

NEWS

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Santa Rosa Symphony delivers innovative RACH & the Hollywood Sound

Rachmaninoff's impressive work alongside legendary Hollywood scores.

Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 and Max Steiner's Symphonic Suite from *Gone with the Wind*

January 21, 22, & 23, 2023, Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — Santa Rosa Symphony Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong will conduct the Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) in the second concert of its four-year exploration of Rachmaninoff's dramatic orchestral music. SRS will be performing legendary suites from the scores of *Gone with the Wind* and *The Nun's Story*, plus Rachmaninoff's timeless Symphony No. 2, described by one critic at its premiere as "...how fresh, how beautiful it is!" This project continues to bring together a complete circle of Sergei Rachmaninoff's major orchestral works. Performances are January 21, 22 & 23, 2023 at Weill Hall, Green Music Center.

"I am thrilled to continue the next installment of Santa Rosa's first Rachmaninoff cycle along with classic Hollywood scores. In our second year, we explore one of the most influential and recognizable movie scores ever written, Max Steiner's music to *Gone with the Wind*. Along with this epic symphonic masterpiece is Rachmaninoff's largest symphonic work - his second symphony - beloved for its unabashed lyricism and romanticism."

Francesco Lecce-Chong

Program at a glance:

FRANZ WAXMAN: Suite from *The Nun's Story*

MAX STEINER: Symphonic Suite from *Gone with the Wind*

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Opus 27

Little-known details about RACH & the Hollywood Sound music:

- More than 200 film and TV soundtracks have featured Rachmaninoff's works since 1929.
- After the premiere of Rachmaninoff's first symphony, he was so savaged by critics that he did not dare compose a note for three more years. Rachmaninoff consulted Dr. Nicolai Dahl, who used hypnotism to bolster Rachmaninoff's flagging confidence.
- In the Adagio of Symphony No. 2, Rachmaninoff's signature romanticism is heard in the violin's opening melody, which could easily serve as the love song in a cinematic romance. In fact, 1970s pop singer Eric Carmen wrote a hit song based on this theme, "Never Gonna Fall in Love Again."
- In 1959, after it premiered, *The Nun's Story* became Warner Brothers' most financially successful film, grossing more than seven million dollars. Audrey Hepburn, who starred as Gabrielle van der Mal/Sister Luke, was nominated for an Academy Award for her performance.

- *Gone With The Wind* was nominated in 13 categories and won eight; perhaps the only reason Steiner's music didn't earn him a fourth Oscar is that one of the other films nominated in 1939 was *The Wizard of Oz*.

ENHANCEMENTS:

- [Concert Program books](#) are available to view online. Mailed to full-season subscribers
- [Concert Program notes](#) can be read on the concert event page
- Lecce-Chong provides a 30-minute pre-concert talk one hour prior to each performance.

SPONSORS:

Classical Concert Series underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**
 Sponsored by **The Peggy Anne Covington Fund**
 Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong sponsored by **David and Corinne Byrd**
 Discovery Open Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**
 Pre-concert Talks sponsored by **Jamei Haswell in memory of Richard Grundy**
 Season Media Sponsor: *The Press Democrat*

High-res photos available:

- [Francesco Lecce-Chong](#)

Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT: [Santa Rosa Symphony “RACH & the Hollywood Sound”](#)

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#), [Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)

WHEN:

Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2:00 pm – Discovery Open Rehearsal, no talk
 Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)
 Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 3:00 pm (Doors at 1:30 pm, Pre-concert talk 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm (Doors at 6:00 pm, Pre-concert talk 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

\$18 / adult; \$10 / youth (7-17 years of age) for Discovery Open Rehearsal
 \$32-\$105 for Classical Series performances
 Youths 7-17 years of age may receive one complimentary ticket with every paid adult. Request tickets through Patron Services at (707) 546-8742. Classical Series concerts only
 \$10 student rush tickets for college students with a valid student ID. Available at the door only

TICKETS: srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, opening at 10:30 am Wednesday closed Saturday & Sunday)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California, and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 95 years, began his tenure in 2018. Alan Silow, President & CEO, began his tenure in 2002. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series and a four-concert Pops Series, as well as special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

The Symphony is recognized as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 30,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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