

1967 50 Years 2017
PENINSULA
s y m p h o n y

Symphony Sounds

April, 2017

50th Season, Number 4

Terri Zinkiewicz

Peninsula Symphony Concert

Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 7:00 PM

Redondo Union High School Auditorium
222 North Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

SATISFYING A "SUITE" TOOTH Vladimir Chernov, baritone

Grieg *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Opus 46*
Prokofiev *Lieutenant Kijé Suite, Opus 60*
Vaughan Williams *English Folk Song Suite*
Ravel *Mother Goose Suite*

Concert Details

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Center-section seating is reserved for members at the Patron level and above. Pre-concert lecture by Maestro Berkson begins at 6:15 PM for all Symphony Association members.

General public admitted at approx. 6:50 PM.

Post-concert — Meet the Conductor

After the concert, the audience is invited to remain in the auditorium and meet informally with our music director and conductor, Gary Berkson. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. Please call our office at 310-544-0320 if you have any questions.

The Peninsula Symphony's 50th Anniversary Season Continues

We are now approaching the third symphony concert of our 50th anniversary season. We began the season with a gala in Rolling Hills and then proceeded to the 50th Anniversary concert in October followed by our February concert.

The April 30 concert features many smaller pieces woven together into suites. Some of them are gems that you will not want to miss.

It is not too late to renew or upgrade your Peninsula Symphony Association membership. You may visit the membership table at any of our concerts or call our office at 310-544-0320.

This edition of ***Symphony Sounds*** includes photos from the previous concert, short previews of the pieces and composers that will be performed at our next concert and other articles. We look forward to greeting you at our April 30th concert.



Maestro Gary Berkson presents a pre-concert lecture before every concert to introduce the music and composers. He illustrates with keyboard examples and usually has very interesting stories to tell. Take advantage of this membership perk.

Music Preview (Please see the 2016-2017 Program Book that is distributed at all concerts for more detailed program notes.)

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Opus 46
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Edvard Grieg is probably Norway's most well-known composer. He began piano lessons with his mother at age six. At age fifteen he entered the Leipzig Conservatory to study piano before moving to Oslo as a pianist and teacher composing during summer vacations. Grieg used Norwegian folk music and composed in a Romantic style. The famous Piano Concerto in A minor (1868) was his first masterpiece.

Henrik Ibsen asked Grieg to write the incidental music to the play *Peer Gynt* in 1874. Grieg conducted the orchestra in the premiere in 1876. Two *Peer Gynt* Suites were assembled over a decade later from the twenty-six original movements.

The Suite No. 1, Opus 46 includes the following movements:

- Morning Mood (prelude to Act 4)
- The Death of Åse (end of Act 3)
- Anitra's Dance (Act 4)
- In The Hall of the Mountain King (Act 2)

"Morning" is a pastoral melody. The second movement's "Åse" is Peer's mother, and the music is a lament for muted strings. The third movement is in a mazurka tempo, and it is for muted strings plus a triangle. During "The Hall of the Mountain King" Peer Gynt almost elects to become a troll and marry the troll princess, but he backs out at the last minute and is almost killed by the angry trolls. This movement is probably the most famous.

The Peninsula Symphony performed *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1 in 1989 and again in 2002.

Lieutenant Kijé Suite, Opus 60
Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Sergei Prokofiev was born in Russia and graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory. A pianist, composer and

conductor, he moved to San Francisco for a short time following the Russian Revolution.

In 1936, Prokofiev moved to Moscow on a permanent basis following many years in Paris and a few years back and forth. He composed music for the Soviet film *Lieutenant Kijé* in Paris. He revised the film music the next year in the Soviet Union and made it into a five-movement orchestral suite. The story is about a non-existent soldier whose name had been entered into the records, so a mythical officer was invented and given a fictitious life including a wedding, promotions, retirement and a funeral. The five sections are:

- The Birth of Kijé
- Romance
- Kijé's Wedding
- Troika
- The Burial of Kijé

The rarely performed original version that the Peninsula Symphony will present includes a baritone voice in the Romance and Troika sections. Baritone Vladimir Chernov will sing those parts in Russian and English translations will be provided in the concert program insert.

The suite has never been performed by the Peninsula Symphony.

English Folk Song Suite
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams began piano lessons at age five and violin lessons shortly after. He attended the Royal College of Music and Trinity College, Cambridge. His works include songs, operas and choral music, nine symphonies and many other pieces. His productive period extended over a period of about fifty years. Two of his most famous works are *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* and *The Lark Ascending*, both written about a century ago.

Vaughan Williams volunteered to serve in World War I despite his age of forty-two, and the experience influenced him profoundly. It also impacted his hearing and led to eventual deafness. Vaughan Williams was also active in civilian war efforts in World War II.

Vaughan Williams often incorporated English folk songs into his music. Such was the case with the *English Folk Song Suite* written in 1923 for military band and arranged for orchestra the following year by student Gordon Jacob. There are three movements:

March – “Seventeen Come Sunday”
Intermezzo: “My Bonny Boy”
March: “Folk Songs from Somerset”

The tune in the first march is unusual in that the first melody lasts for thirteen measures. The second tune is for solo clarinet. The third theme has a 6/8 rhythm played by upper woodwinds and 2/4 played by other instruments.

The Peninsula Symphony performed *English Folk Song Suite* in 1991.

Mother Goose Suite

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

French-born composer Maurice Ravel entered the Paris Conservatory to study piano and later composition at the age of fourteen. He is known as a very good orchestrator and for his use of all of the instrumental colors available. Arguably, Ravel’s most famous compositions are *Bolero* and the ballet *Daphnis et Chloé*.

Mother Goose Suite was composed in 1908 using impressionist techniques. Originally a four-hand piano suite written for two young pianists, Ravel arranged it for orchestra in 1911. To keep it light and subdued there are no lower brass instruments but there are numerous percussion instruments. The movements are:

Pavane of Sleeping Beauty
Little Tom Thumb
Little Ugly Girl, Empress of the Pagodas
Conversations of Beauty and the Beast
The Fairy Garden

The first movement is just under two minutes long and features solo woodwinds; they are joined by muted strings toward the end of the movement. In the second movement Tom Thumb leaves a trail of breadcrumbs, but they are eaten by the birds and Tom ends up lost in the forest. The third movement is marked “March” but you will find few similarities to

Sousa-type marches. Transition over to waltz time for the fourth movement. Ravel actually composed two waltzes in this movement. The first, in the upper register, is followed by a second in the lower register. Finally he has both waltzes played simultaneously. Listen for the unusual effect that this creates. The final movement features a beautiful melody in the strings.

The Peninsula Symphony has never performed *Mother Goose Suite*.

Soloist – Vladimir Chernov, baritone

As a child, Russian-born Vladimir Chernov dreamed of dedicating his life to music. He studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Music. In 1981, he joined the Kirov Opera in St. Petersburg as a soloist.

Chernov achieved success in many major vocal competitions including the Bronze Medal in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1982.

Chernov’s Los Angeles début was in 1990 singing the role of Posa in *Don Carlo*, and his Metropolitan Opera début was the next year in *Madama Butterfly*. He has performed on many of the world’s top operatic stages in London, New York, San Francisco, Vienna, Salzburg, Chicago, Milan, Munich, Berlin, Sydney, Tokyo and many other cities.

Vladimir Chernov is also a recital artist with repertoire including the Russian song literature and German *lieder*. He has sung in several world-premier performances.

Chernov has been a Professor of Vocal Studies in UCLA’s Music Department since 2006.



Vladimir Chernov, baritone

Past Events

February 19, 2017, Concert

The February 19, 2017, Peninsula Symphony concert, titled "A Royal Affair," was just that. The first selection, Johann Strauss, Jr.'s *Emperor Waltz*, Opus 437, was also part of the Peninsula Symphony's inaugural concert fifty years ago. During the pre-concert lecture, Music Director Gary Berkson said he tried to teach the mostly American orchestral players to play in the authentic Viennese style that he characterized as "organized messiness." The next piece, Selections from *King Manfred* by Carl Reinecke, was new to nearly everyone. It featured concertmaster Rebecca Rutkowski in an extended, beautiful solo in the Romance: Prelude to Act IV.

Concert pianist and UCLA Professor Inna Faliks was soloist for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. She was particularly impressive in the incredible cadenza in the first movement. She then thrilled the audience with a brilliant performance of the virtuosic *La Campanella* by Paganini/Liszt.



Symphony Association President John Williams welcomed the concert audience and reminded everyone how much we rely on individual memberships to make financial ends meet.



Guest soloist Inna Faliks played a virtuosic encore after her concerto performance with the symphony.



The post-concert Q&A session with John Williams, Inna Faliks and Gary Berkson.

Special Musical Event

Each year Peninsula Symphony Association members at the level of Founder and above are invited to a special musical event programmed by Music Director Gary Berkson. This year, Berkson invited pianist Rufus Choi to conduct a master class at the beautiful Rolling Hills home of Ms. Dena Occhipinti on Friday, March 24. Julia Jorgensen, an advanced student of Esther Keel, was selected to be the student performer for this informative session. The Stanford-bound high school senior played Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.13. The first playing was beautiful, but musicians always have ideas that can make it sound even better and more musical. We heard definite improvements to musical details each time Choi made a suggestion and Jorgensen tried it. Afterward, the attendees said how much they enjoyed seeing how advanced pianists prepare pieces for performance.

Julia's teacher, Esther Keel, won the Peninsula Symphony's Knox competition at age eleven and has performed as soloist with the symphony multiple times. She is scheduled to be the soloist playing Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto* at the Peninsula Symphony's July 23, 2017 Pops Concert.

Mr. Choi has appeared as soloist with the Peninsula Symphony a number of times, including the *50th Anniversary Celebration* concert in October, 2016, and also in 2009 and 2013. He has given master classes in Beijing, Busan, Seoul, and in various cities throughout the United States. Choi will also be the piano soloist in the Peninsula Symphony's 2018-2019 season.



Hostess Dena Occhipinti, Julia Jorgensen, and Christine Jorgensen pose in front of the Steinway piano before the performance.



Music Director Gary Berkson and pianists Rufus Choi and Julia Jorgensen talk just after the conclusion of the master class.



Faye Schwartz, Terri Zinkiewicz, and Dena Occhipinti



Judith Gassner, Ann Buxton, David Buxton and Carol Schamp

General Meeting of the Peninsula Symphony Association

The Symphony Association's annual meeting was held Monday, March 27, 2017 at Keller Williams Realty Office, 550 Deep Valley Drive (top floor of the Promenade), Rolling Hills Estates. The Board meeting began at 7:30 PM and the annual membership meeting followed.

The primary item of business at the annual meeting is usually the election of Board members for the 2017-2018 fiscal year that will begin in July, 2017. There were no new Board members nominated for the upcoming year, but new three-year terms were approved for all current Board members whose terms were expiring at the end of this fiscal year. We also formally welcomed Patricia Weinstock who had been previously appointed by President John Williams to the Board.

From the Symphony's Archives

Since this is the Peninsula Symphony's 50th anniversary season, **Symphony Sounds** has instituted a new column that will feature a different "did you know" item from the orchestra's history in each issue.

Did you know that the Peninsula Symphony has had only two permanent Music Director/Conductors and two concertmasters during its entire 50-year existence? Maestro Joe Valenti founded the orchestra and conducted through 2008. During the 2008-2009 season, there were four guest conductors who each led one concert while being considered for the permanent position. Gary Berkson was appointed to the position and has been Music Director/Conductor since the 2009-2010 concert season.

Concertmaster Elizabeth Ivanoff Holborn began with the orchestra in its first season, and Rebecca Rutkowski has had the first violin chair that is named after Holborn since the first concert of the 2000-2001 season. The concertmaster leads the first violin section and sits in the front row immediately to the conductor's left. He/she accepts the applause of the audience for the orchestra, leads the tuning of the orchestra, determines the most appropriate bowings and plays the violin solos that are written in the orchestra music.

Future Events

2017 Edith Knox Performance Competition

The preliminary round of the 2017 Edith Knox Performance Competition was completed on March 9 at Harbor College. Five outstanding musicians were selected to perform in the final round on Sunday, April 9, at Redondo Union High School Auditorium, beginning at 2:00 PM.

The performers and selections are:

Max Hammond, 16, piano, Los Angeles, playing Schumann's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A minor, Opus 54

Nicholas Mariscal, 24, cello, Los Angeles, playing Barber's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in A minor, Opus 22

Heidi Hatch, 24, violin, La Crescenta, playing Korngold's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major, Opus 35

Tomlin Su, 23, violin, Highland Park, Texas, playing Glazunov's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in A minor, Opus 82

Michael Harper, 24, trumpet, Los Angeles, playing Arutunian's Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in A-flat major

All finalists will receive cash prizes following their Redondo Beach performances. In addition, the winner will also be featured in a short, professional recital at 12:15 PM on May 5, 2017, in the Classical Crossroads' First Fridays at First concert series.

Young Artists' Showcase Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 2:00 PM

The five finalists in the 2017 Edith Knox Performance Competition will perform in full concert dress with piano accompaniment for professional judging. The first-prize winner will be announced at the end of the program and will solo with the Peninsula Symphony at its June 18, 2017, Norris Foundation concert. These events are free and open to the public.

Peninsula Symphony Concert Sunday, June 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM

An Idyllic Evening
TBA, Soloist

Honegger	<i>Pastorale d'été</i>
TBA	Concerto (Knox Winner)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 6 in F major, Opus 68 ("Pastoral")

Thank you to our 2016-2017 Sponsors

City of Rolling Hills

Kenneth T. & Eileen Norris Foundation

Enriching Lives



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors/County Arts Commission

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe

Palos Verdes Woman's Club

The Morgan Stanley Foundation

Weinstock Accountancy Corporation

The Peninsula Symphony's concerts are also generously supported by the Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund.



Symphony Association members arriving for the special musical event in Rolling Hills for Symphony association members at the \$500+ level.



There was plenty to eat after the performance/master class.

Thank you to our Virtuoso Level Members

Our highest membership level, Virtuoso, is for individuals or couples who contribute at least \$5000 to the Peninsula Symphony Association in a single season. We are proud to announce the 2016-2017 season Virtuoso contributors:

Ken and Anita Gash
Dorothy and Allen Lay
The Shlens Family
John and Sue Williams

Enjoy the Next Concert!

Satisfying a "Suite Tooth"

**Sunday, April 30, at 7:00 PM
Redondo Union High School Auditorium**



Post Office Box 2602
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact Information

Any questions or requests about the Peninsula Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony Association or ***Symphony Sounds*** should be sent to the Peninsula Symphony Association office. We will route your message to the appropriate person.

The Peninsula Symphony Association
Post Office Box 2602
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

The office is normally staffed from 9:00 AM to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You may call at any time (310-544-0320) and leave a message on our answering machine, but phone replies will usually be made only during normal staffing hours. You can also e-mail us at music.pensym@verizon.net. General information about the Symphony (current season schedule, maps and directions, etc.) can be found on our website (www.pensym.org).

Other contacts are:

Peninsula Symphony Association president, John Williams jwskrs@verizon.com

Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson conductor.pensym@verizon.net