

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

### **Overture to *Così fan tutte*, K. 588**

*W. A. Mozart (1756 – 1791)*

**Overture to "*Così fan tutte*"** is a short instrumental introduction to Mozart's opera of the same name. The translation of the title in English means "**As Do All Women**" and it was first performed in 1790. The basic plot of the opera is about two young men who had a wager with the character Don Alphonso and the bet was to prove that all women were unfaithful. As for the outcome of the wager, it will be your homework of the day!

### **Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64**

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)*

The **Violin Concerto in E minor** by Mendelssohn was dedicated to the famous French composer Ferdinand David and he premiered the piece in Leipzig in 1845. In a letter to David in 1838, Mendelssohn said, "I should like to write a violin concerto for you next winter. One in E minor runs through my head, the beginning of which gives me no peace." It has three technically challenging movements (fast-slow-fast) and is considered a major work in the violin repertoire.

### **Piano Concerto in G Minor, Op. 22**

*Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)*

Saint-Saëns' **Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor** was composed in 1868 and is considered his most popular piano concerto. Saint-Saëns was the soloist at its premiere with Anton Rubinstein as the conductor; and it was dedicated to Madame A. de Villers née de Haber. It took him only three weeks to complete the work. Zygmunt Stojowski, a Polish pianist/composer, once joked that it "begins with Bach and ends with Offenbach". This comment was probably based on the unconventional composition style displayed in this work.

### **Capriccio Brillante for Piano and Orchestra in B Minor, Op. 22**

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)*

Mendelssohn began writing his **Capriccio Brillante for Piano and Orchestra** in the fall of 1831, completed in the spring of 1832 and he premiered it in July of the same year. It is a one-movement work and was Mendelssohn's first attempt to write such composition. As suggested by the title, it is truly a piano showpiece because of the many scales, arpeggios, octaves passages, etc. found in the music. Mendelssohn's virtuosity on the piano is evident in this composition.

### **A Christmas Festival**

*Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975)*

**A Christmas Festival** was written by American composer Leroy Anderson, who was known for his short, light concert pieces. His music was introduced in the U. S. by the famous conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, the late Arthur Fiedler. Anderson was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and died in Woodbury, Connecticut of cancer in 1975. He studied composition at Harvard University with Walter Piston, another distinguished American composer, and the great Romanian composer George Enescu. A Christmas

Festival is Anderson's orchestral arrangement of nine Christmas carols such as Joy to World, Jingle Bells and Silent Night. (Can you name the rest?) His other popular works include Bugler's Holiday, Blue Tango, Sleigh Ride, The Syncopated Clock and The Typewriter.

Program Notes Written By Eric D. Fahn ©