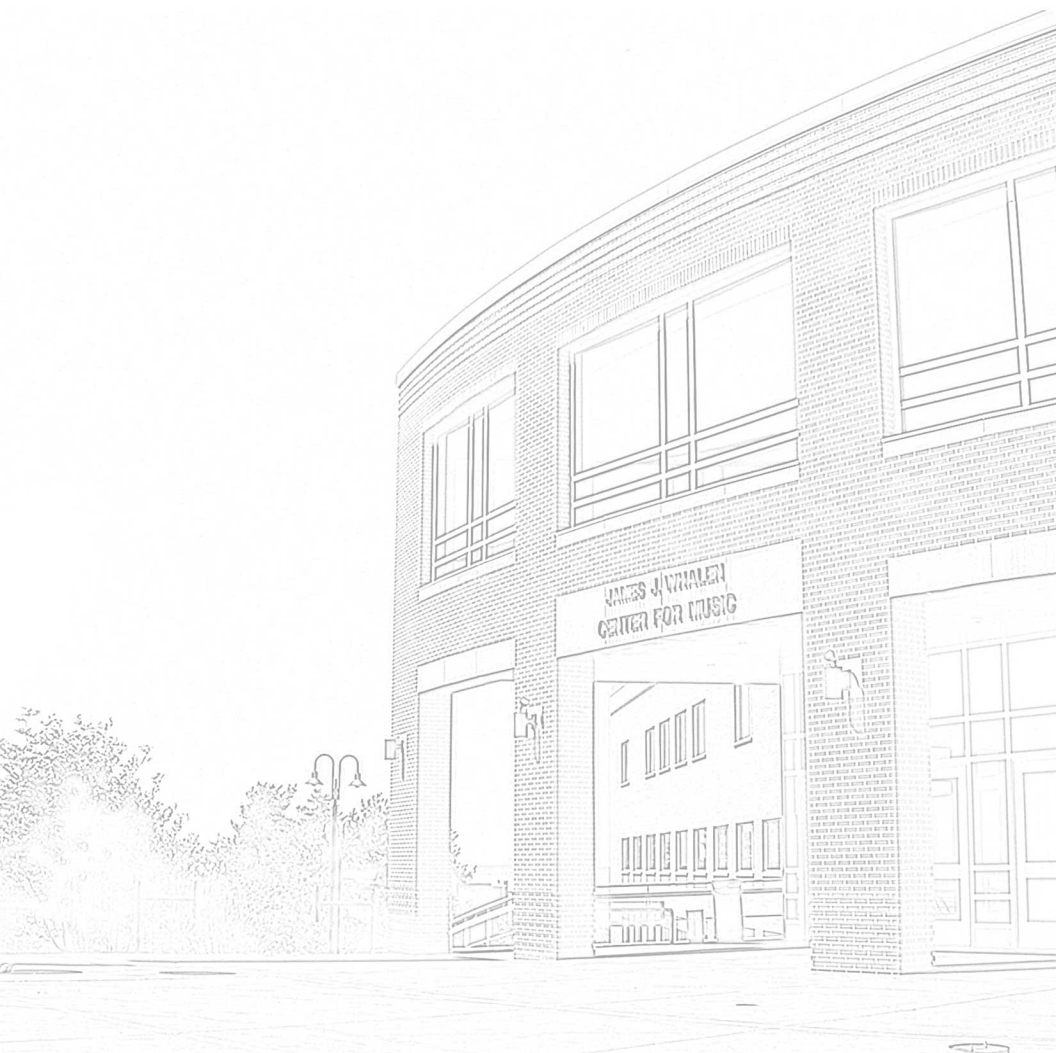


# Ithaca College Sinfonietta

Keehun Nam, director

Thursday, April 20th, 2017  
8:15 pm



## ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

# Program

Overture to *Poet and Peasant*

Franz von Suppé  
(1819-1895)

Variations on an Original Theme, op. 36

IX. Nimrod

XII. B. G. N.

Edward Elgar  
(1857-1934)

*Shaun Rimkunas, conductor*

String Quartet No. 13 (op. 130), No. 5 –  
"Cavatina"

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Symphony No. 2 in D Major  
IV. Finale: Allegro moderato

Jean Sibelius  
(1865-1957)

# **Program Notes**

## **Overture from Poet and Peasant**

**Franz von Suppé (b. April 18, 1819 Split, Croatia - d. May 21, 1895 Vienna)**

Although today Franz von Suppé is mostly forgotten, during the second half of the 19th century, he was a popular composer in Vienna where he sang bass in renowned operatic productions and composed over 40 operas. In 1845, he became the director at the Theater an der Wien (which premiered *Magic Flute*) where he conducted many important productions for 17 years.

Von Suppé was the first true master-composer of the classical Viennese operetta, and his ability to transition fluently between light, rhythmic trots to long mellifluous lines can be heard in the overture to *Poet and Peasant*. While our contemporary culture is more familiar with his *Light Cavalry Overture* due to its iconic appearance in the cartoon *Dudley Do-Right of the Mounties*, this overture was more popular in his day. Unlike most other overtures, this one is actually not an overture to an opera—it served as prelude music to a comedy by Karl Elmar titled *Poet and Peasant*.

## **Selections from Variations on an Original Theme, op. 36**

**Edgar Elgar (b. June 2, 1857 Broadheath, U. K. - d. February 23, 1934 Worcester, U. K.)**

Known more commonly as the *Enigma Variations*, Elgar's most famous work began as an evening improvisation in which he portrayed his friends with different musical styles. For example, the tenth variation titled "Dorabella" depicts his friend Dora Penny (who had a tendency to stutter) with the fluttering of the woodwinds.

The ninth variation, titled "Nimrod," draws its title from Nimrod, the grandson of Noah, in the Old Testament. Elgar likened Nimrod, referred to as "a mighty hunter before the Lord" in the Bible, to his friend Augustus J. Jaeger who was a music editor at his publisher Novello and often gave Elgar honest feedback on his latest compositions. The mood of this variation is actually a portrayal of a moment in Elgar's life when Jaeger (meaning "hunter" in German) helped him get through a bout of depression. Citing Beethoven's overcoming of struggle, Jaeger inspired Elgar to overcome his own struggle and write even more beautiful music.

The twelfth variation titled "B.G.N." represents his friend Basil George Nevinston who often played chamber music with Elgar. Although he was not a professional, Nevinston was an accomplished

cellist, and Elgar wrote this cello solo for him.

In naming it the "Enigma" variations, Elgar hinted at having hidden some code into the music. To date, there has not been a conclusive answer, but perhaps that is exactly how Elgar intended it.

### **Cavatina from String Quartet No. 13, op. 130, no. 5**

**Ludwig van Beethoven (b. December 16, 1770 Bonn, Germany - d. March 26, 1827 Vienna)**

When Beethoven was asked at the end of his life what his favorite composition was, he said that while he wouldn't pick favorites, he would like to listen again to the Cavatina in E-flat from *String Quartet No. 13*, op. 130.

The Cavatina is divided into three sections. Under the instruction "beklemmt" (a German word roughly meaning "oppressed and heavy of heart"), the middle section features a solo from the first violin which sounds confused and lost. Interestingly, the word in Beethoven's manuscript was "beklommen" which is also a difficult German word to translate succinctly—it is a combination of "anxious," "uneasy," and "apprehensive." Coincidentally, in the Netherlands (where Beethoven's heritage lies), the Dutch meaning of the exact same word is "to have climbed." Given his lifelong struggle with deafness and existential doubt with which he eventually made peace, this is perhaps not a coincidence.

### **Finale from Symphony No. 2 in D Major**

**Jean Sibelius (b. December 8, 1865 Hämeenlinna, Finland - d. September 20, 1957 Ainola, Finland)**

Having just completed and premiered his most famous work, *Finlandia*, Sibelius left Finland for a vacation in Italy where he began his *Second Symphony*. It was immediately popular and has since remained in most symphony orchestras' repertoire. Like Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, this finale movement brings a confident and triumphant finish to the energetic but mysterious earlier movements.

As Finland's most famous composer, many look up to Sibelius as having given Finland a voice and a sense of cultural identity when the country was trying to gain independence from Russia. Like Beethoven, his love of nature is clear in many of his works—including this particular movement with its depictions of deep, wide valleys and effortless, soaring birds.

# Ithaca College Sinfonietta

## Flute

Madeleine King  
Alison Miller  
Julia Muller ②

## Oboe

Hailey Dziendziel ②  
Erica Erath ✿

## Clarinet

Winona Platt ②  
Brooke Miller ✿

## Bassoon

Emma Whitestone ②

## Horn

Emily DeRoo  
Cienna Lyon ②  
Zoe Mendrysa  
Evan Morrison ②

## Trumpet

Anthony Carl  
Alec Donowitz  
Austin Rannestad ②

## Trombone

Eric Coughlin ✿  
Sean Bessette ✿  
Will Esterling ✿

## Tuba

Cameron Seib ②

## Timpani

Alex Carpino ②

## Percussion

Jamie Kelly ✿

② (Principal)

✿ (Guests)

## Violin I

Melanie Burnett  
Louise DeVivo  
Audrianna Evelyn  
Elizabeth Mabee  
Annika Morrison  
Paige Twining  
Jessica Wolfe  
Riho Yamaguchi ②

## Violin II

Alianna Becerra  
Ellen Harris  
Victoria Lam ②  
Roosevelt Lee  
Lydia Loiselle  
Michael Yeung

## Viola

Simone Cartales ✿  
Zac Cohen ✿  
Geoff Devereux ✿  
Maria Dupree ✿  
Ariana Ross ②

## Cello

Andrew Dessel  
Sydney Gershon  
Mel Sadoff ✿  
Jeremy Straus ②

## Bass

Andrew Hazerjian ②  
Johanna Snyder

## Assistant Conductor

Shaun Rimkunas

## *Special thanks to our string coaches!*

Hannah Lin, violin  
Michelle Metty, viola &  
violin  
Craig Mehler, cello & bass

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Lincoln Center Preview Concert**

**Sunday, 4/23/2017**  
**4:00pm in Ford Hall**

#### **Lincoln Center Preview Concert: Choir and Chamber Orchestra**

*The Exquisite Hour: Music of Love and Rapture*

The Chamber Orchestra with director Calvin Wiersma and stage director Tucker Davis will perform Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. The Choir and Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Janet Galvan in a world premiere commissioned work by Dominick DiOrio entitled *SOLARIS: A Choral Symphony in Three Movements*, and Samuel Barber's *Prayers of Kierkegaard*.

Free, open to the public.

### **Lincoln Center Concert**

**Saturday, 4/29/2017**  
**8:00pm in Alice Tully Hall**

Tickets will be available from the Lincoln Center website. For any updates, please visit the Symphony Orchestra's Facebook page at:

<https://facebook.com/IthacaCollegeSymphonyOrchestra>