Welcome to the Young People’s Concerts!

Like architects, composers use special tools to construct their unique designs and ideas. Laying a foundation and structural framework, developing features, selecting materials, and ultimately making an artistic statement — these are all considerations when drafting a blueprint or a musical score. Each piece we’ll hear in this concert showcases a different tool, or a building block of music, that a composer uses to create his or her own sound world. Come along as our Music Director, host, orchestra, and Madam Architect — based on famed architect Zaha Hadid — find connections between two creative forms that surround you in a 360-degree, immersive experience: music and architecture.

THE PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN Allegro con brio, from Symphony No. 2
Reena ESMAIL Testament, from Vishwaz
VERY YOUNG COMPOSER Paloma ALONSO Sweating Bullets
Steve Reich Selection from Music for Ensemble and Orchestra
BEETHOVEN Allegro molto, from Symphony No. 2

“...there is a big connection between music and the way you create space.”

— Zaha Hadid
Harmony (to join)
A combination of elements that together form a satisfying whole

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) wrote his Symphony No. 2 in 1801–02, and though it seemingly lies squarely in the Classical era of the 18th century, it shows signs of his groundbreaking symphonies to come. Beethoven creates harmony by transforming simple figures into the larger structure of the music to create a grand scale and dramatic effects. For example, the arpeggios (a group of notes that outline a chord, played one after each other, up or down) is a very basic musical idea—but Beethoven develops and weaves arpeggios into the whole skeleton of the symphony to achieve balance, order, and sonic harmony.

Neoclassical architects were inspired by Classical forms from Ancient Greece and Rome, which used symmetry, geometry, and scale to achieve visual harmony. Beethoven's contemporary Thomas Jefferson, as well as a founding father of the United States of America, was also an architect. By infusing the harmonies present in Classical forms into buildings, he could tap into the beauty and perfection of science, in Classical forms into buildings, he could tap into the beauty and perfection of science, mathematics, and nature.

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Tools for Music / Tools for Architecture
Discover the connections between music and architecture
Compose and Design!

Today’s concert interloper, Madam Architect, is based on the real-life groundbreaking architect Zaha Hadid. Like the composers on today’s program, who created their own new sounds using the basic building blocks of music, Zaha forged her own ideas about what buildings could and should be. “The world is not a rectangle,” she said, and, inspired by the fluid landscape of the Middle East where she grew up, she used free-flowing lines and curves to make dramatic, expressive buildings.

Below is a series of three staves — groups of five lines and four spaces upon which music is written. Can you create a pattern of free-flowing lines and curves using them as a scaffold? How would you describe the rhythm or movement of your design?
About the Artists

Jaap van Zweden

conductor • NY Phil Music Director; has the same job at the Hong Kong Philharmonic • awarded the prestigious 2020 Concertgebouw Prize • discovered violin as a small child by listening to his father (a pianist) rehearse with Gypsy violinists • at 19 became the youngest-ever concertmaster of Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra • favorite sport: soccer • favorite baseball team: the Yankees

Jamie Rezanour

actor • originally from Texas • always knew she wanted to be an actor • favorite pastime: dancing • biggest inspiration: her mom • the thing she loves most about live performance is the audience reaction • her superpower would be to fly: “I’d get places faster!” • believes kids are better than adults at cartwheels: “I can’t do one.”

Justin Jay Hines

host • fell in love with music because of the song “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” and Sibelius’s Symphony No. 2 • wanted to be a performer after seeing a loud rock-n-roll concert in 6th grade • favorite pastimes: journaling and studying NYC’s architectural history • biggest inspirations: Leonard Bernstein and President Barack Obama • his superpower would be unlimited energy: “Imagine how much you could do in one day!”

Marcus Stevens

scriptwriter / director • wanted to become a professional entertainer after seeing Ragtime on Broadway: “I was spellbound. I remember saying to my parents, ‘I want to do this for a living.’” • pastime: playing with his two-year-old son • originally wanted to be an animator • believes kids are better than adults at using their imagination: “They can create stories, ideas, and art without self-editing like adults do.”

WHAT’S COMING UP?

MUSIC AS A CHANGE AGENT

Conductor • Roderick Cox

Saturday, March 21, 2020

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