

Fredericton Symphony Orchestra Presents

# OF KINGS AND QUEENS

BEETHOVEN, SAINT-SAËNS  
CUI, GRIEG, STRAUSS.

RICHARD HORNSBY, CONDUCTOR

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
MONDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2024 - 7:30PM



# Program

Overture to Egmont, Op. 84

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Henry VIII, Ballet Divertissement  
Introduction - Entrée des Clans  
Idylle Écossaise  
La Fête du Houblon  
Danse de la Gipsy  
Scherzetto  
Gigue et Final

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

## Intermission

Overture to The Mandarin's Son

César Cui  
(1835-1918)

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46

Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

Morning Mood  
The Death of Åse  
Anitra's Dance  
In the Hall of the Mountain King

Kaiser-Walzer (Emperor Waltz), Op. 437

Johann Strauss II  
(1825-1999)

## Upcoming Concerts

Seasonal Concert - Fredericton Playhouse - 08 December 2024  
Vive la France - Fredericton Playhouse - 07 April 2025

## Biographies

**Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827) stands as one of the giants of world music. His output pushed the boundaries of accepted harmonic and emotional expression in music and is among the bedrocks of the classical genre. Among his works were several overtures, such as Egmont, composed in 1809-10, along with other pieces of incidental music to accompany a performance of the play of same name by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The music and drama concern the life of a 16th Century Dutch nobleman, Lamoral, the Count of Egmont, whose execution by the Netherland's Spanish overlords helped spark the 80 Years War (1566-1648) that ultimately resulted in Dutch independence. The story of a man who heroically sacrificed himself to oppose tyranny appealed to Beethoven, himself a devotee of Enlightenment political ideals, and this can be heard in the dramatic and defiant overture. Goethe himself remarked that Beethoven had musically expressed the play's ideas with "remarkable genius."

**Camille Saint-Saëns** (1835-1921) was a prolific and masterful composer of the French Romantic Era. His output is enduringly popular and contains pieces such as his Symphony No. 3 (Organ) (1886), numerous acclaimed concertos, the tone poem Danse macabre (1876), and the charming children's piece The Carnival of the Animals (1886). Saint-Saëns also wrote several operas during his career. And while the biblically themed Samson and Delilah (1877) is the only one still frequently staged, in his lifetime Henry VIII (1883) enjoyed great popularity. The drama is set in the court of the (in)famous English monarch, and chronicles the personal, political, and spiritual drama that surrounded his efforts to divorce his queen, Catherine of Aragon, and wed Anne Boleyn. In the traditional French grand opéra, the production contains several ballet segments, some of which were inspired by actual folk tunes from the British Isles. Some of these were collected in the suite Ballet-Divertissement from Henry VIII which we will hear today.

**César Cui** (1835-1918) was a Russian composer and music critic. He is famous for his association with "the five," a collection of nationalistic Russian composers who sought to create a distinctive Russian classical music voice by taking inspiration from their country's folk music and tales. While not as famous as the other members of that group, such as Modest Mussorgsky or Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov, and only able to compose in his spare time from his full-time career as an engineer-general in the Russian Army, Cui did produce several works of note. Among them was the one act comic opera, *The Mandarin's Son*, which was composed and performed in a family setting in 1859 but made its public premiere in 1878. It became one of Cui's most popular works during his lifetime and has enjoyed a revival in recent years. We will hear its overture. The story is set in Imperial China and concerns the romantic tribulations between an innkeeper's daughter and the son of a high-ranking imperial bureaucrat (a mandarin).

**Edvard Grieg** (1843-1907) was a Norwegian composer and pianist whose music was inspired by the folk music and tales of his country. His output includes his celebrated Piano Concerto in A Minor (1868), various chamber works for piano, violin, and cello, and numerous pieces of incidental music to accompany performance of plays. Of these the most famous and popular was the music he composed for the play *Peer Gynt* (1876) written by another Norwegian cultural giant, Henrik Ibsen. Both Ibsen's play and Grieg's music were well received, and in response Grieg compiled two suites of music from the production. The piece we will hear today, *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* (1888), includes some of Grieg's most famous tunes which are frequently quoted in popular culture, such as "Morning Mood" and "In the Hall of the Mountain King." The latter accompanies a fantastical scene where Peer is brought before court of the King of Trolls in his underground mountain citadel.

**Johann Strauss II** (1825-1899) was an Austrian composer of light classical music whose compositions set 19th century Europe dancing. He is most famous for his waltzes, such as The Blue Danube, Roses from the South, and Tales from the Vienna Woods, which earned him the nickname the “Waltz King,” but this only accounts for one part of his output. He also wrote music for other dance forms, such as polkas and quadrilles, and composed several ballets and operettas. The piece performed today is from the format he is best known for, the waltz. Indeed, it is one of his most famous waltzes, the Kaiser-Walzer (Emperor Waltz), which was composed in 1889. Strauss was inspired to compose the piece following an official visit to Berlin by the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I, where he gave a toast to his German counterpart, Wilhelm II, for friendship between the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires.

### **About the Orchestra**

The **Fredericton Symphony Orchestra** (previously named the Fredericton Chamber Orchestra) has been giving concerts regularly in Fredericton since 1976. Orchestra members are either accomplished amateurs who have studied music and performance or professional musicians.

The FSO performs two or three times a year, and occasionally collaborates with the Fredericton Choral Society to present major works for choir and orchestra.

**Richard Hornsby** became Artistic Director of the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra in 2010 and is an active performer, educator, arts administrator, and arts advocate. Since coming to New Brunswick in 1992 he has also founded and/or been the Artistic Director for projects such as the UNB Music Camp, UNB Music Conservatory, Atlantic Sinfonia and the New Brunswick Summer Music Festival. As a volunteer and advocate for the arts, Richard has been active on the local, provincial, and national levels, including serving as President of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, President of the New Brunswick Arts Board, and President of the New Brunswick Arts Council.

**Conductor**  
**Richard Hornsby**

**Violin I**

Ian Burdon, Concertmaster  
Miriam Lobinsky  
Ali Johnson  
Grace Jackson  
Thomas O'Connor  
Emma Fortunato  
Ky Hughson  
Libby Cassidy

**Violin II**

Julie Probert, Principal  
Wladyslaw Cichocki  
Kelsey Fraser  
Deirdre Carr  
Samantha Johnstone  
Daniel Robb  
Keyvan Ahmadi

**Viola**

Alison Ready, Principal  
Theodore Campbell  
Christine Chase  
Carol Maurey

**Cello**

Conor Britt, Acting Principal  
David Nielsen  
Chad Cromwell  
Gary Chase

**Bass**

Paulette Sourisseau  
Byrann Gowan  
Daniel DaFonseca

**Flute**

Julie Grant  
Yunjia Dai  
Leslie Costello

**Piccolo**

Yunjia Dai

**Oboe**

Karen Arnold  
Fran Robinson

**Clarinet**

Vasana Abeysekera  
Ed Maurey

**Bassoon**

Sam Arnold  
Yvonne Kershaw

**Horn**

Yeva Sibiryakova  
Mark Roberts  
Barbara Richards  
Cameron Bowie

**Trumpet**

Matthew Daley  
Don Lévesque  
Morgan Mollins  
Norman Neil

**Trombone**

Heather Fyffe  
David Bent  
Gavin Woodward

**Percussion**

Siobhan Hanratty  
Andrew Northmore

**Keyboard/Percussion**

Catherine Macdonald

**FSO thanks the following**

Brian Cassidy • Peter Jacobs

UNB Centre for Musical Arts  
Christ Church Cathedral