

Connections



MAURICE RAVEL



IGOR STRAVINSKY



SERGEI PROKOFIEV

In the early twentieth century, Europe was in the midst of political unrest and on the brink of revolution and world war, yet there was fertile ground for artists to make cross-cultural connections. Both Igor Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and Sergei Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1* were Russian compositions that premiered in Paris. In turn, French musicians such as composer Maurice Ravel were being inspired and influenced by Russian music and culture.

This concert, entitled "Connections," includes two pieces by Ravel, "*Pavane pour une infante défunte*" and "*Boléro*" as well as the *Firebird Suite*. Violinist Hrabba Atladottir is featured in the Prokofiev concerto.

Ravel wrote the immensely popular "*Pavane pour une infante défunte*" ("*Pavane for a Dead Princess*") in 1899 for solo piano and orchestrated it in 1910. He dedicated it to his patron, Princesse Edmond de Polignac, whose father was Isaac Singer, the famous sewing machine manufacturer. The work displays a great but subtle charm and a lightness of touch that became one of Ravel's compositional hallmarks. The world came to know Ravel through his "*Boléro*" for orchestra. When it debuted, it was met with both enthusiasm and dissent. It is now a well-established work and also embedded in the public consciousness by its prominent use in the popular film *10*. "*Boléro*" is based on a single theme, and its power is felt through its dynamic and masterful orchestration and cumulative crescendo effect.

Steeped in the colors of Russian fairy tales, Stravinsky's early composition *Firebird Suite* is a work of extraordinary brilliance with rich harmonies and an exhilarating rhythmic drive. It is considered Stravinsky's breakout piece and was the first of several ballet scores he wrote, including his masterwork, *The Rite of Spring*.

Prokofiev described his *Violin Concerto No. 1* as a "softening of temper" compared to his earlier works, even though it was completed in 1917 amid the turmoil of the October Revolution. This piece is lyrical and meditative in nature yet features violin virtuosity, a combination sure to inspire!

Enjoy this colorful program in which the spirit of the times can be heard, from the exotic story of the *Firebird* to the magic of Prokofiev and Ravel. Concert dates are **Friday, May 16, 8 p.m. in the Fireside Room, Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse** (tickets available at the door) and **Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m. at the Leshher Center** (tickets available online at www.lesherartscenter.org).



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NEXT CONCERT: RAVEL | STRAVINSKY | PROKOFIEV



President's Corner

the Fireside Room, Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse and **Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m.** at the Lesher Center.

We're finalizing our **2014-15 season** now, and it promises to be a wonderful celebration of our vibrant musical community. We're kicking off the year with a special concert to celebrate **Rossmoor's 50th anniversary** on **September 18** at the Rossmoor Event Center. We'll also be bringing back our very popular **Instrument Petting Zoo and Family Concert in October**, coming "**Home for the Holidays**" in **December**, and considering "**Life, Death, Dance**" with a performance of **Beethoven's Seventh Symphony in May**. In between will be many other classical favorites and talented performances.

Without you, our

faithful audience and supporters, we could not present such an ambitious and exciting season of symphony concerts. Please **renew your season ticket subscription now**, **join the Diablo Symphony Association**, and consider **making a donation to the Diablo Symphony**. Like all other arts nonprofits, we cannot begin to sustain our community orchestra on ticket sales alone. Your support makes beautiful music! Also, don't forget to **Like us on Facebook** and **follow us on Twitter (@DiabloSymphonyO)** for the latest on all things Diablo Symphony.

See you at the Symphony.

Melissa Ward
President
Diablo Symphony Association
P.S. Our Website (www.diablosymphony.org) is in the process of being updated and will be looking better than ever soon!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that our 2013-14 season is already drawing to a close, and what a wonderful musical journey it has been! Our **grand finale** offers passionate and exciting **musical connections**—including **Stravinsky's Firebird Suite** and **Ravel's "Boléro"**—and features **Hrabba Atladottir** (our guest concertmaster in our first two sets this season), returning to play **Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1**. Many thanks to Hrabba for stepping in so beautifully at the last moment! The concerts will be held **Friday, May 16, 8 p.m.** at

From One Bow to Another: A Change of Soloist

Hrabba Atladottir, who is featured in our May concerts, was gracious enough to agree to fill in for violinist Juliana Athayde, who recently gave birth to a baby girl. Congratulations to Juliana and her husband, oboist Erik Behr!

Icelandic violinist Hrabba Atladottir studied in Berlin, Germany, with Professor Axel Gerhardt and worked for five years as a freelance violinist in Berlin, regularly playing in the Deutsche Oper, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. She traveled on a world tour with Icelandic pop artist Björk and with violinist Nigel Kennedy on a tour of Germany. Moving to New York in 2004, Atladottir played with orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the New York City Opera. While in New York, she played with the Either/Or ensemble in close collaboration with German composer Helmut Lachenmann. She has performed as a soloist in the Bay Area since 2008, playing with various ensembles such as the Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, and Empyrean Ensemble. She also teaches violin at UC Berkeley.



HRABBA ATLADOTTIR, violin

Music Lovers! Now Is the Time to Order Your Tickets for Next Season

The DSO's 2014-15 musical season is promising to be unforgettable! The new season begins **Thursday, September 18, 8 p.m.** at the Rossmoor Event Center with a special concert honoring **Rossmoor's 50th anniversary**. You will enjoy the sounds of Ravel, Beckel, Liadov, and de Falla, showcasing the critically acclaimed pianist Gwendolyn Mok.

The ever-popular annual **Instrument Petting Zoo and Family Concert** follows **Saturday, October 4 (petting zoo at 2 p.m. and concert at 3 p.m.)**, both at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. The family concert, entitled "**Enchantment**," presents works by such illustrious composers as Bartok, de Falla, and Ravel and repeats **Sunday, October 5, 2 p.m.** at the Lesher Center for the Arts.

DSO's "**Home for the Holidays**" concert takes place **Thursday, December 18, 8 p.m.** at the Rossmoor Event Center and **Monday, December 22, 7:30 p.m.** at the Lesher Center, with guest conductor Cyrus Ginwala, who is also an educator, arts advocate, and community activist.

February brings "**An American in Paris (and Other Travels)**," featuring violinist Geneva Lewis and including the music of Wagner, Sibelius, and Gershwin **Friday February 6, 8 p.m.** at the Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse and **Sunday, February 8, 2 p.m.** at the Lesher Center.

The winner of the **Yen Liang Young Artist Competition** performs and the orchestra presents the English composer Edward Elgar's **Enigma Variations** in our concerts **Friday, March 20, 8 p.m.** at the Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse and **Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m.** at the Lesher Center.

The season wraps up with "**Life, Death, Dance**" in May with the rich, resonant voice of baritone Nikolai Janitzky and the music of Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, and Beethoven. The concerts are **Friday, May 15, 8 p.m.** at the Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse and **Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m.** at the Lesher Center.

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Tickets for Rossmoor are available at the door, and **Lesher Center tickets** can be purchased at www.lesherartscenter.org.

Don't miss out on this amazing upcoming season of consummate musical offerings!

Notice of Annual Meeting

Diablo Symphony Association Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Donner Room, Rossmoor Event Center
6:00 p.m.: election of directors and annual member meeting
7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting
All members of the DSA are welcome to attend.

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