



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2016-17 Season Continues with "Beethoven's Pastorale" Concerts *Friday 10/21, Saturday 10/22, and Sunday 10/23*

MADISON, WI – Beethoven's beautiful Symphony No. 6 anchors the Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) concerts with Music Director John DeMain on Oct. 21, 22, and 23. Norwegian violinist **Henning Kraggerud** returns to perform a violin concerto and some of his own original compositions.

The concerts will open with **Edward Elgar's *In the South***, a piece inspired by the countryside and music he experienced during an Italian holiday. **Kraggerud** will perform **Max Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1***, followed by his own ***Three Postludes*** from his composition ***Equinox***. The concerts will conclude with **Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6***, a tribute to country life.

The concerts are Fri., Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 22, at 8:00 p.m.; and Sun., Oct. 23, at 2:30 p.m. in Overture Hall, 201 State Street.

While escaping a drab English winter, **Elgar**, inspired by the Italian Riviera and his realization of the human cost of war, wrote ***In the South*** – an overture that begins and ends in a stormy mood, while encompassing wistful music for clarinets and strings.

Austrian virtuoso Joseph Joachim put **Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*** in the same league as the violin concertos of Beethoven, Brahms, and Mendelssohn, calling the Bruch composition the "richest, most seductive" of the four composers. The main musical theme eventually becomes the foundation for a flashy and exhilarating ending.

Kraggerud's *Equinox* is a set of 24 postludes for solo violin and orchestra in all major and minor keys, with a concluding 25th movement, based on a narration titled *24 Keys to a World Before it Slips Away* by Norwegian novelist Jostein Gaarder. The ***Three Postludes***, each short character pieces expressing an emotion, will transport audiences around the globe, capturing in a witty way a bit of the flavor of the protagonist's various stops on his imaginary journey.

Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6* was inspired by his love for the countryside around Vienna. In it he reflects upon humanity's role in the quiet spaces of nature. According to Beethoven, the *Pastorale* is meant to transport the listener to lush, restful, nature scenes which are "more an expression of feeling than painting." Popularized through the Disney-animated classic film *Fantasia*, the *Pastorale* delights audiences of all ages.



One hour before each performance, Tyrone Greive, former MSO Concertmaster and retired professor of violin at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will lead a 30-minute **Prelude Discussion** in Overture Hall to enhance concertgoers' understanding and listening experience. For more background on the music, please visit the Program Notes at: madisonsymphony.org/kraggerud.

Single Tickets are \$16 to \$87 each, available at madisonsymphony.org/kraggerud, through the Overture Center Box Office at 201 State Street, or call the Box Office at (608) 258-4141.

Groups of 15 or more can save 25% by calling the MSO office at (608) 257-3734. For more information visit, madisonsymphony.org/groups

Club 201, MSO's organization for young professionals, has continued to fulfill its mission for the past 11 years as the premiere organization promoting classical music and networking opportunities to the young professionals' community in Madison. For a \$35 ticket, young professionals will enjoy world class seating in Overture Hall, an exclusive after-party in the Promenade Lounge, one drink ticket, and a cash bar. Conductor John DeMain, as well as musicians from the symphony, will be attending to mingle with Madison's young professionals.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Thurs., Oct. 20. Tickets can be purchased for this event, as well as the other events throughout the 2016-17 season by visiting the Club 201 page on the MSO's website at <http://www.madisonsymphony.org/club201>.

Student rush tickets can be purchased in person on the day of the concert at the Overture Box Office at 201 State Street. Students must show a valid student ID and can receive up to two \$12 or \$15 tickets. More information is at: madisonsymphony.org/studentrush. Students can receive 20% savings on seats in select areas of the hall on advance ticket purchases.

Seniors age 62 and up receive 20% savings on advance and day-of-concert ticket purchases in select areas of the hall.

Discounted seats are subject to availability, and discounts may not be combined.

ABOUT HENNING KRAGGERUD

Norwegian violinist Henning Kraggerud is Artistic Director of the Arctic Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, with a tenure recently extended to 2020. A natural and instinctive artist, Henning consistently draws audiences and critics towards the genuine quality of his playing.



In the current season, Henning is invited to return to the Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and Los Angeles Chamber orchestras, as well as the Danish National Symphony and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, with whom Henning tours to Mexico. He makes debuts with the Brussels Philharmonic and the Tonkünstler Orchestra in Vienna, and performs with the China NCPA and Macao orchestras.

In the spirit of the old masters such as Fritz Kreisler and Eugène Ysaÿe, Henning composes his own music, performing many of his own works, arrangements and cadenzas in concert. As of 2014, Henning's reputation as a composer was sealed by the premiere of *Equinox: 24 Postludes in All Keys for Violin and String Orchestra*, composed as musical counterparts to a story by world-famous author Jostein Gaarder. The current season sees the UK premiere of *Equinox* with the Manchester Camerata under *Gábor Takács-Nagy*. Among the ensembles that have recently commissioned and performed works by Henning are the Brodsky Quartet, Britten Sinfonia and Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra.

ABOUT THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Madison Symphony Orchestra enters its 91st season with the 2016-2017 concerts and its 23rd season under the leadership of Music Director John DeMain. The MSO has grown to be one of America's leading regional orchestras, enriching lives through providing Madison and south central Wisconsin with cultural and educational opportunities to interact with great masterworks and top-tier guest artists from around the world. Find more information at madisonsymphony.org

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