

A Message from the Maestro!

I am super excited to bring our audience this Fantastic - Fantasia program. The adventures start with sparkling and intimate incidental music to the Shakespeare play *Much Ado about Nothing* by Erich Korngold. Korngold was an Austrian born composer and conductor who moved to the United States to escape the Nazi regime in 1934. He quickly became the darling of Hollywood writing scores for over 16 Hollywood films including *Captain Blood* and *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. This music is full of character, wit, sentimentality, charm and sarcasm.

The concert has a distinctively British - Irish undercurrent. *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* has been a staple of the annual Proms concerts in England for years. Written by Sir Henry Wood, it brings to the audience the course of the Battle of Trafalgar from the point of view of a British Sailor starting with the call to arms, progressing through the death of a comrade, thoughts of home, and ending with a victorious return and the assertion that Britain will continue to 'rule the waves'. Each Sea Song has a text that we will display during its performance engaging the audience with the sentiment of each movement.

Some might remember our performance of *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* a few years back that moved everyone to tears. I am thrilled to present another work of Peter Boyer, *The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers*, which celebrates the legacy of John F. Fitzgerald, Robert F. Kennedy and Edward M. Kennedy. This multimedia presentation will intertwine speeches each man gave with a wordless chorus and reflective music. *The Boston Globe* wrote: "Boyer's work accomplishes the goals... of amplifying the texts by these three American icons. His writing draws from the traditions of Williams-esque Hollywood film scores, Broadway musicals, and American neo-Romanticism." This will be another amazing presentation!

Most everyone is aware of the dynamic duo Gilbert and Sullivan and their vast collection of witty operettas. But are you aware of the pure musical genius of Arthur Sullivan? As a young boy he studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Leipzig Conservatoire in Germany. We will perform his one and only Symphony, nicknamed posthumously as the "Irish," because music of the material came to him while on vacation in Ireland. It is a hidden gem that I'm anxious to share with you.

The concert will conclude with a collection of rousing Irish songs. The audience will have a chance to pipe in and sing along with the orchestra and chorus and bring the afternoon to a festive conclusion as we celebrate the season of St. Patrick and the coming of spring!

Looking forward to spending a Sunday with you all,

Maestro Philip J. Baumann