



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Madison Symphony Orchestra Performs Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*** *"Peak Performance" 2016-17 Season Concerts this Fri. 3/10, Sat. 3/11 and Sun. 3/12*

**MADISON, WI** – The Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) welcomes back, **Tine Thing Helseth**, Norwegian trumpet soloist, for a special performance of Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto*. Conductor **Carl St. Clair** returns for a third visit as guest conductor with the MSO to lead a pair of early 19<sup>th</sup> century works along with 112 musicians performing the largest of Strauss's symphonic poems on March 10, 11, and 12.

The program begins with **Beethoven's *Egmont Overture***, followed by a premiere performance of **Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto*** featuring Tine Thing Helseth. The concert ends with **Strauss's** ode to the awesome splendor of the Bavarian Alps, ***An Alpine Symphony***.

The concerts are Friday, Mar. 10, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 11, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, Mar. 12, at 2:30 p.m. at Overture Hall, 201 State Street.

**Beethoven** composed his *Egmont Overture* in 1810. Both Beethoven himself, and playwright Johann Wolfgang von Goethe upheld the ideals of human dignity and freedom in their works. Their personal relationship stemmed from Beethoven's incidental music for a new production of Goethe's play *Egmont* in 1810. This play about a nobleman's betrayal from the Spanish monarchy, is beautifully paired with Beethoven's music. As Goethe called it, *Egmont Overture* is a "Symphony of Victory."

Another friend of Beethoven's, was **Johann Nepomuk Hummel**. Even though they were rivals, their respect for each other's talent kept the relationship afloat. Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto* is a frisky fanfare with "playful dancelike" episodes laced throughout. This is the first time Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto* will be performed by the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

**Richard Strauss** composed his *Eine Alpensinfonie* ("*An Alpine Symphony*") from 1911-15. The final score used materials from some of his unfinished works, including *an Artist's Tragedy* and *The Alps*. Though there are many influences for this piece, the main is Strauss's love for the Bavarian Alps. In his diary he wrote: "I shall call my alpine symphony: *Der Antichrist*, since it represents: moral purification through one's own strength, liberation through work, worship of eternal, magnificent nature." *Antichrist* is a reference to a Nietzsche essay, and though the title was dropped for its publication, the work still carries many of Nietzsche's ideals.

One hour before each performance, Michael Allsen, *MSO program notes author and MSO musician; UW-Whitewater, Professor of Music*, 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: <http://www.allsenmusic.com/NOTES/1617/6.Mar17.html>.



**Single Tickets** are \$16 to \$87 each, available at [madisonsymphony.org/helseth](http://madisonsymphony.org/helseth) and 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](http://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. Tickets are \$35 each and include world class seating in Overture Hall, an exclusive after-party to be held in the Promenade Lounge, one drink ticket, and a cash bar. Conductor John DeMain, as well as musicians from the symphony, may also be in attendance to mingle with Madison's young professionals during the after-party.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Thurs., Mar. 9, pending availability. 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 Center 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](http://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 THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Madison Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 91<sup>st</sup> season in 2016-2017 and its 23<sup>rd</sup> season under the leadership of Music Director John DeMain. The MSO has grown to be one of America's leading regional orchestras, 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](http://madisonsymphony.org)

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