

Program Notes

The Symphony of the Lakes presents another great concert this Friday, November 12, at 7:30pm. It is a performance entitled *The Emotions of Music* and there is something for everyone. Plus, it features some very popular and talented piano soloists: Chara Sonntag and Jennifer Jackson.

The first emotion the orchestra demonstrates is my favorite: FUN! We are performing the famous piece from Norway, *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, by Edvard Grieg. Its catchy melody has been used in dozens of cartoons, movies, and television commercials, so everyone will be humming along. But in this arrangement, it keeps getting faster and faster – until we can't play any faster!

The next emotion expressed might be called AWE or WONDER. The composition is from the other side of the world, the *Russian Easter Overture* of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. We enter an exotic and colorful world, filled with chants, bells, and processions. The composer skillfully orchestrates all these elements, culminating in a huge ending.

But then we present a completely different ambiance, as we portrait the emotion of SORROW. For this poignant subject, we have chosen the well-known *Adagio for Strings* by the American composer, Samuel Barber. This piece has also been used in many movies – *Platoon*, *The Elephant Man*, and *Lorenzo's Oil* – because of its ability to exemplify intense grief. It was played for the funerals of Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and many other dignitaries. Not every piece of music is supposed to be cheerful.

The sunshine comes out again with the next work, the amazing "Bacchanale" from the opera *Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-Saens. Which emotion does it represent? Hmm. When I selected it, I was thinking LOVE, but my wife pointed out that Samson and Delilah is a rather strange love story – and she's right. Furthermore, the oriental flavor of the music seems more mystical than loving. We will let you come and decide about this one for yourself.

The finale is Mozart's *Concerto for Two Pianos*. Each of its three movements can be summed up in one word: JOY! This composer had an outstanding gift for writing incredible melodies, and this composition is a prime example. Our two pianists are both well-known throughout our area: Chara Sonntag and Jennifer Jackson.

You will not want to miss *The Emotions of Music*! The performance is free and open to the community, and especially including whole families. Come Friday night (7:30pm), Nov. 12, at the Rodeheaver Auditorium in Winona Lake. For further information, call the Symphony of the Lakes office at 574-267-1888.