

Mascall, Mozart and Mahler!

Saturday, April 22 at 7:30pm at the Capitol Centre

Thomas Jones, conductor

Gilles Thibodeau, soloist

Richard Mascall: Nipissing Big Water • Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 3 • Mahler: Symphony No. 1

The last concert of our 40th season is a superb example of how far we have come! We will present a wonderful Canadian work that our audience is anticipating with excitement, a concerto performed by one of our own long-time musicians and the immense musical challenge of Mahler's First Symphony.

I have been working for almost 10 years with very careful planning to increase the musical level of the orchestra. It is time, and we all have the confidence, to give a wonderful performance of a Symphony by Mahler. Each and every season has been carefully planned to expand the musical sophistication of our ensemble. Great care has gone into instilling confidence into our group. From Mozart to Beethoven, Schubert to Brahms – ultimately leading to Beethoven's 9th last spring – have all helped us to push beyond the symphonic literature of the classical and romantic era and push toward this Mahler symphony that requires the utmost focus, discipline and musicianship from our orchestra. I have a deep personal attachment and immense respect for the symphonies of Mahler. I also have tremendous confidence that the North Bay Symphony will give a splendid performance of this symphony.

In every season with the NBSO we give special attention to music composed by our fellow Canadians. It is with great satisfaction that we will perform a piece of Canadian music that our audience has overwhelmingly requested. In my time as music director I have NEVER seen a piece of music requested so frequently as Richard Mascall's "Nipissing Big Water". Great emphasis will be put on Canadian talent during this concert and the importance of recognising living composers. What an opportunity to generate this kind of excitement!

I am programming Mozart in this concert for several reasons: First, knowing Mahler's deep admiration and connection to Mozart's music makes this an interesting and artistic combination of composers. I will enjoy making connections between these two composers as I discuss the music of the evening with our audience. The beautiful, accessible and audience friendly concerto will both delight and warm up the audience for Mahler. The "3 M's" (Mascall, Mozart and Mahler) is simply a happy coincidence that helps create unity and something catchy for the audience to remember.

There are many benefits to our musicians with this program. The enormous challenge of Mahler's Symphony No 1 will certainly increase the musical level of the group as well as add to the confidence that we have been growing over the years. Our soloist Gilles Thibodeau is a wonderful musician and a dedicated member of our orchestra. Our horn section along with all of our musicians are anxiously anticipating his performance. Finally, I can't stress enough how important it is for our musicians to see value in our Canadian content. Just like our audience, our musicians also need reminders and inspiration when it comes to performing Canadian music. For our musicians to feel the audience excitement over a piece of Canadian music is absolutely priceless!

It is a very exciting time for the North Bay Symphony Orchestra. We have so much to be proud of as we celebrate our 40th season! Musically we are in the best shape ever! Witnessing the musical growth of this orchestra for the past ten seasons makes me VERY excited for the future of this organization. I feel motivated to push myself, our musicians and the audience to create important, interesting and rewarding performances for many years to come.

Thomas Jones
Music Director