



# *Family Concert: Peter and the Wolf*

## FEATURING

Cindy Silva ♦ Narrator  
Cayden Bloomer ♦ Oboe  
Justin Griffin ♦ Marimba  
Matthew Curtis ♦ Conduct-the-Orchestra Winner

## *Program*

**Peter and the Wolf**

*Cindy Silva - Narrator*

**Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)**

## INTERMISSION

**“Sunrise” from *Also Sprach Zarathustra***

**Richard Strauss (1864–1949)**

**Concerto in A Minor for Oboe and Strings**  
1. Rondo Pastorale (Allegro moderato)

**Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)**

*Cayden Bloomer - Oboe*

**Oblivion**

**Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992), arr. Dean Boysen**  
*Soloists: Dean Boysen, trumpet; Sara Usher, violin*

**Concerto for Marimba**  
3. Allegramente di Bravura

**Sergei Golovko (1970–)**

*Justin Griffin - Marimba*

**“Berceuse” and “Finale” from *The Firebird***

**Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)**

*Matthew Curtis - Conduct-the-Orchestra Winner*

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**October 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. • Lesher Center for the Arts**

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## PROGRAM NOTES - FAMILY CONCERT: PETER AND THE WOLF

**Sergei Prokofiev's "PETER AND THE WOLF"** (1936) is among the most beloved works of twentieth-century classical music, known for its brilliant storytelling and clever use of the orchestra. It introduces young audiences to the instruments of the orchestra while instilling a love for classical music. Each character in the story is represented by a specific instrument or theme. The story is narrated while the orchestra brings the characters and events to life.

→ **Peter:** Represented by the strings, Peter is a brave and adventurous young boy. The playful, nimble theme captures his youthful energy.

→ **The Bird:** Its light and fluttering theme, played by the flute, reflects the character's quick and carefree movements.

→ **The Duck:** Played by the oboe, the duck's waddling melody contrasts with the bird's flighty theme, emphasizing the duck's vulnerability.

→ **The Cat:** Represented by the clarinet, this character has a slinky, stealthy theme that mirrors its sneakiness.

→ **The Wolf:** Brought to life by three French horns, the wolf has a dark, ominous theme symbolizing the danger and threat he poses to the peaceful setting.

→ **Grandfather:** Played by the bassoon, Grandfather is portrayed by a deep, grumbling theme that portrays his cautious and serious demeanor.

→ **The Hunters:** Played by the timpani and the bass drum, the rhythmic theme of the hunters evokes their approach and eventual capture of the wolf.

Although composed as a children's piece, the work's innovative use of musical themes to represent characters has made it a staple in concert halls around the world. At its heart, "Peter and the Wolf" is not only a delightful story but also an educational tool that has introduced countless people to the instruments of the orchestra.

**Richard Strauss** was one of the most important composers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Born in Germany in 1864, Strauss was a child prodigy, composing music from a young age and later becoming famous for his tone poems—pieces of music that paint a picture or tell a tale without words. Many of us have heard the majestic opening notes of Richard Strauss's tone poem ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA (1896)—they are famous for being featured in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. This iconic fanfare, known as the "Sunrise," is a powerful depiction of the dawn of a new day, as imagined by the composer. Richard Strauss was inspired by the book *Also sprach Zarathustra* (Thus Spoke Zarathustra) by the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Although the book explores complex ideas, the music itself is simple to grasp: the beginning of life, light, and new possibilities. The piece starts with a single low note played on the double basses, contrabassoon, and organ and slowly grows into a magnificent and triumphant brass section symbolizing the first rays of the sun breaking

through the darkness. Our excerpt from the tone poem concludes with the opening of the *Andante religioso* "Of the Forest Dwellers," which depicts mankind looking for the truth in nature.

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**, one of England's greatest composers and a leader in reviving English classical music, was known for blending traditional British folk music with classical styles. He wrote symphonies, operas, choral works, and concerti—many of which reflect his deep connection to nature and the British countryside. His CONCERTO FOR OBOE AND STRINGS (1944) is a beautiful example of this, and the first movement, which we perform today, is a gentle, flowing piece that shows off the lyrical and expressive qualities of the oboe. The concerto was composed during the final years of World War II, and its peaceful, pastoral sound contrasts with the turbulence of that time.

**Astor Piazzolla** was a revolutionary Argentine composer who brought a new energy to traditional tango music and is often credited with transforming traditional tango into a sophisticated art form. He studied both in Argentina and France, where he encountered various musical styles, including jazz and classical, which influenced his unique approach to composition. "OBLIVION" is one of his most famous pieces, showcasing his ability to blend the passionate rhythms of tango with elements of jazz and

The mission of the Diablo Symphony Orchestra is to enrich the lives and cultural climate of our community by performing a diverse repertoire of live classical music and making it accessible to our region's diverse population. We foster the next generation of young musicians, provide educational programs, and offer performing opportunities to local musicians.

## PROGRAM NOTES - FAMILY CONCERT: PETER AND THE WOLF

classical music. This beautiful work is often described as hauntingly melancholic, capturing a deep sense of longing and nostalgia. Written in 1982, "Oblivion" was originally composed for a film, and you can hear its cinematic quality in the way it unfolds. The piece begins gently, drawing you in with soft, flowing melodies. The music gradually builds, evoking a sense of yearning, as if it's telling a story of love and loss. Piazzolla's unique style allows for both lyrical expression and dramatic contrasts, making it a favorite among musicians and audiences alike. In this orchestral arrangement, we have the privilege of featuring our principal trumpet, **Dean Boysen**, whose expressive playing beautifully captures the essence of Piazzolla's lyrical lines. Additionally, our concertmaster, **Sara Usher**, lends her talent to the piece, adding depth and richness to the overall sounds of the piece.

### Matilda Hofman

is music director and conductor of the Diablo Symphony Orchestra as well as conductor-in-residence of the Empyrean Ensemble at UC Davis. She is also artistic director of the San Francisco-based Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, with which she has premiered several works, including several operas. California guest engagements include Festival Opera, the Fremont Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Ballet, the Sacramento Ballet, and Sierra Summer Festival. Hofman also serves as a cover conductor for the San Francisco Symphony. Committed to education, she initiated an outreach program with the DSO that includes ensemble performances in schools as well as family concerts. She has performed at the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain, as well as at the Salzburg Festival, Paris Autumn Festival, the Berliner Festspiele, Holland Festival, and Luzerne Festival.



She has also conducted alongside Ingo Metzmacher in many performances of Luigi Nono's *Prometeo* and prepared Chorwerk Ruhr for its debut performance with the Berlin Philharmonic. She has worked with the Ensemble Modern, SWR Symphonieorchester, Ensemble Recherche, Bochumer Symphoniker, and Kammerakademie Potsdam. She has served as a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School and has received awards from the League of American Orchestras and the Conductors Guild of America. Hofman was guest conductor for the Oberlin Opera Theater's November 2021 production of George Handel's *Acis and Galateo*, featuring Oberlin Conservatory students in the Vocal Studies Division and the Oberlin Orchestra. She holds degrees from Cambridge University, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Eastman School of Music.

**Sergei Golovko** is a contemporary Ukrainian composer and percussionist known for his innovative works that often explore rhythm and texture. He has gained recognition for his dynamic and inventive compositions, which often blend various musical styles and techniques. THE CONCERTO FOR MARIMBA (2010) showcases the marimba's unique sound and versatility, providing both technical challenges and expressive opportunities for the performer, and the third movement, which we perform today, is a vibrant and lively celebration of this fascinating instrument. This movement bursts with energy, featuring rapid melodies and playful rhythms. Golovko takes full advantage of the capabilities of the marimba, with its wooden bars and resonant sound, enabling the soloist to showcase both technical prowess and expressive musicianship.

**Igor Stravinsky**, one of the most influential composers of the twentieth century, was known for his innovative and sometimes groundbreaking works. He was a master of blending different musical styles and often drew inspiration from folk traditions and mythology. His music is characterized by its boldness and innovative spirit. L'OISEAU DE FEU (THE FIREBIRD), composed in 1910 for a ballet, is a stunning example of his early style and showcases his ability to blend lush harmonies with vibrant melodies. Today we perform the "Berceuse," or lullaby, a beautifully tender moment in the ballet, followed by the rousing "Finale." The lullaby, in which Stravinsky's orchestration weaves together the woodwinds and strings, is often associated with the magical qualities of the firebird, a creature of legend that represents hope and transformation. The finale, introduced by a melody in the horn, gains intensity and brings our concert to a dramatic conclusion.





## **Cindy Silva**

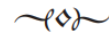


has served on the Walnut Creek City Council since 2006 and has served four terms as Walnut Creek's mayor. Prior to her election to the City Council, she served three years on the Walnut Creek Planning Commission. As mayor in 2011, Cindy founded the now-annual Walnut Creek Community Service Day, which she still co-chairs. The program received a 2012 Helen Putnam Award for excellence from the League of California Cities. As a council member, Silva has served on numerous committees and as the council liaison to Walnut Creek Downtown, the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, Rossmoor, and the Diablo Regional Arts Association. Regionally, she also represents Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County on several public agencies, and, at the state



level, she serves as a governor-appointed member and chair of the California Seismic Safety Commission. She is an active member of the League of California Cities, for which she served as president in 2022, and serves on the Community and Economic Development advocacy committee of the National League of Cities and on the housing policy committee of Cal Cities. A resident of Walnut Creek since 1984, Silva has been an active community volunteer for more than 30 years. She has 40 years of business experi-

ence in marketing and communications in industries as diverse as telecommunications, biotech, and the nonprofit sector. From 1980 to 2016, she owned and ran her own consulting business. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Southern California, Silva has a bachelor's degree in journalism.



## **Cayden Bloomer**



an oboist from Pacific Grove, is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at the Herb Albert School of Music at UCLA. His oboe studies with Dr. Jonathan Davis led Bloomer to attend the Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts in Carmel, where he studied with Elaine Douvas. He also spent a summer at the Brevard Music Center studying with Eric Ohlsson, Emily Brebach, and Christopher Philpotts. Including the oboe—his favorite instrument—Bloomer is proficient on nine instruments and has received invitations to perform at prestigious events along the California coast, including the Monterey Jazz Festival with the MJF All-Star Band



and MocoHovo Vocal Ensemble, the San Jose Jazz Festival, the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, and the Carmel Bach Festival. Bloomer won first place as a chamber musician in the Young Artists' Showcase Competition at the Carmel Bach Festival. After winning the annual YMM Concerto Competition, he performed the Mozart Oboe Concerto with the Youth Music Monterey Honors Orchestra. Following studies with Gabe Young at the Central Coast Academy for Jazz and Orchestra, Bloomer won a position playing the English horn in a worldwide orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Bloomer currently plays oboe and English horn in the California Young Artists Symphony, a preprofessional orchestra in Southern California.

## **Justin Griffin**



is currently a music education major at San José State University, specializing in concert percussion. Before he arrived at San José State, his primary instrument was saxophone, but under the tutelage of percussion professors Galen Lemmon, Bryce Leafman, and Divesh Karamchandani, Griffin's music education shifted to a focus on the marimba.



Griffin was drawn to the Golovko concerto when he first heard it and finds it to be one of the most difficult pieces he has played during his university studies. Griffin hopes those who hear his performance of this "amazing piece of music" are encouraged by the fact that he started playing four mallets only four years ago. He also thanks the Diablo Symphony for the opportunity to play the concerto with a live orchestra.

**THE DIABLO SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS, WHOSE GIFTS WERE RECEIVED FROM OCTOBER 7, 2023 TO OCTOBER 7, 2024. THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPPORTERS GREATLY HELP THE DSO REMAIN STRONG AND VIBRANT. THANK YOU!**

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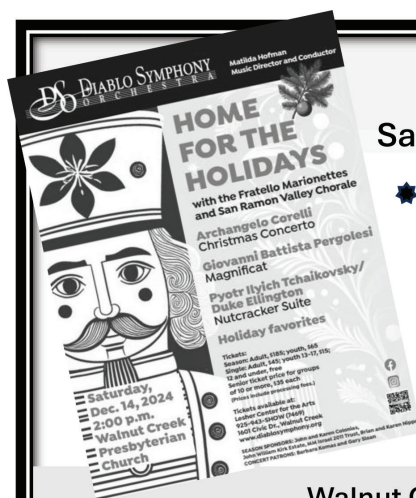
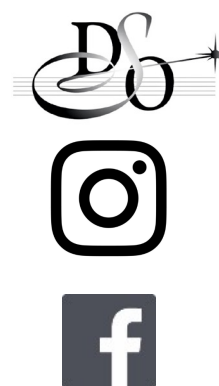
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