

Belgrade Philharmonic
Season 2021/22
We Have Really Missed You

Friday, 27 May 2022

Gabriel Feltz

Peter Moore, trombone

Jonathan Dove

Stargazer, trombone concerto

I. Searching the Night Sky -- II. Constellations -- III. Arcturus & Canis chasing Ursa Major & Minor with Lyra -- IV. Gemini -- V. Orion, Pegasus -- VI. The Milky Way

Duration: around 23 minutes

Sergey Rachmaninov

Symphony No. 2

Largo - Allegro moderato

Allegro molto

Adagio

Allegro vivace

Duration: around 60 minutes

Contemporary composer **Jonathan Dove** (1959) is a unique figure on the British music scene. He is one of the few contemporary authors who has so successfully and persistently researched the opera's ability to communicate, create miracles, and enrich people's lives. Starting with his first opera, *Flight*, commissioned by the Glyndebourne Opera in 1998, which has since been performed on three continents, one of the most successful British authors on the international stage, Dove has written nearly 30 operas. This author shows special interest in including amateur musicians from the local community - children's, youth, and other non-professional choirs in his opera projects, thus creating a specific genre. In that sense, some of his notable operas are *Tobias and the Angel*, commissioned by the Birmingham Opera House, *Life is a Dream*, and *The Walk from the Garden*, which premiered at Salisbury Cathedral. However, his most significant achievement, *The Monster in the Maze* (2015), was written at the request of the London Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, and the Aix-en-Provence Festival. To date, it has been translated into numerous world languages and brought the composer the British Composer's Award in the category of Amateur and Young Performers, but also the title of Commander of the British Empire for services in the field of music. His compositions for choir and orchestra, *A Song of Joys* and *Our Revels Now Are Ended*, were performed at the closing of the BBC Proms in 2010 and 2016.

Dove made an interesting contribution to the concert genre with his 1999 *Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra*, ***Stargazer***, commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and in collaboration with their first trombonist, Ian Bousfield. The work was premiered in 2007. This "miniature opera for trombone" follows a space enthusiast who looks through space through a telescope and follows different constellations. The work composed in the free form of fantasy is made up of six sections that connect the motif of the famous children's song *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*, which varies beyond recognition, although its contours are occasionally visible. The solo instrument emphasizes the singing capacities, giving him the opportunity to develop lyrical potential instead of technical bravado typical for brass instrument concertos, while brilliant orchestral solutions show the influence of the style of the young Stravinsky. The central "aria" is represented by the *Gemini* section as a tribute to his brother with an impressive solo glissando.

In his native Russia and later in Europe and America, where he lived from 1917 until his death, **Sergei Rachmaninov** (1873-1943) was equally prominent as a pianist and a composer. The permeation of these two activities is reflected in the author's oeuvre, which, in addition to symphonic poems and three symphonies, contains the largest number of compositions dedicated to the piano - solo or with orchestra.

Following the creative example of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov distanced himself from the declarative national stylistic tendencies advocated by the Russian five. Since he was a cosmopolitan artist, and considering the fact that as a pianist he toured all over the world, Rachmaninov opted for a musical language that is closer to the developed Western tradition, introducing inevitable elements of Russian national heritage. Hence, in his music, there is a mixture of Slavic lyrics with a nostalgic overtone, which is crossed with originality and boldness of harmonies, as well as a rhythmic richness that originate from the original roots of Russian folklore.

Since his First Symphony was a great failure, the author felt very insecure when it came to his creative potential. However, as his Piano Concerto No. 2 had a favorable reception from critics and audiences, Rachmaninov dared to write his Second symphony. At first dissatisfied with the work, he reworked the score several times and after revisions that lasted several months, the symphony was finally finished. Thus the Second Symphony in E minor, Op. 27 was begun 1906 and completed 1907. The premiere performance in St. Petersburg on February 8, 1908, was conducted by the author and he dedicated the work to his colleague, the Russian composer, theorist and pedagogue Sergei Taneyev. For his Symphony No. 2 Rachmaninov won the Glinka Award and this triumph finally restored the composer's self-confidence and faith in himself as a symphonic composer.

Danica Maksimović