



Symphony Spooktacular

Sunday, October 31, 2021 at 2 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Ernest Richardson, Principal Conductor | Deanna Tham, Assistant Conductor

Heartland Youth Ballet | Omaha Conservatory Frontier Strings

T. Adam Goos, actor

JOHN WILLIAMS

"The Knight Bus" from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

CHARLES GOUNOD

"Danse Antique" from Faust
Heartland Youth Ballet

JOHN WILLIAMS

"The Shark Theme" from Jaws

DRYDEN THOMAS MEINTS

Haunted House
Omaha Conservatory Frontier Strings

HAROLD ARLEN/arr. CERULLI

"Ding Dong The Witch is Dead" from The Wizard of Oz

EDVARD GRIEG

"In the Hall of the Mountain King" from Peer Gynt No. 1 Op. 46

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

"Danse macabre" from Le Rouet D'Omphale
Heartland Youth Ballet

PATRICK DOYLE

"The Creation" from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

ALAN MENKEN

"Poor Unfortunate Souls" from The Little Mermaid
T. Adam Goos, vocals

ROD TEMPERTON/arr. HOLCOMBE

Thriller
Heartland Youth Ballet

program notes by Nicole Thoms

“The Knight Bus” from *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

John Williams

Born: Floral Park, New York, February 8, 1932

John Williams is an American composer known for his famous movie scores. Many people would recognize his music from the movie soundtracks of *Star Wars*, *E.T.*, *Superman* and *Jurassic Park*, just to name a few! His father was a jazz musician from New York, which had an impact on his life work. John Williams studied at several schools, including UCLA, Eastman College of Music, and Juilliard. With a degree in composition, he started his career as an orchestrator at film studios in Los Angeles.

“The Knight Bus” is from the movie *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Maybe you’ve heard of it? The title is a play on words because the Knight bus runs at night and only transports stranded wizards in distress, just as a Knight is traditionally known as a hero ready to rescue someone in need. This piece is meant to describe the sound of a double decker bus zipping through the bustling nighttime city streets. At one section in the piece, listen for a pause in all the bustling. Williams uses the saxophone to musically describe a double decker bus squeezing between two other city buses. It is very nerve-racking to imagine! Let’s find out if they make it to the other side.

“Danse Antique” from *Faust*

Charles Gounod

Born: Paris, France, June 17, 1818 | Died: Saint-Cloud, France, October 18, 1893

Charles Gounod is a 19th century French composer known best for his opera *Faust* written in 1859. His mother was his first piano teacher and arranged for him to receive composition lessons while he was still a young boy. He later studied at the Paris Conservatory and took an interest mostly in vocal and sacred compositions.

The opera *Faust* is based on an old German tale about a scholar who makes a deal with the devil. “Danse Antique” is a piece in the opera specifically written for ballet dancers. The tempo is *Allegretto*, which is meant to be brisk and lively; you can hear the grand introduction of the ballet dancers in the music. Dancers from The Heartland Youth Ballet are performing this piece with us.

“The Shark Theme” from *Jaws*

John Williams

Born: Floral Park, New York, February 8, 1932

The *Jaws* movie score is considered one of the most terrifying in cinema. The basis of this terror starts with the simple repetition of two notes in the lowest part of the orchestra. Beginning slowly and gradually growing faster – and more alarming! – the two notes form a type of dissonance with the melody in the upper strings. What’s dissonance? One example of it is two notes a half step apart played or sung together. Try it at home: sing a note that is a half-step higher than your friend, and you can feel the discord. Some people can’t do it and tend to move up to a more natural harmonic third – a chord you hear often. Coupled with this frenzied dissonance is the constant crescendos and decrescendos, alerting you that something terrible is lurking just out of sight. Stay out of the water for this one!

Haunted House

Dryden Thomas Meints

Dryden is a contemporary Omaha-based composer. A multi-instrumentalist, Dryden is committed to making the world a kinder place through music. Currently his largest projects have been composing repertoire for local string programs. *Haunted House* will be performed by the Omaha Conservatory Frontier Strings. Can you hear the violins sneaking around the haunted house in this piece?

“Ding Dong The Witch is Dead” from *The Wizard of Oz*

Harold Arlen

Born: Buffalo, New York February 15, 1905 | Died: Manhattan, New York April 23, 1986

Harold Arlen is an American composer who got his start as an accompanist in vaudeville. He is a prolific composer known for writing hundreds of songs for Broadway and Hollywood films. He is most known for “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” composed for *The Wizard of Oz*.

“Ding! Dong! The Witch is Dead” is the celebratory piece of *The Wizard of Oz*. We will use this opportunity in our program to parade all the musicians in their costumes. You too can strut your stuff.

“In the Hall of the Mountain King” from *Peer Gynt*

Edvard Grieg

Born: Bergen, Norway, June 15, 1843 | Died: Bergen, Norway September 4, 1907

Edvard Grieg is a Norwegian composer from a musical family. His mother taught him piano as a child, and he went on to study at Leipzig Conservatory. He eventually broke away from romantic German styles of music and developed his own original style inspired by the melodies found in Norwegian folk music.

“In the Hall of the Mountain King” from *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1 Op. 46 is a fun piece written for a Norwegian fairy tale. This program music is meant to describe a dramatic scene from the story. Peer Gynt is a young boy who flees his village with a broken heart and finds himself in the Royal Hall of the Mountain King, surrounded by trolls. He must make a deal with the Troll King himself if he wants to marry the Princess. Peer refuses and tries to flee... the music will tell you how this chase concludes!

“Danse Macabre” from *Le Rouet D’Omphale*

Camille Saint-Saëns

Born: Paris France, October 9, 1835 | Died: Algiers, December 16, 1921

Camille Saint-Saëns was a French composer best known for his opera *Samson et Dalila*. He was a gifted pianist and organist known as a child prodigy of his time. As an adult, he became the organist for over 20 years in a church called The Madeleine in Paris, France. As a visionary, he helped found the National Society of Music in 1871, which promoted the next generation of French music; in that same year, he wrote “Danse Macabre.”

“Danse Macabre” is part of a symphonic poem he wrote called *Le Rouet D’Omphale*, which means *Omphale’s Spinning Wheel*. This piece is based on a poem written by Henri Cazalis. The poem sets the scene at midnight, portraying Death’s appearance as skeletons rise from their graves and begin to dance. You can hear how our concertmaster, playing solo violin, “wakes” everyone up with the famous “Devil’s Chord” – the crunchy, dissonant tritone! Once the concertmaster takes the lead, the dance of the dead truly begins.

“The Creation” from *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein*

Patrick Doyle

Born: Uddingston, Scotland, April 6, 1953

Patrick Doyle, like John Williams, is a contemporary film composer. He is best known for his work on *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. He is a classically trained composer and earned his degree at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. “The Creation” was written for the motion picture *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein*, based on the novel. Imagine the music that would underscore man’s attempt at the unholy of creations – the raising of the dead! This score is very dramatic, full of adventure and surprise.

“Poor Unfortunate Souls” from *The Little Mermaid*

Alan Menken

Born: New Rochelle, New York July 22, 1949

Alan Menken is an American composer best known for his work with Walt Disney. If you have seen *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Tangled* or *Aladdin* then you have heard his compositions. Both of his parents were artists; his mother was an aspiring actress, and his father was a dentist by day and a pianist by night. He grew up surrounded by music and theater.

“Poor Unfortunate Souls” is a pivotal piece from the *The Little Mermaid*. The sea witch Ursula uses her potions and charms to convince Ariel to leave her family. Ariel becomes bewitched and trades her voice for a chance to walk and become human. Would you trade your voice for anything?

Thriller

Rod Temperton

Born: Lincolnshire, England October 9, 1949 | Died: September 25, 2016

Rod Temperton is a songwriter, vocalist, and musician. He was one of the main writers that produced the hit pop and disco songs of the 1970s. Michael Jackson brought *Thriller* to life and revolutionized music videos and performance. *Thriller* became an anthem for Halloween. Feel free to dance with us on this iconic chart!

Heartland Youth Ballet



The Heartland Youth Ballet is the resident pre-professional dance company of Heartland Conservatory of Dance, and is dedicated to the growth and development of dance students. The company's purpose is to provide highly-motivated young classical dancers with the technical training, artistic development, and practical experience needed to pursue professional performing careers or scholarships to attend universities with dance programs. Heartland Youth Ballet is directed by Rachel Vickrey, a former professional dancer for over twenty years and trained by her parents Robin Welch and Robert Vickrey.

Heartland Youth Ballet brings nationally renowned choreographers, dancers and master teachers to Omaha to

work with their young dancers. HYB is an Honor member of Mid-States Regional Dance America which is one of the five regions of the national organization, Regional Dance America. This year HYB became a new member company of the prestigious Ballet Alliance. With rigorous training through the Conservatory, company members are continuously challenged by innovative choreography, which directly benefits their dancers' technical and artistic development.

Rachel Vickrey, Director & Choreographer

Danse Macabre: Witch: Jade Buseman, Snow White: Samantha Hughes, Mirror: Madison Ireland, Huntress: Addison Friesen Minions: Gavin Kennedy, Matthew Worden, Brynlee Cole, Emery Mattson, Emery Kroeger, Brianna McCormick-Baker, Jillian Gann, Elsa Bonertz

Faust: Jade Buseman, Lily Hartley, Samantha Hughes, Madison Ireland, Addison Friesen, Hannah De La Rosa, Catelynn Wille, Hailey Vincent

Hall of the Mountain King: Madison Ireland, Matthew Worden, Lydia Pearce

Thriller: Samantha Hughes, Madison Ireland, Addison Friesen, Lily Hartley

Omaha Conservatory of Music



The Omaha Conservatory of Music is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) school that builds diverse musical community to enrich lives through education and performance. At the Omaha Conservatory of Music's world-class facility at 7023 Cass St. in Omaha, private lessons are provided in violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, guitar, voice, winds, brass, and percussion, as well as conducting, music composition, and theory. Learn more about the Omaha Conservatory at omahacm.org.

Frontier Strings

Frontier Strings is a group of 35 violin, viola, and cello players between the ages of 7-18 who are dedicated to excellence and using their talents to serve the community. The young violinists perform their vast repertoire of music – sacred music, fiddle

tunes, classical, show tunes, movie music and pop songs – all from memory, performing stunts while playing some of their contemporary selections. The group has performed at notable locations and venues near and far, including Oregon Trail Days Parade, Black Hills Playhouse, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Fort Robinson Post Playhouse, Five Rocks Amphitheater, Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.; and even abroad in Salzburg, Austria, and Munich, Germany.

Frontier Strings is part of the Omaha Conservatory of Music, and is under the direction of Ruth Meints, OCM's Executive Director, with assistance from Omaha Conservatory Artist-Faculty member Tyler Roberts.

Ruth Meints – Frontier Strings Director; Tyler Roberts – Frontier Strings Assistant Director

Artists: Asher Abuhl, Pauline Lee, Christopher Lee, Libby Meade, Pranay Neelakanta, Max Rieke, Callie Stalnaker, Anna Suh, Rachel Wu, Isabella Zhang



T. Adam Goos

T. Adam Goos is currently the Managing Director of The Little Red Hen Theatre, a non-profit arts-center/community theatre located in the northeast Nebraska town of Wakefield. (Check out www.littleredhentheatre.com!) Adam began his artistic career in Chicago, where he worked as an actor for several years, appearing at the Court Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, White Horse Theater Company, and Emerald City Theater Company among others. Adam is no stranger to sharing the stage with the Omaha Symphony, having worked as part of the education team in the past, helping to develop family and educational concerts. Some of his favorite concerts with the Symphony have seen him running around on stage as a troublemaking puppy in the Mission: Imagination program *A Family for Treble* or as the game show host Mr. Pi in the Margre Durham Concerts for Youth program, *Music and Math*. He's happy to be back on the stage with this great crew of people! Adam holds an MFA from the Theatre Conservatory of the Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and a BS of Theater and Music Performance from Wayne State College.

Tour Guide – T. Adam Goos



Ernest Richardson, Principal Conductor

Ernest Richardson is presently the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has laid the groundwork for and led in the development of the Omaha Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs. In addition to his artistic leadership in the creation of the annual top-selling Christmas Celebration production and internationally performed "Only in Omaha" productions, he leads the successful Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and Movies Series. The highly successful Family Series was created under his artistic leadership, and he is one of the visionary forces behind the innovative Symphony Joslyn Series. As chief architect of the Omaha Symphony's education and community engagement programs, Richardson has been at the forefront of crafting the vision for the programs and their impact on the community.



Deanna Tham, Assistant Conductor

Powerfully compelling, Deanna Tham is known for her captivating and tenacious spirit on and off the podium. Appointed the Omaha Symphony's Assistant Conductor in spring of 2021, Tham began her inaugural season as Music Director with the Union Symphony Orchestra (Monroe, N.C.) in 2020-2021, a season that also marked her fourth as Assistant Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony and Principal Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras.

Mystery Conductor: Deanna Tham