

**TSO School Day Concert**

**2022**

**EXTREMELY**

**EXTREME**

**SYMPHONY\***

*\* Classical Music*

is, like, totally

**AWESOME!**

October 18, 2022

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Kyle Wiley Pickett

## **THE MAIN IDEA:**

**This year's School Day Concert will be an exciting introduction to some of the loudest, fastest, and most thrilling orchestral music in the repertoire. Our guest narrator will be a thrill-seeking extreme sports bro who assumes symphonic music will put him to sleep, but over the course of the show is surprised to learn how adrenaline-inducing symphonic music can actually be.**

## **Orchestral music .....**

is music written for an orchestra, which is a group that usually includes strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments. An orchestra is led by a conductor, who uses his or her baton to guide the musicians through the music.



Orchestral music includes a wide range of sub-categories, including “classical” and “romantic” styles. This refers to music written for orchestra from the eighteenth century up through the early part of the twentieth century. (Think Mozart and Beethoven).



The loud, exciting, EXTREME pieces we'll be playing at this concert are:

Richard Strauss – *Also Sprach Zarathustra*: Introduction



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeHu7omCC6w>

The introduction to Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (Thus spake Zarathustra) was used in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* and on the TV show *The Electric Company*. The music begins with low stirrings in the basses and bass drum. From this darkness sunrise occurs and four trumpets grandly intone the "Nature" theme, a strong three-note rising motif (C, G, C.)

Gioachino Rossini – *William Tell* Overture: Finale



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIbYCOiETx0>

This piece is remembered by most people as the theme music for the *Lone Ranger*. The finale starts with a solo trumpet, quickly joined by the horns with a galloping energy that sounds like horses in the old west.

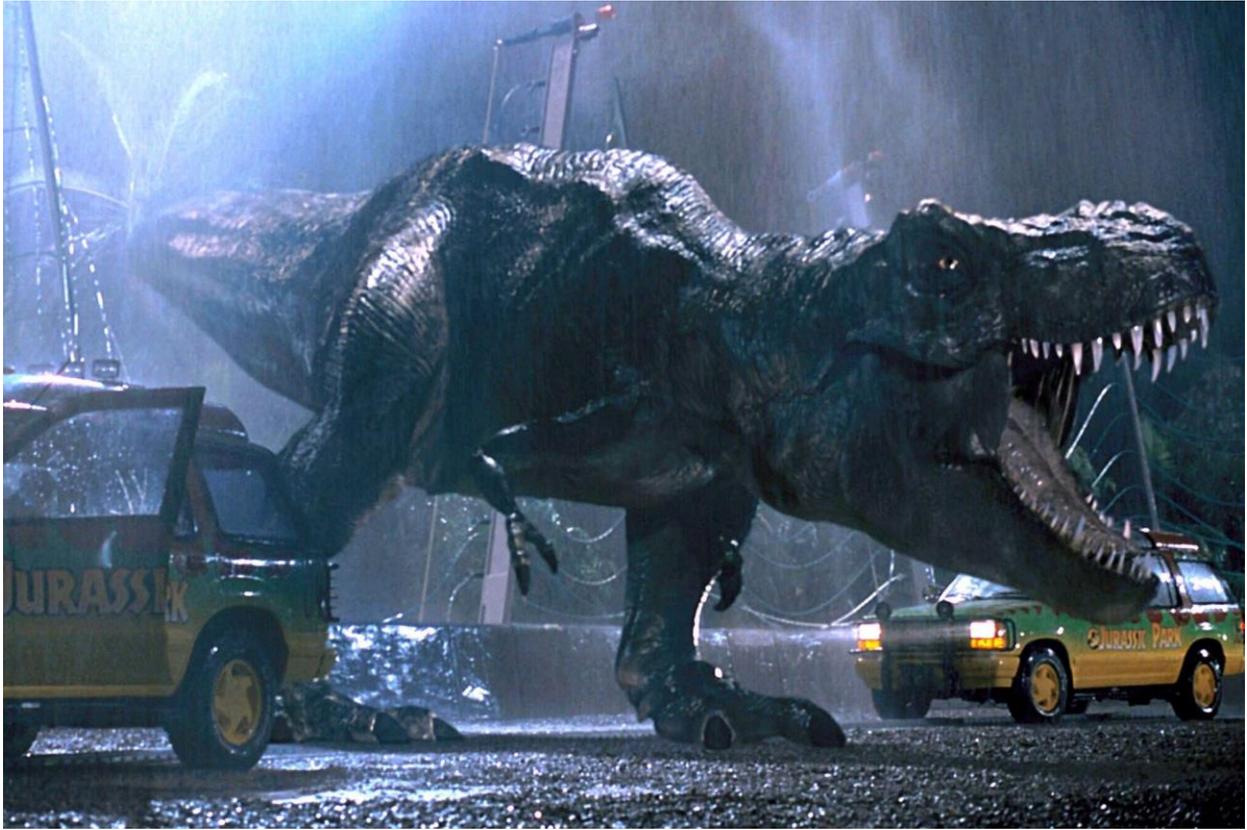
Richard Wagner – *Ride of the Valkyries*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvBh-mrGqwAJohn>

The *Ride of the Valkyries* depicts the warrior maidens of Norse legend who swoop down from the sky on flying horses to scoop up the souls of fallen soldiers and take them up to Valhalla.

Williams – Music from *Jurassic Park*



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

## Edvard Grieg – *In the Hall of the Mountain King*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nMUr8Rt2AI>

Edvard Grieg was born in Norway in 1843 (died,1907). His mother was a pianist and he studied music from an early age. *Peer Gynt* is an epic story about an explorer named Peer who traveled to every corner of the globe. He had many wild adventures. *In the Hall of the Mountain King* depicts Peer sneaking away from the Trolls in their Underground Kingdom.

## Beethoven – **Symphony No. 5** – Movement 1



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWP2XzWCEVs>

Perhaps the key figure in all of classical music is Ludwig Van Beethoven. Beethoven composed music that was clearly recognizable to any ear. Beethoven hammered melody into listeners. Strong rhythms, simple tunes, and easily discernible music were Beethoven's specialties. A myth about classical music is that it is boring and slow. Yet, Beethoven's music was anything but boring. With his use of tempo and rhythm, he commanded attention.

Beethoven's music is still used very often today in movies, TV shows and commercials (particularly his 5th and 9th symphonies), probably because the qualities that make good popular modern music were all Beethoven's tricks, as well.

## Borodin – Polovtsian Dance No. 3



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiexn6O9To4&t=257s>

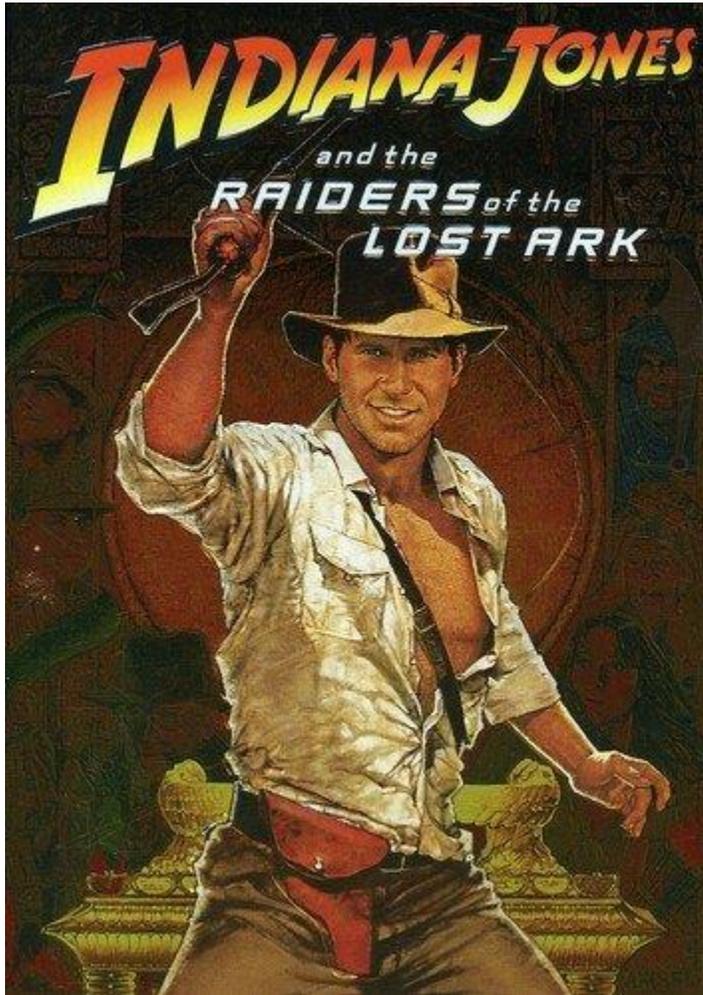
Borodin's **Polovstian Dances** tell the story of Prince Igor and his epic quest to protect Mother Russia from the nomadic invaders from the West. It is dramatic, powerful, very loud, and truly Russian.

## James Horner – *The Mask of Zorro*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnHRNMeYQ24>

John Williams – *Indiana Jones: Raiders March*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz2hwJOQ6lc>

Who is the **CONDUCTOR** for today's concert?



Kyle Wiley Pickett is the conductor for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. Kyle travels all around to different states and even different countries to conduct orchestras. He has conducted in Missouri, California, Montana, Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., as well as Mexico, the Czech Republic, and Thailand. He conducts orchestras, operas, musical theatre, and ballet. He studied conducting at the Peabody Conservatory of Music under world-renowned Maestro Frederik Prausnitz.

Maestro Pickett played flute and piano when he was growing up. His mother was a piano teacher, so there was always music in his home. His favorite composers are Brahms, Mahler, and Wagner. He also loves the music from movies like Star Wars, Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, and How to Train Your Dragon.

Maestro Pickett uses his free time to go boating and waterskiing with his family and he loves Astronomy and photographing the night sky.