Omaha Symphony’s Music Director takes children on an engaging musical adventure

Family Series concert features Tubby the Tuba, with guest narrator Dave Wingert, William Tell Overture, Superman March

OMAHA, Neb., Feb.10, 2015- Join Omaha Symphony Music Director Thomas Wilkins as he takes families on an exhilarating journey full of energy and fun in Thomas’s Adventures in Music, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m., at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

In a departure from his usual MasterWorks fare, Thomas Wilkins will turn the classical concert hall into a musical playground that will engage the whole family with Thomas’s Adventures in Music. The program will travel straight into the heart and soul of music, using familiar pieces, such as the William Tell Overture, John Williams’s Superman March, and Smetana’s Dance of the Comedians from The Bartered Bride. A special performance of Tubby the Tuba will feature Omaha Symphony Principal Tuba Craig Fuller, with narration by radio personality and actor Dave Wingert. In addition, the concert will feature a special “Talk To a Musician” activity that will allow children in the audience to interact with members of the orchestra onstage via FaceTime.

Tubby the Tuba, written by Paul Tripp and George Kleinsinger, was inspired by a tuba player who quipped to Tripp and Kleinsinger that “tubas can sing, too.” With that in mind, Tripp conceived a story of a tuba who finds a melody to play with help from the other instruments in the orchestra. Tubby the Tuba has been translated into more than 30 languages and performed by nearly every major orchestra in the world. It has been made into two films and narrated by a galaxy of stars, including Julia Child, Annette Funicello, and Meredith Vieira.

Devoted to promoting a life-long enthusiasm for music, Wilkins brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. He is hailed as a master at communicating and connecting with audiences. In addition to being the Omaha Symphony Music Director, Wilkins is also principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and holds the Germeshausen Family and Youth Concert Conductor chair with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The Omaha Symphony Family Series features pre-concert activities at 1:15 p.m. in the orchestra level lobby, including the extremely popular instrument petting zoo. The petting zoo allows children to touch and play instruments that are usually hands off to little ones, such as a violin, cello, flute, and trombone.

Tickets to Thomas’s Adventures in Music are $12, and can be purchased by visiting www.omahasymphony.org or phoning Ticket Omaha at 402.345.0606.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movie Music, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony’s nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402.345.0606 or visit omahasymphony.org.