

BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2018

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale presents our 68th season opener, Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Billings MT- The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale opens the 68th season on Saturday, September 22, with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, featuring violinist Sergey Pospelov. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Bair Theater. Concert Cues with Tom Singer, an interactive talk before the show, begins at 6:45 p.m.



The evening begins with **Circuits** by American composer Cindy McTee. McTee has received numerous awards for her music, most significantly: a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, a Composers Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Music Alive Award from Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's third annual Elaine Lebenbom Memorial Award, and a BMI Student Composers Award. She was also winner of the 2001 Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition.



Following **Circuits**, the orchestra will play **Dances of Marossék** by Zoltán Kodály. Kodály (1882-1967) is the inventor of the Kodály System of Musical Education and the composer of *Dances of Marossék*. He began working on it in 1923. He put it aside to work on *Psalms Hungaricus*. He picked it up again and finished it in 1927. It was initially written for the piano, which surprised those who knew him because he played the cello and was not known for his piano playing abilities. *Dances of Marossék* is based on Hungarian folk songs that originated in the Székeley province of Hungary.



Following intermission, the concert continues with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, featuring Sergey Pospelov. Pospelov was born in Rostov-on-Don, and is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory studying under Eduard Grach (2014). He won the 1st David Oistrakh International Violin Competition in Moscow (2006), the 41st Concertino Praga International Competition for Young Musicians (2007), the 15th Alberto Curci International Violin Competition in Naples (2008), and the 6th Abram Yampolsky Competition in Moscow (2012). He performs regularly in Russian cities, as well as in Italy, France, Poland, Israel, China, and Japan. He collaborates with the Novaya Rossiya Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, and the Svetlanov Symphony Orchestra among others.

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Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major was written while Tchaikovsky was on vacation at Lake Geneva. The concerto only took a month to compose. He was joined by his pupil Iosif Kotek. Together they played and composed. Moreover, they played Édouardo Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*. They fell in love with the beautiful melodies and the overall lightness of the piece. It was a stark contrast to the darkness of the piano concerto he was previously

working on.

Tchaikovsky wanted to dedicate his violin concerto to Kotek but he was afraid of the gossip that would surround them. He decided to dedicate it to Leopold Auer. However despite already having the premiere scheduled and the copy published, Auer refused to play it. He didn't think it was good enough and didn't want to hurt his career. Tchaikovsky had to postpone the premiere until he could find another soloist. That soloist was Adolph Brodsky who performed Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major for the first time on December 4, 1881 in Vienna. It has become known as one of the most important violin works in the history of Romantic music.

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is sponsored by: Larry & Ruth Martin, Scott & Deb Brown, and Rockwood Brown. **Circuits** is sponsored by Sig & Bev Ross. Sergey Pospelov is sponsored by Dr. Lisa Malody, Dr. John Hanson & Deborah Anspach. The 2018-2019 Season is proudly sponsored by The Oakland Companies. The 2018-2019 Host Hotel is The Northern Hotel. The 2018-2019 Media Sponsor is KTVQ-2.

2018-2019 season subscriptions are still available. Full season subscriptions begin at \$144 for adults and \$72 for students. Pick Four subscriptions begin at \$104 for adults and \$52 for students. Becoming a subscriber not only gets you the best seats in the house for the best price, it also gets you invitations to private receptions, master classes, and post-concert receptions at Terakedis Fine Art Studio.

For more information about **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto** visit billingsymphony.org/tchaikovsky-violin-concerto/

For Tickets call 406-252-3610 or visit billingsymphony.org.

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