



Journey to the Amazon

April 26, 2026 | 2:00 p.m.

Holland Center

Ernest Richardson, conductor | Heartland Youth Ballet, dancers | Rachel Vickrey Hartley, choreographer | Robin Welch, choreographer | Matthew Naughtin, composer

This performance will run approximately 1 hour. *La actuación tendrá una duración aproximada de 1 hora.*

MATTHEW NAUGHTIN

Rainforest Suite

I. Introduction

II. Birds

III. Butterflies & Monkeys

IV. Capuchin Monkeys

V. Snakes & Frogs

VI. Tamarin Monkeys

VII. Ocelot Tango

VIII. Spectacled Owl

IX. Finale

Heartland Youth Ballet Dancers

Ivy Batheja, Karlia Beam, Elsa Bonertz, Ella Buckley, Kit Buckley, Lissa Buckley, Elisa Conda, Mary Corder, Evelyn Davis, Cora Dobbe, Lidia Edwards, Lucia Edwards, Jillian Gann, Addie Gregart, Ingrid Halbkat, Beatrix Hay, Mimi Henning, Scarlett Hubbard, Gigi Hunt, Elise Johnson, Ruby Kleber, Madison LeBlanc, Hannah Mazgaj, Eva Methe, Ariaana Mohpart, Josie Morrison, Joy Pearce, Lydia Pearce, Ana Peney, Hazel Petersen, Claire Salamin, Nora Shook, Aleah Springer, Avery Stroh, Emmerson Turner, Marlowe Thibideau, Ella Uggen

This printed program is a condensed version.

For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the full program notes, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device. *Para leer la información en español, utilice nuestro programa digital.*

*program subject to change



Featured Artists

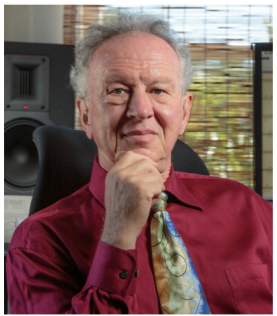


Ernest Richardson is in high demand as conductor, composer, arranger, organizational leader and inspirational speaker. His versatility finds him within one season conducting Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* or Broadway artists in the works of Leonard Bernstein, a live-to-movie production of *Harry Potter*, facilitating strategic decision-making for leading arts organizations, or training young musicians for the passionate, persistent pursuit of perfection. He has been at the forefront of symphonic video/live music productions, conducting live-to-movie scores of the *Harry Potter* series with CineConcerts, *Indiana Jones*, *Jurassic Park*, *Back to the Future*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Casablanca*, *Ratatouille*, *Star Trek (2009)*, the Charlie Chaplin silent film *The Gold Rush*, and *Star Wars*. In addition to his post in Omaha, Richardson holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. During his tenure, the organization has grown from a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra, attracting the finest musicians from the Front Range of Colorado. He is also the founding artistic director and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.



Heartland Youth Ballet is a pre-professional dance company dedicated to the artistic and technical development of young dancers. Led by Artistic Director Rachel Vickrey, HYB recently transitioned from Rachel's studio to the Omaha Academy of Ballet. The company provides exceptional training alongside meaningful performance opportunities, and fosters discipline, confidence, creativity and skills that support success both on and off the stage.

During the 2025–26 season, HYB performed *Snow White* for audiences of more than 750, collaborated with local artists and choreographers through Omaha Dance Project, and appeared at the annual festival of The Ballet Alliance—an association of pre-professional ballet companies—in Reno, Nevada.



Born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1947, **Matthew Naughtin** is a composer, violinist, program annotator and music librarian who started writing music at the same time he began violin lessons at age 11. He left Omaha for Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where he studied violin performance, theory and composition and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance in 1970. He then taught and performed in the Chicago area for several years before returning to Omaha in 1977. There he played in the Omaha Symphony Orchestra from 1977 - 1997 and served as the Symphony's Music Librarian, Program Annotator, Resident Composer and Musical Arranger. He was appointed Music Librarian of the San Francisco Ballet in 1997 and now lives and works in San Francisco. He has also served as Music Librarian of the Peninsula Music Festival, Colorado Music Festival and San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Matt has written *Ballet Music: A Handbook*, a reference work on ballet music published by Rowman & Littlefield. The proud father of a daughter and a son, Matt is now a proud grandfather as well.

In addition to creating several orchestral arrangements for the Omaha Symphony and the San Francisco Ballet, Matt has written many original orchestral compositions that have gained wide recognition and are played on Christmas, Pops, Youth and Family concerts. Matt specializes in music written especially for children, and his works have been used extensively on family concerts and concerts for grade school and preschool children. He has written three ballet scores for children: *Ferdinand* (1996) based on the classic children's story by Munro Leaf, *The Angel Dances* (1998) and *Rainforest* (2010) in collaboration with choreographer Robin Welch.

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