



Family Concert

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020—4 PM

Vance Brand Civic Auditorium

Elliot Moore, conductor

Amber Salaz, narrator

Carnival of the Animals

Introduction and Royal March of the Lion

Hens and Roosters

Aquarium

Fossils

Finale

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Poetry by Jack Prelutsky

Ms. Salaz

Peter and the Wolf, Op. 67

SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Ms. Salaz

About Amber Salaz

Amber Salaz is no stranger to the stage. Roles on stage that she has enjoyed include the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Ulla in *The Producers*, Mrs. Pearce in *My Fair Lady*, Lucy in *Avenue Q*, and Nellie in *South Pacific*. Amber created the role of Isabel in the world premiere of the opera *Sara McKinnon*, written and directed by Mark Medoff (Tony Award, *Children of a Lesser God*). She spent 13 of her 15 years as a music educator in Florida where she was the 2014 Teacher of the Year. She is currently the music teacher at Grand View Elementary in St. Vrain Valley and was nominated as a 2019 Teacher of the Year. She would like to thank her friends, family, and loving husband for their continuous support.

FAMILY CONCERT PROGRAM

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921): Excerpts from *The Carnival of the Animals*

Subtitled “Grand Zoological Fantasy,” *The Carnival of the Animals* was written early in 1886 in a little town in Austria after Saint-Saëns’s concert tour of Germany. He had promised such a piece to his students at the Niedermayer School 25 years earlier, but somehow never found the time to actually compose it.

Saint-Saëns presented *Carnival* as a surprise gift to the cellist Charles Joseph Lebouc, whose rendition of “The Swan” section was said to make listeners overlook his habit of grunting while bowing his instrument. The entire work was first played by the composer and a group of friends at a private Mardi Gras celebration in March 1886.

A month later, Franz Liszt visited Paris and inquired about the new piece. Saint-Saëns arranged a private performance in the drawing room of the famous mezzo-soprano Pauline Viardot. There is no record of Liszt’s reaction to the work.

Fearing damage to his reputation as a serious composer, Saint-Saëns refused to publish *The Carnival of the Animals*, except for “The Swan.” There was no such prohibition in his will, so the first public performance took place on February 22, 1922, just two months after his death.

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953): *Peter and the Wolf*, Op. 67

During the late winter of 1936, Prokofiev began a collaboration with Natalia Satz, the director of the Moscow Children’s Musical Theater. They agreed on a work for narrator and orchestra in which each character would be represented by various instruments. “The distinct characters will be reflected in the distinct quality of the various musical timbres,” said Prokofiev, “each character will have its own leitmotif.”

He was so dissatisfied with Nina Saksonskaya’s text that he immediately sat down and wrote his own, which he originally titled *How Peter Outwitted the Wolf*. After a private performance for the children at the theater, the first public performance took place on May 2, 1936.

In his forward to the score, Prokofiev wrote: “Each character of this tale is represented by a corresponding instrument in the orchestra—the bird by a flute, the duck by an oboe, the cat by a clarinet staccato in a low register, the grandfather by a bassoon, the wolf by three horns, Peter by the string quartet, and the shots of the hunters by the kettledrums and the bass drum.”

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