



Topeka Symphony Orchestra

April 4, 2019
School Day Concerts
Educational Resource Packet

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Topeka Symphony Orchestra's 2019 School Day Concert! The theme for this year's Symphony season is *The Big Questions*. We are using classical and popular music to explore big issues about life and death, fate and destiny, art and inspiration, and love and marriage. Composers have grappled with these issues and questions throughout the centuries and they have offered their answers through music. This year's School Day Concerts are drawn from our concert addressing the question, *Will You Marry Me?* The musical pieces that we will perform take us to two different locations for romance and wedding celebrations – the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland and a small village in rural Pennsylvania.

We're so pleased to have you join us!

Kyle Wiley Pickett
Music Director and Conductor



Maestro Kyle Wiley Pickett is the conductor of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the Springfield Symphony in Missouri. He was previously conductor of the Juneau Symphony in Juneau, Alaska, and the North State Symphony in California. He has conducted orchestras, ballet, musical theatre, and opera throughout the West Coast, the Midwest, Mexico, and the Czech Republic. He splits his time between Topeka and Springfield, and is married with two sons.

INTRODUCTION

The Topeka Symphony will perform its annual School Day Concerts on April 4, 2019, at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. Our 2019 School Day Concerts are a part of the Symphony's overall theme for our 2018-2019 season, *The Big Questions*.

We are fortunate to have the generous support of, Security Benefit/SE2, Westar Energy Foundation, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Federal Home Loan Bank. These sponsors allow the TSO to offer these concerts free of charge. Please let our sponsors know that you appreciate their support! You can reach them by mail at the following addresses:

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Charitable Contributions
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

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Corporate Services Specialist
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Westar Energy Foundation
PO Box 889
Topeka, KS 66601

Julie DeVader
Federal Home Loan Bank
500 SW Wanamaker Road
Topeka, KS 66606

Attending the Concert

About 20 minutes prior to the concert, the Topeka Symphony Orchestra members begin to come on stage. They come early for several reasons. Wind players need to make sure their instruments are warmed with air by blowing into it. String players need to let their wooden instruments adjust to the stage temperature and then tune the strings. Percussion players need to set up all their equipment.

At concert time, the Concertmaster (the 1st chair violinist) walks out and is greeted by audience applause. This is also the cue to stop all talking in the audience. She or he bows and then leads the tuning of the Orchestra. The principal oboist plays the tuning note 'A' for all the sections. The Orchestra then tunes by section: brass and woodwinds, lower strings, then upper strings.

When tuning is complete, the Conductor comes on stage as the audience, again, greets him/her with applause.

If a musical selection is in several movements, the audience traditionally sits silently when the orchestra stops between sections. The audience applauds when the last movement is finished.

Each time the Conductor returns to the stage, it is appropriate to applaud. It is never appropriate to talk, clap, rattle papers or disturb others in any way during a musical performance.

When the program ends, the Conductor will have orchestra members stand to acknowledge the applause of the audience.

Concert Etiquette for Audiences

- Listen carefully
- Smile and show appreciation.
- Clap at correct times (watch for cues from an adult if you're not sure).
- Respond when the performer asks you to respond
- If you come late or must leave early, do so between pieces or movements.
- Stay still. Remember, your feet should stay off the chair seats and backs.
- Keep papers quiet.

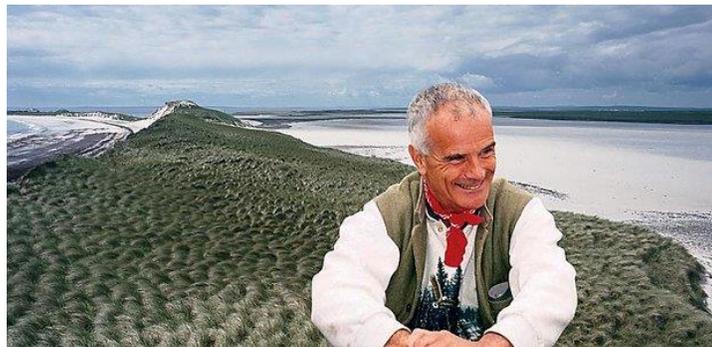
2019 TSO School Day Concerts

Will You Marry Me?



What are we playing?

Peter Maxwell Davies: **An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise**



Peter Maxwell Davies was born in England in 1934. At the age of four, his parents took him to a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera, *The Gondoliers*, after which he informed his parents that he was going to be a composer. Davies immediately began taking piano lessons and was composing music in his early teens. He first impacted the music world while a student at the Royal Manchester College of Music in the 1950s. Davies eventually took a job at the Cirencester Grammar School in Gloucestershire, England. Working with children at the school prompted Davies to not only simplify his style, but to include more and more theatrical elements in his music. In the early 1960s Davies was in the United States, at Princeton, but returned to Britain in 1967. In 1971, Davies moved to the Orkney Islands where he lived and composed music until his death in 2016.

An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise

Davies composed this piece for the Boston Pops Orchestra's 100th anniversary. It was premiered by that orchestra in 1985. The composition depicts a boisterous Scottish wedding followed by the sun coming up after a night of parties and dancing. It is one of the only pieces for classical orchestra that features bagpipes! The bagpiper comes in toward the end of the piece and symbolizes the rising sun over Scotland. Here is how Mr. Davies described his composition:

“At the outset, we hear the guests arriving, out of extremely bad weather, at the hall. This is followed by the processional, where the guests are solemnly received by the bride and bridegroom. . . .The band tunes up, and we get on with the dancing proper. This becomes ever wilder . . . until the lead fiddle can hardly hold the band together any more. We leave the hall into the cold night, with echoes of the processional music in our ears, and as we walk home across the island, the sun rises . . . to a glorious dawn. The sun is represented by the highland bagpipes, in full traditional splendor.”

Here is a video of a 2014 performance of *An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise* by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Ben Gernon that begins with an introduction by Peter Maxwell Davies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCeh6amXyYE>

Orkney Islands

The Orkney Islands are located about 10 miles off the north coast of Scotland. Orkney is made up of approximately 70 islands, 20 of which are inhabited. The Orkney Islands have been a part of Scotland since 1472. Agriculture and fishing account for most of Orkney's economy with 90% of the agricultural land used for grazing sheep and cattle. Orkney features an abundance of wildlife. Seals, seabirds, whales, dolphins, and otters can be seen along its coastline.

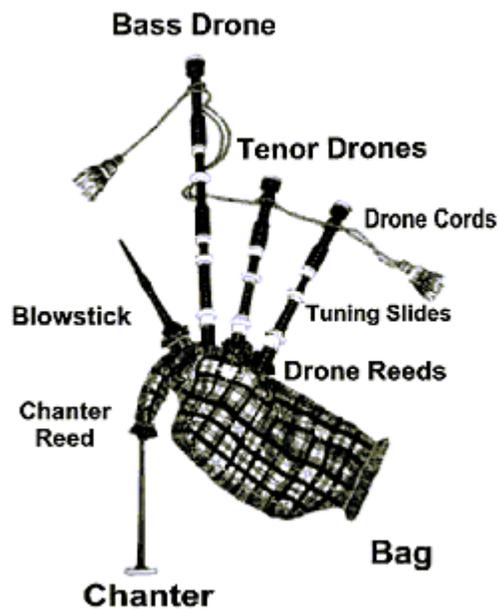


Orkney Islands

Bagpipes

Bagpipes are a woodwind instrument whose airflow comes from a reservoir of air in a bag controlled by the player. The bagpiper fills the bag with air by blowing through a blowstick or blowpipe. The player then squeezes the bag with their arm to send air through the chanter reed or melody pipe. The chanter is played like a recorder or other woodwind instrument. Bagpipes also feature one or more drone pipes which are not fingered but rather produce constant harmonizing notes when the bag is squeezed.

Some forms of bagpipes have been around since the 1st century, but the ones with which we are most familiar developed in the 14th century. Although there are dozens of different types of bagpipes, the most familiar are the Scottish Highland pipes.



Scottish Highland Pipes

Aaron Copland: **Appalachian Spring**



Aaron Copland was an American classical composer whose works are among the most popular of the orchestral repertoire. Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1900, Copland first learned to play the piano from his older sister. He began studying music composition in his teenage years, and at the age of 20, Copland traveled to France to study. Copland drew inspiration from American jazz music for his early compositions and by the 1920s he turned his attention to the music of other countries. In the 1930s and 1940s, Copland's search for a wider audience led him to compose music for the movies. Among his best known film scores are those for "Of Mice and Men" (1939), "Our Town" (1940), and "The Heiress" (1949) for which he won the Academy Award for Best Score. Copland's more popular works also included those he composed for ballets. "Billy the Kid" (1938), "Rodeo" (1942), and "Appalachian Spring" (1944) all were huge successes. In the 1950s, Copland turned his attention more to conducting than composing. He toured throughout the world conducting his own works and those of other American composers through the 1970s. Aaron Copland's compositions made him one of the most important figures in twentieth-century music. He died in New York in 1990.

Appalachian Spring

Copland composed the ballet *Appalachian Spring* in 1943 and 1944 at the request of choreographer Martha Graham. The ballet was premiered at the Library of Congress on October 30, 1944 with Martha Graham dancing the leading role. The ballet tells a simple story depicting the day of a wedding celebration at a Pennsylvania farmhouse in the early 20th century. The piece opens with a gentle theme by the strings and woodwinds. The characters in the ballet are a young couple about to be married, a pioneer woman, a preacher, and the preacher's followers. There is a lively general dance and then a dance by just the young couple. Another general dance sequence follows as the wedding is celebrated. A religious service is then led by the preacher, and it is in this sequence that Copland uses the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts* which has become the most well-known portion of the composition. The newlyweds stand in

their new home and the ballet concludes as serenely as it began with the same music with which dawn was depicted at the beginning of the ballet.

Appalachian Spring won the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1945. It has become one of the most beloved of American compositions and is performed regularly every year by many different orchestras across the country.



Set design and cast members from the original production at the Library of Congress in 1944

If you are interested in seeing the entire ballet, here are links to a performance that is separated into four videos:

Part 1 (8:04 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmgaKGSxQVw>

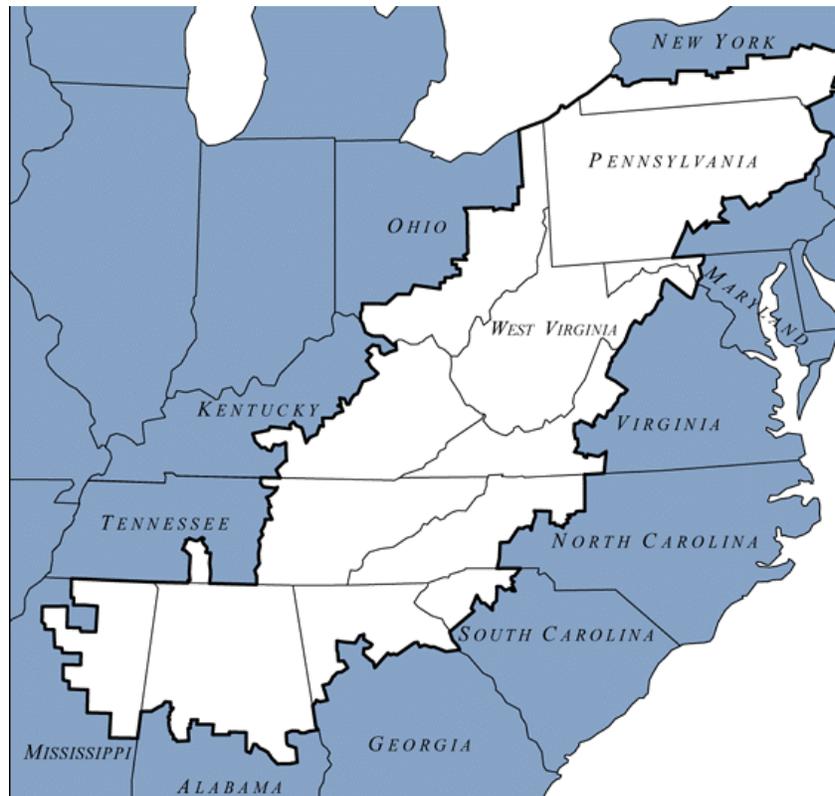
Part 2 (9:04 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTdyDOWtE2Q>

Part 3 (7:33 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91y-NEdTj-g>

Part 4 (7:10 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KIn6xHbSZg>

Appalachia

The Appalachian region of the United State stretches from southern New York to northern Mississippi and Alabama. The setting for Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* is in a rural portion of Appalachia in Pennsylvania.



Appalachian Region

Want to know more about the Topeka Symphony? Check us out at www.topekasymphony.org