

MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

OSMO VÄNSKÄ, *conductor*
WILLIAM WOLFRAM, *piano*

Friday, May 2, 2014, 8 pm
Sunday, May 4, 2014, 2 pm

ECHOES of HISTORY



Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium

UNIVERSITY of MINNESOTA, 1929

First Dedicatory Concert
Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium
Tuesday, October 22, 1929

Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra
Henri Verbrugghen, Conductor
Soloist: Eunice Norton, Pianist

PROGRAM

- Wagner* - Prelude to "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg"
Dvorak - Second Movement, "Largo" from Symphony
No. 5, in E Minor, "New World"
Liszt - Symphonic Poem No. 3, "Les Preludes"

INTERMISSION

- Liszt* - Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1, in
E-flat Major
Tschaikowsky - - - Overture, "The Year 1812"
Steinway Piano Exclusively *Brunswick Records*

Through the courtesy of Colonel Sweeny, the fanfare preceding the program is by Buglers from the Third Infantry at Fort Snelling, the oldest regiment in the United States Army.

Members of the University Band will augment the Orchestra in the last number of the program, and the Military Department of the University will have charge of the traditional, accompanying gun.

Echoes of History

Minnesota Orchestra

Osmo Vänskä, conductor

William Wolfram, piano

The Combined Choirs of the University of Minnesota,

Kathy Saltzman Romey & Matthew Mehaffey, conductors

University of Minnesota Marching Band,

Timothy Diem, director

Friday, May 2, 2014, 8:00 PM

The Carlson Family Stage at Northrop

Sunday, May 4, 2014, 2:00 PM

The Carlson Family Stage at Northrop

John Stafford Smith

The Star-Spangled Banner

Orchestrated by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

Truman Rickard

Hail! Minnesota

Richard Wagner

Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Antonín Dvořák

Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95 (*From the New World*)

II. Largo

Franz Liszt

Les Préludes, Symphonic Poem No. 3

— INTERMISSION —

Franz Liszt

Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major for Piano and Orchestra

I. Allegro maestoso

II. Quasi adagio - Allegretto vivace

III. Allegro marziale animato

William Wolfram, piano

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812, Overture solennelle (*Solemn Overture*), Opus 49

The Combined Choirs of the University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota Marching Band



Osmo Vänskä, music director of the Minnesota Orchestra from 2003 to 2013 and conductor laureate of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra in Finland, is praised for his intense, dynamic performances and his compelling, innovative interpretations of the standard, contemporary and Nordic repertoires. The BIS recording he made with the Minnesota Orchestra of the Sibelius Symphonies Nos. 1 & 4 won the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance. He began his musical career as a clarinetist, occupying the co-principal chair in the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra for several years. After studying conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, he won first prize in the 1982 Besançon International Conductor's Competition. His conducting career has included substantial commitments to such orchestras as the Tapiola Sinfonietta, Iceland Symphony Orchestra and BBC

Scottish Symphony Orchestra. As principal conductor of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra from 1988 to 2008, he raised the orchestra's international profile particularly through notable interpretations of Sibelius, which led to successful tours and recordings. His numerous discs for BIS continue to attract the highest acclaim; more recently his Beethoven symphony cycle with the Minnesota Orchestra has broadcast the exceptional dynamism of his current musical partnership to audiences worldwide. Meanwhile, Vänskä is heavily in demand internationally as a guest conductor with the world's leading orchestras, enjoying regular relationships with such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra of Washington. Among the many honors and distinctions he has been awarded are the Pro Finlandia Medal, a Royal Philharmonic Society Award, Musical America's Conductor of the Year Award, the Sibelius Medal and the Finlandia Foundation Arts and Letters Award.



American pianist **William Wolfram** was a silver medalist at both the William Kapell and the Naumburg International Piano Competitions, a bronze medalist at the prestigious Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow and finalist in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Wolfram has appeared with many of the greatest orchestras of the world and has developed a special reputation as the rare concerto soloist who is also equally versatile and adept as a recitalist, accompanist and chamber musician. In all of these genres, he is highly sought after for his special focus on the music of Franz Liszt and Beethoven and is a special champion for the music of modernist 20th century American composers.

Internationally recognized conductors with whom he has worked include Andrew Litton, Jerzy Semkow, Mark Wigglesworth, Jeffrey Tate, Vladimir Spivakov, Gerard Schwarz, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Jeffrey Kahane, James Judd, Roberto Minczuk, Stefan Sanderling, JoAnn Falletta, James Paul, and Carlos Kalmar.

Wolfram has extensive experience in the recording studio. He has recorded three titles on the Naxos label in his series of Franz Liszt Opera Transcriptions and two other chamber music titles for Naxos with violinist Philippe Quint (music of Miklos Rosza and John Corigliano). Also for Naxos he has recorded the music of Earl Kim with piano and orchestra - the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland behind him. For the Albany label, he recorded the piano concertos of Edward Collins with Marin Alsop and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.