee's University Community Orchestra (1992-2003), and as Orchestra Director at Nicolet High School since August of 2002. Jamin was appointed the Conductor of the Concord Chamber Orchestra in August of 2004.

As Resident Conductor of the Milwaukee Ballet, Jamin led the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra in performances of many great masterworks to critical acclaim, including such works as Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* (with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus), Mozart's *Requiem* (with the Bel Canto Chorus), Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Anna Karenina*, Sergei Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cinderella*, Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Paul Chihara's *The Tempest*, Aaron Copland's *Billy the Kid* and *Appalachian Spring*, Léon Minkus' *Don Quixote*, and Bela Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*.

As a French horn player, Jamin performed regularly with the Waukesha Symphony and the

Concord Chamber Orchestra since moving to Milwaukee in 1988 until 2004. Even before taking his position at Nicolet High School, Jamin was active as an educator, giving in-school performances, presentations, lectures, and demonstrations throughout southeast Wisconsin. Jamin is an editor and published arranger of educational music for Hal Leonard Music Publishing, with over fifty published arrangements. Rounding out his musical activities, Jamin served as the President of the Board for the Concord Chamber Orchestra from 1997 to 2001.

A native of Mobile, AL, Jamin received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). While at USM he studied conducting with Dr. Joe Barry Mullins, horn with Dennis Behm and composition with Luigi Zaninelli. After graduation, Jamin was a music educator and horn player, performing regularly with four regional orchestras in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. He received his Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he studied conducting with Margery Deutsch, horn with Barry Benjamin, and composition with John Downey.

Currently Jamin lives in Glendale with his wife, Sandra. In addition to his musical activities, Jamin enjoys spending time with his daughter Mara, cooking, reading, and spoiling his dog.



Julian J. Rhee is honored to be chosen as the winner of the 2015 Walter A. and Dorothy J. Oestreich

Concerto Competition and for the opportunity to perform with the Concord Chamber Orchestra.

Julian, age 14, has won numerous awards and honors including: 2014 Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition (first place); Junior String Division and Overall Junior Division of the 2013 Midwest Young Artist 18th Annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition (first place); Madison Symphony Orchestra Competition (first place 2011 & 2013), where he was the guest soloist with the MSO conducted by maestro John DeMain; Junior and Senior Divisions of the Sejong Music Competition sponsored by the Korea Times of Chicago (first place at ages 12 and 13 respectively); Music Teachers National

Association, Society of American Musicians, 2014 Frank Stehlik Memorial Scholarship, 2014 Marge Rickert Scholarship recipient; youngest semi-finalist of the 2013 Stradivarius International Violin Competition at age 12; twice winner of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition (2010 & 2011); winner (at ages 7 & 8) of the Bach Double Violin Competition sponsored by Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, where he performed side by side with the MSO.

In addition to his commitment to violin study, Julian has been studying the piano with Stefanie Jacob since the age of seven and is an honor student at Brookfield East High School. When he has free time, he loves to read, plays basketball and video games, and is an avid local sports fan. Julian is a member and a Concertmaster of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, and is currently studying privately with Ms. Hye-Sun Lee at the Music Institute of Chicago.

Walter A. & Dorothy J. Oestreich Concerto Competition Scholarship Fund

In memory of his late wife, long-time CCO supporter Walter Oestreich established the Dorothy J. Oestreich Concerto Competition Scholarship Fund in 2000. Upon Walter's death in 2014, the fund was renamed by the CCO to honor him also.

Income generated from this fund has provided scholarships to the winners of the CCO's annual Concerto Competition since the fund's inception.

The competition is open to musicians (instrumentalists, pianists and vocalists) who are residents of Wisconsin and/or attend a Wisconsin high school, college or university, and who are aged 25 or younger as of the audition date.

The deadline for applications is December 1st of each year.

To make a tax-deductible gift to help ensure the future of this fund, visit www.concordorchestra.org, or contact the CCO's General Manager, Dana Robb, at (414) 750-4404 or concordmanager@gmail.com.

Program Notes

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) was a German-born British Baroque composer who spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. Born in a family indifferent to music, Handel received critical training in Halle, Hamburg, and Italy before settling in London in 1712, and he became a naturalized British subject in 1727. He was strongly influenced both by the great composers of the Italian Baroque and the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition.

Within fifteen years, Handel had started three commercial opera companies to supply the English nobility with Italian opera. Musicologist Winton Dean writes that his operas show that “Handel was not only a great composer; he was a dramatic genius of the first order.” After the choral work *Alexander’s Feast* (1736) was well received, Handel began a transition to English choral works, and, after his success with *Messiah* (1742) he never performed an Italian opera again. Having lived in England for nearly fifty years, he died in 1759, a respected and rich man, albeit almost blind. His funeral was given full state honors, and he was buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

Born the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti, Handel is regarded as one of the greatest composers of the Baroque era, with works such as *Water Music*, *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Messiah* remaining steadfastly popular. One of his four Coronation Anthems, *Zadok the Priest* (1727), was composed for the coronation of George II and has been performed at every subsequent British coronation, traditionally during the sovereign’s anointing. Handel composed more than forty operas in over thirty years and, since the late 1960s with the revival of baroque music and historically informed musical performance, interest in Handel’s operas has grown.



Concord-Affiliated Ensemble

Agrippina (HWV 6) is an *opera seria* in three acts, with a libretto by Cardinal Vincenzo Grimani. Composed for the 1709-1710 Venice Carnevale season, the opera tells the story of Agrippina, the mother of Nero, as she plots the downfall of the Roman Emperor Claudius and the installation of her son as emperor. Grimani's libretto, considered one of the best that Handel set, is an "anti-heroic satirical comedy," full of topical political allusions. Some analysts believe that it reflects the rivalry of Grimani and Pope Clement XI.

* * *

Charles Edward Ives (1874-1954) was an American modernist composer. He is one of the first American composers of international renown, though his music was largely ignored during his life and many of his works went unperformed for many years. Over time, he came to be regarded as an "American original." He combined the American popular and church-music traditions of his youth with European art music, and was among the first composers to engage in a systematic program of experimental music, with musical techniques including polytonality, polyrhythm, tone clusters, aleatoric elements, and quarter tones, foreshadowing many musical innovations of the 20th century. Sources of Ives' tonal imagery include hymn tunes and traditional songs, the town band at holiday parade, the fiddlers at Saturday night dances, patriotic songs, sentimental parlor ballads, and the melodies of Stephen Foster.

The Unanswered Question was originally written to be paired with *Central Park in the Dark* as *Two Contemplations* in 1908. *The Unanswered Question* was re-written and revived by Ives in 1930-1935. As with many of Ives' works, it was largely unknown until much later in his life, and was not performed until 1946.

Against a background of slow, quiet strings representing "The Silence of the Druids," a solo trumpet poses "The Perennial Question of Existence," to which a woodwind quartet of "Fighting Answerers" tries vainly to provide a response, growing more frustrated and dissonant until they give up. The three groups of instruments perform in independent tempos and are placed separately on the stage — the strings offstage.

* * *

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer and musician of the Baroque period. He enriched established German styles through his skill in counterpoint, harmonic and motivic organization, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France. Bach's compositions include the Brandenburg Concertos, the Goldberg Variations, the Mass in B minor, two Passions, and over 300 cantatas — of which around 200 survive. His music is revered for its technical command, artistic beauty, and intellectual depth.

Together,

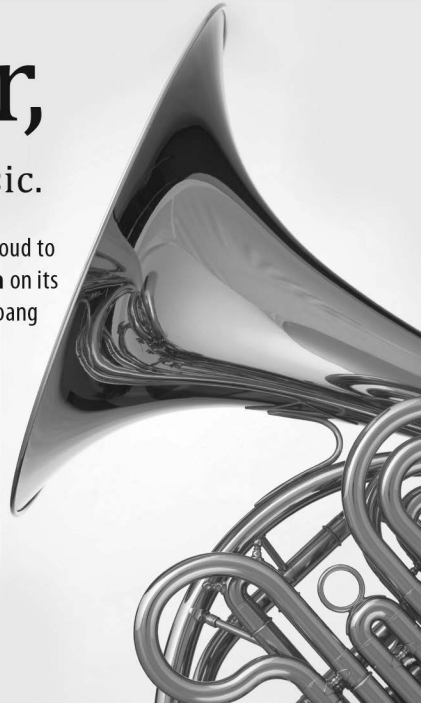
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For more information on our firm, contact **Attorney Roang** at **414.277.5559** or **isaac.roang@quarles.com**.

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Bach's abilities as an organist were highly respected during his lifetime, although he was not widely recognized as a great composer until a revival of interest and performances of his music in the first half of the 19th century. He is now generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time.

Very little is known about the **Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042**. While there are two 18th-century scores in existence, neither is autographed. Bach, however, re-used the concerto as the model for his Harpsichord Concerto in D major, BWV 1054, found in his 1737-39 autographed manuscript of these works. The violin concerto is thought to have been written early in Bach's time in Weimar, when he was Konzertmeister at the Ducal Court.

* * *

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, he remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. His best-known compositions include nine symphonies, five concertos for piano, one violin concerto, thirty-two piano sonatas, and sixteen string quartets. He also composed other chamber music, choral works (including the celebrated *Missa solemnis*), and songs.

Born in Bonn, then the capital of the Electorate of Cologne and part of the Holy Roman Empire, Beethoven displayed his musical talents at an early age and was taught by his father, Johann van Beethoven, and by Christian Gottlob Neefe. During his first 22 years in Bonn, Beethoven intended to study with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and befriended Joseph Haydn. Beethoven moved to Vienna in 1792 and began studying with Haydn, quickly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. He lived in Vienna until his death. In about 1800, his hearing began to deteriorate and, by the last decade of his life, he was almost totally deaf. He gave up conducting and performing in public but continued to compose; many of his most admired works come from this period.

The **Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92**, was composed between 1811 and 1812, while Beethoven was staying in the Bohemian spa town of Teplice. The work is dedicated to Count Moritz von Fries.

The work was premiered with Beethoven himself conducting in Vienna on December 8, 1813 at a charity concert for soldiers wounded in the Battle of Hanau. In Beethoven's address to the participants, the motives are openly named: "We are moved by nothing but pure patriotism and the joyful sacrifice of our powers for those who have sacrificed so much for us." The program also included the patriotic work *Wellington's Victory*, exalting the victory of the British over Napoleon's France.

The orchestra included some of the finest musicians of the day: Beethoven's friend Ignaz Schuppanzigh was concertmaster and other musicians included violinist Louis Spohr, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Giacomo Meyerbeer, and Antonio Salieri, bassoonist Anton Romberg, and the Italian double bass virtuoso Domenico Dragonetti, whom Beethoven himself described as playing "with great fire and expressive power." It is also said that Italian guitar virtuoso Mauro Giuliani played cello at the premiere.

The piece was very well received and the second movement, the Allegretto, had to be encoed immediately. Spohr made particular mention of Beethoven's antics on the rostrum: "As a sforzando occurred, he tore his arms with a great vehemence asunder... at the entrance of a forte he jumped in the air," and the concert was repeated due to its immense success.

Beethoven himself was quite pleased at the symphony's reception, remarking that it was one of his best works. The instant popularity of the Allegretto resulted in its frequent performance separate from the complete symphony, and has become well-known today for its dramatic use in the movie *The King's Speech*.

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Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 7 p.m.
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Well, not really... but we do have small ensembles within the membership of the CCO that are just right for gatherings and events, ranging from weddings to bar mitzvahs to Mardi Gras parties.

For more information, look for the note "Concord-Affiliated Ensemble" beneath an ad, or contact our general manager at concordmanager@gmail.com

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About the Orchestra

Making Classical Music Accessible

The Concord Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1975 to provide volunteer musicians the opportunity to create stimulating musical experiences for the enjoyment and inspiration of Milwaukee area audiences and, through our annual concerto competition, to give promising young musicians a venue in which to perform.

Our membership consists of players from various professions and age groups united by a love of music. The orchestra made the community of Wauwatosa its home in 1993, and now performs regularly at St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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