

INTERNATIONAL  
SERIES

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 19  
8 PM

Daytona Beach  
**symphony**  
SOCIETY

*Dresden Philharmonic*

**Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos**

*Principal Conductor*

**Julia Fischer, Violin**

*Program*

Finlandia, Op. 26 ..... *Jean Sibelius*

Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47 ..... *Sibelius*

Allegro moderato

Adagio molto

Allegro, ma non tanto

Julia Fischer, *Violin*

*Intermission*

Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92 .... *Ludwig van Beethoven*

Poco sostenuto - Vivace

Allegretto

Scherzo: Presto

Allegro con brio

\*PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

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INTERNATIONAL SERIES 2004 - 2005

## PRE-CONCERT LECTURE – ROSE ROOM, 7PM

### Lecy Fredo

Lecy Fredo began piano and violin lessons at the age of six and played with the Chicago Youth Symphony in high school. She attended the University of Colorado and received her bachelor of Music Education degree in violin. Ms. Fredo taught strings in the Farmington, Michigan public schools and then went on to receive her master's degree in piano pedagogy at Oakland University in Michigan.

She maintained an active private studio in piano and violin in Michigan until she moved to Daytona Beach in 2002. Ms. Fredo is the owner and manager of "Music for Special Occasions," performs with the Halifax String Quartet and continues to teach violin and piano. Her latest accomplishment is to be named general manager and principal second violinist with the newly formed Ormond Beach Symphony, the only all-professional orchestra in Volusia County.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Finlandia, Op. 26

JEAN SIBELIUS (Born December 8, 1865, in Hämeenlinna (Tavastehus) ... Died September 20, 1957, in Järvenpää)

Early in his life Sibelius manifested an interest in music; he actually began composing before having received any instruction in music theory. After studying piano and violin, he made a definite decision in his twentieth year to become a composer. He studied in Helsinki and later in Berlin, returning to Finland in 1899. It was at this time that he received a monetary grant from the Finnish state that enabled him to devote his entire creative endeavors to composition.

Having styled himself "a dreamer and poet of nature," Sibelius came to carve for himself a special place in the development of Scandinavian music, with his native Finland dominating the genre. His works reveal a close identity with Finnish nationalism and his inspiration often came from Norse mythology and the Scandinavian naturalist poets. Indeed, one would be hard pressed to find one of his work that is not characterized by the typical "Sibelius sound," where scenery and deed alternate in shifting blends of tone, often combining the qualities of picture and story.

Shortly after his return to Finland in 1899, Sibelius began work on composing music for a series of tableaux that illustrated great episodes of Finland's past. The series was presented as part of the Press Celebrations in November of that year in an effort to support the resistance of Russian efforts to subjugate the country. The final movement, *Finland awakes* proved to be a stirring patriotic finale. Thus inspired, Sibelius expanded on the movement and worked it into a tone poem originally *Impromptu*, but eventually called *Finlandia*. It was premiered by the Helsinki Philharmonic on July 2, 1900. The work became such a rallying cry to Finnish nationalists that it was banned by the Czarist government in 1917.

The work opens with angry, growling chords in the brass, followed by a hymn-like section for the woodwinds. As the work progresses, it builds feelings of hope and jubilation culminating in a fiercely nationalistic hymn that brings tears to the eyes of the people of Finland. This final melody has often been compared to the rousing melody of Holst's *Jupiter* from *The Planets*.

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- Elizabeth Ely Torres

### Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47

JEAN SIBELIUS (Born December 8, 1865, in Hämeenlinna (Tavastehus) ... Died September 20, 1957, in Järvenpää)

Just as the symphonies and the tone poems may strike the listener as containing great canvases of Finland's landscape and heroic past, the *Violin Concerto* seems to be tinged by a mood of communion with nature. Remarks about this work from music analysts and commentators include such ones as: "bardic songs heard against a background of pagan fires in some wild Northern night;" "the settled melancholy of a Finland of Northern darkness;" and "the violin expresses ... the labor and the love of a sensitive, almost morbidly modern, personality among the crude and prehistoric conditions of an unprotected land and ancient myths."

Sibelius wrote the Violin Concerto at Lojo, Finland, in 1903; it was premiered on February 8, 1904, under the composer's direction, with Victor Novacek as the soloist. Sibelius then revised the work during the summer of 1905 and in this new, definitive version it was first performed in Berlin on October 19, 1905, with Karl Halir playing the violin under the direction of Richard Strauss.

By virtue of its thematic material and the way in which it is developed, Sibelius' only concerto stands alongside his symphonies and tone poems as testament to the composer's right of inclusion in the list of the great European composers of the twentieth century. Music writer Louis Biancoli best summarizes the make-up of this work in the following words: "Despite its strongly modern character and modified sonata form, Sibelius' score belongs to the romantic tradition of the nineteenth century concerto. The so-called 'bardic' moods and exotic folk like strains give it a special salience of its own. The opposition of violin and orchestra is almost unique in its brooding contrasts, and the rhapsodic note of remote minstrelsy is strong, especially in the first movement. But the technique, the mounting climaxes, the surging drama of tone and theme, the high-register flutterings all give it a kinship with other repertory of the later romantic period."

The first movement is in a free sonata form. The solo violin announces the principal theme over divided and muted strings, the somber character accentuated by an imitation of the opening motif by a clarinet. Two more important themes follow and, after a cadenza for the solo, the three subjects are recapitulated and developed at the same time.

The *Adagio di molto*, a *romanza*, opens with a brief prelude followed by a broad, singing melody from the solo instrument. The prelude woodwind motif returns to introduce a short contrasting section, which soon gives way to the return of the principal theme, now in the orchestra with elaborate figuration for the violin. There is a short coda.

The finale is a concentrated rondo on only two themes. The first is hurled forth from the solo violin over a relentless rhythm in the strings and timpani. Then, the violins and cellos chant the defiant second theme. Both themes are developed with startling ingenuity to a brilliant end.

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### Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (Born December 16, 1770 in Bonn ... Died March 26, 1827 in Vienna)

"I am Bacchus incarnate, to give humanity wine to drown its sorrow ... He who divines the secret of my music is delivered from the misery that haunts the world."

- Beethoven

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Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92* was written in 1812, at the time when the Napoleonic War was raging. (This fact has led some commentators to espouse the far-fetched theory that this event had some influence in the conceptual content of the work.) The work was premiered in Vienna the following year. The occasion was a benefit concert for disabled Austrian and Bavarian soldiers who tried to cut off Napoleon's retreat but were defeated at Hanau. Beethoven himself conducted the performance, "hardly, perhaps," says Grove, "to its advantage, considering the symbolical gestures described by [Ludwig] Spohr, since he was by then very deaf, and heard what was going on around him with great difficulty." Spohr's account of the event is interesting:

"At this concert, I first saw Beethoven conduct. Often as I had heard of it, it surprised me extremely. He was accustomed to conveying the marks of expression by the most peculiar motions of his body. Thus at a *sforzando* he tore his arms, which were before crossed on his breast, violently apart. At a *piano* he crouched down, bending lower the softer the tone. At a *crescendo* he raised himself by degrees until at the *forte* he sprang up to his full height; and, without knowing it, would often at the time shout aloud."

Marked *Poco sostenuto*, the introduction to the first movement is of striking beauty, yet based simply on the major scale, setting the stage for a movement of tremendous force and energy. The main body of the movement is marked *Vivace* and is built upon a sonata form. The main theme is ushered in on the pitch of E, exchanged from one instrument to another 61 times before finally opening up to its full development. The movement concludes with an elaborate coda in which fragments of the main theme are heard with its characteristic rhythm, steadily growing from a *pianissimo* to a powerful fortissimo at the close.

The march-like *Allegretto*, again with a steady rhythm, provides a major contrast. Originally Beethoven had intended this movement for the third "Rasumovsky" String Quartet, but rightly expanded it for this symphony. Following the development of several counter-melodies, the clarinet announces a new melody that dispels the somber mood preceding it. The opening theme returns as the movement concludes.

The third movement, a *Scherzo* marked *Presto*, is a charming example of lightness and grace. The main theme is full of humor and receives buoyant development. In the *Trio (Assai meno presto)* the violins hold a high pitch against a pleasant melody said to be an old pilgrim chant of Southern Austria. The first part of the scherzo is repeated, as is the hymn, leading to the coda and joyful conclusion of the movement.

In the *Finale* the symphony reaches its peak with an unceasing pulse and sense of ecstatic joy. Both the first and second themes are truly frenzied and contagious, forcefully driving to a remarkable coda of inimitable invention. It is an exuberant climax to a work of great power, beauty and charm.

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