

# HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Fall 2024 Concert Series

## #Beethoven

**Ryan Webber**, conductor

**Dr. Stephen Carlson**, piano

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 7:30 PM—Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Little Falls

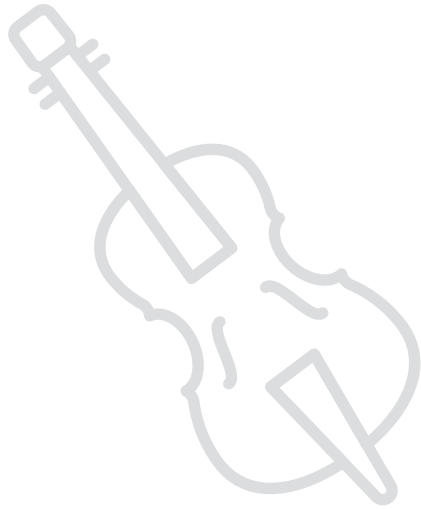
Sunday, October 6, 2024, 2:30 PM—Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

Dominic Dousa	<i>New Era Overture</i> *	ca. 9'
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73 Allegro Adagio un poco mosso Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo Dr. Stephen Carlson, piano	ca. 40'
Edward Elgar	"Nimrod" from <i>Enigma Variations</i> **	ca. 4'
Elliot Del Borgo	<i>Prelude and Dance</i> ***	ca. 4'

\* Minnesota premiere

\*\* Dedicated to the memory of Mary Anne Bennett and her 21 years of service to HSO

\*\*\* St. Francis Orchestras, Melissa von Iiter, Director (Saturday)  
Brainerd High School Sinfonia, Leslie Zander, Director (Sunday)



**Dominic Dousa (b. 1973)**

***New Era Overture* (2010)**

In the fall of 2009, UTEP Department of Music Chair Dr. Lowell Graham asked me to write a piece for the UTEP Symphony Orchestra's first concert of the 2010-2011 academic year. It was to be part of the program that would be the orchestra's first under his baton. The resulting piece, *New Era Overture*, celebrates the beginning of the orchestra's 'new era' under the musical leadership of Dr. Graham. Very shortly after his request, the idea for the lively and sparkling opening theme came to me while driving in southeast Arizona (coincidentally, in view of the 10,700-foot-tall Mt. Graham). A festive spirit of confidence and determination permeates the piece's opening section, from this rhythmically vivacious first theme through the broader second theme. After this energetic opening part, the piece settles into a calmer, more reflective tone in the middle section, which features a lyrical melody played by the oboe. Eventually, the melodies, vim, and vigor of the opening return, and the piece concludes majestically with a triumphant call in the brass.

While the piece was written for a specific occasion, it is intended to convey the general spirit of celebration, optimism, reflection, and anticipation that comes with any new era. It is a delight for me to have Heartland Symphony Orchestra kick off its 2024-25 season with this piece.

*\*program notes for New Era Overture written by Dominic Dousa*

**Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**

***Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73***

***(Emperor Concerto)* (1809)**

*What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?*

- Naturalist Charles Darwin, President Abraham Lincoln, composer Felix Mendohlson, and poet Edgar Allan Poe were all born.
- The Napoleonic Wars were about halfway finished.
- James Madison was sworn in as the 4th United States President.

*What should I know about this composer?*

- Beethoven remains as one of the most highly regarded composers of western music, only rivaled in popularity by Mozart and Bach.

- Although Beethoven only wrote nine symphonies (and is most notable for them), he is credited with writing 722 compositions, which include sonatas, piano trios, string quartets, concertos for various instruments, and much more.
- Beethoven is very notorious for living with deafness for a large part of his career. He began going deaf at the age of 28 and had total hearing loss by 44. His deafness was caused by Paget's bone disease.

#### *What should I know about the soloist?*

- Dr. Stephen Carlson is a Professor of Music at Bemidji State University. He teaches piano lessons for music majors and minors, piano pedagogy, piano literature, and music history courses.
- Carlson currently has recorded two full length albums. His first album features him performing solo works by Beethoven, Haydn, Bartók, Debussy, and Liszt. His second album was created in collaboration with Dr. Cory Renbarger (BSU Professor of Music) and features Schubert's *Winterreise* in its entirety.
- Carlson has performed the Emperor Concerto before in 2010 with the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra.

### **Edward Elgar (1857-1934)**

#### **Variation IX "Nimrod" from *Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma Variations)* (1899)**

#### *Today's performance of Nimrod is dedicated in memory of Mary Anne Bennett*

Mary Anne Bennett (1937-2024) was born in Leipzig, Germany to an American mother and German father. Due to visa issues, the young family had to remain in Germany. Despite being staunchly pro-American, Bennett's father was drafted into the German army in the early days of World War II, but died in basic training due to illness. In 1946 after a turbulent life in Germany, Bennett and her mother moved to the North Shore of Minnesota, where Bennett began to learn the cello during her school years.

After attending college, Mary Anne Bennett married and started a family. She also began her involvement with many arts organizations, such as the Governor's Commission on the Arts and the Minnesota Alliance for the Arts in Education. Bennett also had a focus in the humanitarian sector, particularly in regard to refugees and displaced persons. After her children had grown up, she separated

from her husband and began working in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage school district. In 1994, she remarried to Donald Bruce Bennett.

Mary Anne Bennett became involved in many arts organizations and committees within the Brainerd Lakes Area in her later years. She was a founding board member and served as board chair with the Lakes Area Music Festival, a member of the Nisswa Stamma Committee, and vice president of the Chippewa County Historical Society. Bennett was also a cellist with HSO and served on its board.

Heartland Symphony Orchestra and its members deeply appreciate Mary Anne Bennett for her service to our orchestra and other arts organizations across Minnesota.

### **Elliot Del Borgo (1938-2013)**

#### ***Prelude and Dance* (date unknown)**

#### *What should I know about this composer?*

- Elliot Del Borgo attended several universities, including the State University of New York at Potsdam (undergraduate), Temple University (graduate), and the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music (graduate). Del Borgo studied with composer Vincent Persichetti.
- Despite having several degrees, one being from Philadelphia Conservatory of Music, Del Borgo began his first job in the Philadelphia Public School District. He eventually became a professor at his alma mater, SUNY Potsdam.
- Del Borgo composed music for the closing ceremony of the 1980 Winter Olympics.

#### *What should I know about this piece?*

- *Prelude and Dance* was written for high school level ensembles as Elliot Del Borgo was an educator and composer of educational music as well as art music (although the two often are one and the same).
- The composition was originally written for the Niskayuna (New York) Middle School Band under the direction of Karen Russell.

*Program notes written by Tristen Heller.*

## ◆ STEPHEN CARLSON ◆



Pianist Stephen Carlson began his undergraduate studies as a political science major and Army ROTC Scholarship Cadet. A member of the Bemidji State University Music Department since 2006, he is a versatile soloist and chamber musician who has performed at many colleges, universities, and festivals throughout much of the U.S. and Canada. Recent engagements have taken him to Alaska, Arizona, as well as throughout the region.

In 2005, Dr. Carlson made his New York

debut as a solo recitalist in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall with a program that included Schumann's *Symphonic Etudes*, Stravinsky's *Three Movements from Petrushka*, and various works by Beethoven, Debussy and Scriabin. From 1995 to 2003, he appeared at Minnesota Valley Sommarfest (St. Peter, MN) where he performed an array of solo and collaborative works. He has appeared with the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra three times: in 2010 in which he played Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*, in 2009 when he played Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and in 2007 when he played Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* along with Michelle Laliberte and Patrick Riley. He also performed the Tchaikovsky with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony, *Mozart's Concerto in A major, K. 414* with the Gustavus Adolphus Chamber Orchestra, and Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* along with John McKay and the Mississippi Valley Chamber Orchestra. In October of 2017, he also performed live in Minnesota Public Radio's studio.

He completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Iowa where he studied with Uriel Tsachor. In March of 2017, he was honored by his doctoral institution as he was invited to give a solo recital and master class to doctoral students in partial celebration of the opening of their new \$189 million music building. He is also a graduate of the University of Illinois and Gustavus Adolphus College where he studied with Ian Hobson and John McKay, respectively.

Dr. Carlson has a successful undergraduate studio at Bemidji State and is pleased to see students go on to major graduate schools or private studio teaching. Also

an innovative clinician with wide-ranging interests, he is frequently called upon to give master classes, piano teacher workshops, and to adjudicate contests. His clinic entitled, *An Athletic Approach Toward Playing the Piano*, was presented at the South Carolina Music Teachers Association Conference. Most recently, he instituted *Piano Day* with the support of the Bemidji State University Foundation and Department of Music. In addition, Dr. Carlson has published articles for the journal, *American Music*. Prior to coming to Bemidji State where he is Professor of Music, Carlson was a tenured faculty member at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina. He has also taught piano at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Gustavus Adolphus College and St. Joseph's School of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Carlson released a solo album in January of 2022 that includes selected works by Beethoven, Haydn, Bartók, Debussy, and Liszt. In June of 2022, he and colleague, Dr. Cory Renbarger, also released their recording of Schubert's *Winterreise*. This fall, he will be releasing another solo album that features various pieces by Rameau, Ravel, Beethoven, and Brahms.

## ◆ DOMINIC DOUSA ◆



Dominic Dousa, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, has been a member of the faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music since 2004. Dousa's compositions have received performances at recitals, festivals, and conferences in the U.S., and in 14 countries worldwide. He has works published by TRN Music, Grand Mesa Music, and Leading Tones Music. Blue Griffin Recording has released two CDs of Dousa's chamber music, one of which

has received critical acclaim in Gramophone Magazine and the American Record Guide. In addition to teaching and composing, Dousa has remained active as an accompanist and chamber musician, performing in numerous recitals with faculty, guest artists, and students, including presentations with his fellow UTEP faculty member, world renowned cellist and 2017 Grammy-award winner Zuill Bailey.

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL ◆

**VIOLIN 1**

Leslie Zander, Concertmaster..... Brainerd  
 Samantha Lake..... Little Falls  
 Sandy Larson..... Brainerd  
 Jill Lee..... Crosby  
 Janet Pederson,..... Bemidji  
 Paul Sandberg..... Brainerd

**VIOLIN 2**

Claire Rud, Principal..... Brainerd  
 Micah Biermaier..... Fort Ripley  
 Tamara Bottge..... St. Cloud  
 Brady Davison..... Brainerd  
 Peggy Rutman..... Nisswa  
 Jamie Sunder..... Little Falls  
 Louise Washburn..... Brainerd

**VIOLA**

Tracie Becker..... Aitkin  
 Alicia Cebulla..... Pierz  
 Isabelle Corrigan..... Pierz  
 Kylie Laman..... Brainerd  
 Ammy Lin..... Baxter  
 Alexia Nieman..... Brainerd  
 Ethan Sunder..... Little Falls  
 Tim Swanson..... Baxter

**CELLO**

Amanda Jansen, Principal..... St. Cloud  
 Jenna Hanson..... Brainerd  
 Taisha Linder..... Pillager  
 Robin Myers..... Brainerd  
 Rebecca Nelson..... Cushing

**STRING BASS**

Gunnar Kuehl, Principal..... Baxter  
 Val Buchmeier..... Buffalo  
 Don Neu..... Freeport

**FLUTE**

Lauren Nickisch, Principal..... Pequot Lakes  
 Lisa Winter..... Wadena

**OBOE**

Amy Kessler, Principal..... Merrifield  
 Kaarin Hanske..... Baxter

**CLARINET**

Katie Brimhall..... Brainerd  
 Cathy Dens..... Brainerd

**BASSOON**

Miriam Webber, Principal..... Bemidji  
 Martin J. Van Klompenberg..... Moorhead

**FRENCH HORN**

Terri Deming..... Little Falls  
 Andrea Lund..... Brainerd  
 Jen Mickels..... Baxter  
 Becky Stadem..... Brainerd

**TRUMPET**

Chris Fogderud, Principal..... Brainerd  
 Nick Bunio..... Staples  
 Gary Taylor..... Deerwood

**TROMBONE**

Tristen Heller, Principal..... Remer  
 Todd Peterson..... Little Falls

**BASS TROMBONE**

Steven K. Anderson..... Merrifield

**TUBA**

Doug Durant, Principal..... Brainerd

**TIMPANI**

Cody Ewald..... Baxter

**PERCUSSION**

Eoin O'Connell..... Brainerd  
 Stacy Podoll-Erdal..... Brainerd

◆ BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL SINFONIA ORCHESTRA ◆

*Under the Direction of Leslie Zander*

**VIOLIN 1**

Alexis Freynet..... Brainerd  
 Cooper Hennessey..... Baxter  
 Esme Malloy..... Brainerd  
 Keelee Nelson..... Brainerd  
 Makayla Stoen..... Baxter  
 Axton Svir..... Baxter  
 Affinity van den Arend..... Brainerd

**VIOLIN 2**

Mia Alvar..... Brainerd  
 Owen Engelhart..... Brainerd  
 Lailauni Peterson..... Brainerd  
 Maev Storbakken..... Brainerd

**VIOLA**

John DeHaan..... Brainerd  
 Evan Gilbertson..... Brainerd  
 Mason Gilbertson..... Brainerd  
 Aubrey Jerde..... Brainerd  
 Lilana Kosloski..... Brainerd  
 Annabelle Stimac..... Brainerd  
 Melody Threlkeld..... Brainerd

**CELLO**

Nathaniel Biermaier..... Fort Ripley  
 Bram Jacobi..... Brainerd  
 Andrew Kargel..... Brainerd

Operations Director – Navasha Kieffer  
 Orchestra Manager – Fran Dosh  
 Music Librarian – Alicia Cebulla

HSO is always in need of additional string players and sometimes others instruments.

If interested in joining please contact [heartlandsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:heartlandsymphony@gmail.com).



◆ ST. FRANCIS ORCHESTRAS ◆

*Under the Direction of Melissa von Itter*

**VIOLIN**

Jamie Sunder..... Little Falls  
 Jan Hovda..... Rice  
 Loretta Mrosla ..... Little Falls  
 Pamela Wolters..... Little Falls  
 Guy Clemons-Virinig..... Pierz  
 Nicole Knopik..... Little Falls  
 Sean Derry..... Little Falls  
 Wendy Greenwalt..... Brainerd  
 Annie Gabel..... Little Falls  
 Laurel Clemons-Virinig..... Pierz  
 Ava Schieffert..... Little Falls  
 Vicki Spofford..... Little Falls  
 Miah Posterick..... Little Falls  
 Christopher Kozumplik..... Little Falls  
 Lenora Mrosla ..... Little Falls  
 Marley Hamilton..... Brainerd  
 Mackenzie Vetsch..... Little Falls  
 Vivian Rudolph..... Little Falls

**VIOLA**

Adeline Ellingson..... Long Prairie  
 Aliya Pritchard..... Randall  
 Ethan Sunder..... Little Falls  
 Melissa von Itter..... Little Falls

**CELLO**

Isobel Christensen..... Little Falls  
 Cyndi von Itter..... Freedhem  
 Amanda Jansen..... St. Cloud  
 Everett Rudolph..... Little Falls  
 Emily Meinert..... Rice  
 Henry Meinert..... Rice  
 Rebecca Nelson..... Cushing

**HARP**

Holly Shaw..... Brainerd

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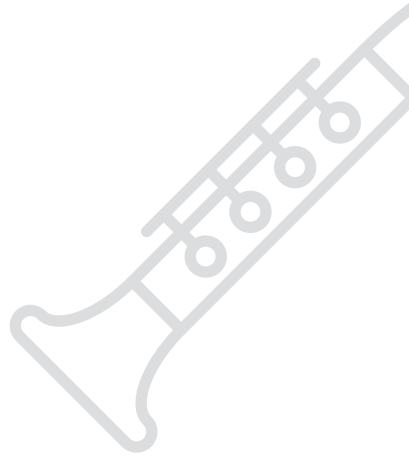
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**HEARTLAND SYMPHONY**  
ORCHESTRA

Heartland Symphony Orchestra

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