Grand Rapids Symphony's Rising Stars concert features music of teachers and their student

Music by young American composer Adam Schoenberg will be played by the Grand Rapids Symphony on March 22-23

GRAND RAPIDS – Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Corigliano has written music for soloists such as Sir James Galway and for films such as “The Red Violin.”

Robert Beaser, the youngest composer ever to win the Rome Prize, served more than a decade as co-director of the esteemed 92nd Street Y chamber music series in New York City.

Young American composer Adam Schoenberg, recently named Kansas City Symphony’s first composer-in-residence beginning next season, once studied under both.

Music by teachers Corigliano, 74, and Beaser, 57, and their student Schoenberg, 31, all will be explored next week by the Grand Rapids Symphony in a program of 20th and 21st century music.

Guest Conductor Tito Munoz, conductor of the Opéra national de Lorraine, in the French city of Nancy, leads the Grand Rapids Symphony’s Rising Stars Series concerts on March 22-23 in St. Cecilia Music Center.

Grand Rapids Symphony

What: Rising Stars Series
Where: 7 p.m. March 22, 8 p.m. March 23
Where: St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom Ave. NE
Tickets: $18-$26 Thursday, $26-$34 Friday
Call: Ticketmaster at 800-982-2787

Concerts in Royce Auditorium also will include Manuel de Falla’s popular “Three Cornered Hat” Suite No. 1 and
Prokofiev’s “Classical Symphony” No. 1.

All of the music on the program was inspired by other forms of art – literature, ballet, folk music and visual arts.

Corigliano's “Elegy for Orchestra,” a sinuous, flute-led piece that its composer, winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for his Symphony No. 2, dedicated to Samuel Barber was inspired by the legendary tale of the ageing Helen of Troy and her bittersweet love for Telemachus.

Guest conductor Tito Munoz leads the Grand Rapids Symphony's next Rising Stars concerts.

Beaser’s “Folk Songs,” premiered in 2007 at the Aspen Music Festival, comes from its composer’s lifelong interest in folk music, from Appalachian folk songs from unknown sources, to music of Leadbelly.

Schoenberg, a recent guest composer for the Aspen Music Festival, awarded prizes from ASCAP’s Morton Gould Young Composer Award in 2007 among others, takes his inspiration from visual arts with his 16-minute piece, “Finding Rothko,” influenced by four of Rothko’s colorful abstract paintings.

Music by Sergei Prokofiev and Manuel de Falla are the oldest works on the program. Prokofiev’s “Classical Symphony,” completed in 1917, was inspired by the music of Classical Era music of Haydn and Mozart.

Manuel de Falla, a Spanish-Andalusian composer, wrote the ballet score for “The Three-Cornered Hat” for Serge Diaghilev’s Ballet Russes. In its orchestra suites, it remains one of his best-loved works.

The Grand Rapids Symphony’s “Thursdays@7” concert on March 22 is a one-hour program, played without intermission, omitting the Beaser “Folk Songs.” The entire program in a traditional format will be given on March 23.

E-mail Jeffrey Kaczmarczyk: jkaczmarczyk@mlive.com and follow him on Twitter at

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