

Program Notes

CONCERTO FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 16

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Composed in 1868, Grieg's only piano concerto represents an early example of the "nationalism in music movement" which reached full bloom in the late nineteenth century. Norwegian folk inspiration is present as evidenced by the march-like motif that dominated the opening movement. This motif and the ensuing themes betray Grieg's interest in finely etched melodies, characterized by rhythmic diversity and well-defined phraseology. The role of the pianist as soloist is firmly maintained throughout; however, the work abounds with prominent solo writing for the winds. Perhaps the continued popularity of Grieg's concerto lies with the simple directness of his motives and the kaleidoscopic expressions shared by both the orchestra and the soloist.

BOLERO

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Branded a "revolutionist" by critics of an early work titled "Sheherazade", Ravel succeeded in achieving international renown for his masterful orchestrations which include the well-known Bolero. Unlike the majority of his orchestral works (piano music transcribed for orchestra), *Bolero* is an original orchestral piece. Written in 1927 for the great mime and dancer, Ida Rubinstein, the work has since become popular as a concert piece. The hypnotic snare drum rhythm, continually expanding sonority, and effective high register sounds attest to Ravel's mastery of orchestration.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR NARRATOR AND ORCHESTRA

James Furman (1976)

The creative genius of composer-conductor James Furman is becoming a well-established fact. It was only a year ago that many of us were privileged to have experienced a stirring performance of his oratorio *I HAVE A DREAM*, dedicated to the memory of a major twentieth century spokesman for human rights, Martin Luther King, Jr. Inspired by a bicentennial reading of the document that gave birth to American freedom, Mr. Furman proceeded to capture the spirit of the Declaration of Independence in music, a creative task which was nearly completed a month and a half later. By December 24, 1976, its final form was fully realized. The work, scored for full orchestra and bagpipes, is based upon the complete text of the independence document. The opening FANFARE foreshadows the prominent role assigned the brasses throughout the work. The bold brass statements are replaced with muted sounds in anticipation of the ensuing narration. An incipient, "a la Puccini" lyricism is evident in the string writing that follows WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS. After an unaccompanied section for narrator, a percussion ostinato provides the framework for the words HE HAS OBSTRUCTED. A brief interruption of the "Bolero style" accompaniment is found with the phrase "He has erected . . ." where the percussionists are instructed to "use your imagination"! Later, a second ostinato, based upon a figure in the fanfare, is introduced in the timpani, cello, and bass. INFERNALIS, scored for full orchestra and bagpipes, represents the apex of the work. The march-like quality is heightened by the introduction of the bagpipes. The narration returns with HE HAS ABDICATED which features solo writing for piccolo, two trumpets (one muted), bassoon, oboe, field drum, and cello (drone) IN EVERY STAGE is for narrator alone. The organic musical expression of the finale — from the opening statement in the solo strings to the grandiose pronouncement of the full orchestra with organ — evokes a deep affirmative spirit that characterizes the document that gave birth to American freedom.

— Lawrence Huntley

Orchestra Personnel

James Furman, Music Director

First Violins

Anne LeQuier, Concert Master
Mervin Whitcomb
Louise Brannen
Cynthia Meese
Burt Callahan
William Toth
Kathleen Kelly

Bass Clarinet

Walter Langner

Second Violins

Edward Bontempo
Helen Svonkin
Mary Guckian
Cynthia Kroha
Rita Doran
Jennifer Cowles
Margaret Cull
Leslie Murphy
Carol Roberts

Saxophones

Gary Rothe
Mario Bernardo

Violas

Maryann Vagnini
Samuel Mihailoff
Richard Brooks
Felicia Urbanski
Edith Schwab
Susan Lanford
Lorna Piercy
Glenn Herzig

Bassoons

Jan Jerus
Lynn Heywood
Mark Boudreau

French Horns

Thea Calitri
Cynthia Doherty
John Beauregard
Michele Carpentier

Celli

Denise Godburn
Judith Smith
Christine Hinton
Frances Ryerson
Barbara Wachter

Trumpets

John Macri
Donald Jones
Nancy Tozzo
Thomas Freas

Trumpets in D

William Dickenson

Trumpet in C

Stuart Sherman

Trombones

Suzanne Craven
John Ferrante
Michael Fitzgerald
Thomas Ferrazza

Basses

Claude Preece
Brien Sandstrom
Jon Holland

Tuba

Andrew Rodgers

Flutes

Joan DaSilva
Donna Bassett
Jennifer Anthony

Percussion

Roger Post
Robert Kogut
Guy Dedell
Robert Caban

Oboes

Donna Bartlett
Patrick Lombardo

Harp

Chic Ucci

Clarinets

Robert Pytel
Dean Coutsouridis

Organ

Albert Celotto

Bagpipes

V.V. Matthews

E♭ Clarinet

James Maroney

Understudy for the Governor

Thomas O'Donnell

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. — Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object seems to render them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right insinuable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing what manly firms in his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for along time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has created a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences. — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our governments: — For suspending our own Legislature and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and blushing unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands. — He has excited Domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontier, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. — In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. — Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connection and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. — We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind; Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is, and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may, of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo Walton

John Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge Jr.

Joh Wayne Jr.
Thomas Lynch Jr.
Arthur Middleton

John Hancock
Samuel Chase
Wm Paca
Tho Stone
Cyrus Griffin of Maryland

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th Jefferson
Beny Harrison
Th Nelson Jr.
James Lovell Lee
Carver Braxton

Nob Morris
Benjamin Rush
Beny Franklin
John Morton
Jacob Dyer
S. Smith

Gov Taylor
James Wilson
Genl. Robt
Cesar Rodney
Genl Read
Tho McKea

Rich Stockton
Genl Washington
Genl. Lightfoot Lee
John Ross
John Hart

Abel Sturtevant
John Hart
John Hart

Josiah Bartlett
Wm Whipple
Sam' Adams
John Adams
Robt Treat Paine
Wm. Derry
Step Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
John Huntington
Wm. Nessing
Oliver Wolcott
Matthew Thornton

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT
OF
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
Presents

THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE ORCHESTRA

Governor Ella Grasso, Narrator

Joanne Moryl, Pianist

James Furman, Conductor

Thursday, April 28, 1977, 8:15 p.m.

Ives Concert Hall, Danbury, Connecticut

Program

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16
Edvard Grieg

Allegro Molto Moderato
Adagio
Allegro Moderato Molto E Marcato

Joanne Moryl, Pianist

INTERMISSION

Bolero

Maurice Ravel

The Declaration of Independence for Narrator and Orchestra (World Premier) James Furman

Governor Ella Grasso,
Narrator

Fanfare
We Hold These Truths
He Has Refused
He Has Obstructed
Infernalism
He Has Abdicated
In Every Stage
We, Therefore