

Balcones Community Orchestra

Dr. Robert Radmer, Conductor

Concert Program

“Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 11 (1824)

Allegro di molto

Andante

Allegro molto

Allegro con fuoco

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809 - 1847)

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58 (1806)

Allegro moderato

Andante con moto

Rondo (Vivace)

Ludwig von Beethoven

(1770 - 1827)

SungEung Park, Piano

Feb 18, 2024 4:00 p.m.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

8134 Mesa Dr.

Austin, TX 78759



Thank you for 25 years!

Our Soloist
SungEun Park, Piano



Pianist SungEun Park has extensively performed as a solo pianist and chamber musician throughout Korea, Italy and the United States. Dr. Park currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at Texas Lutheran University and program director of the Texas State International Piano Festival.

Dr. Park has won several competitions including the 5th Texas State International Piano Festival Concerto Competition, American Prize, Sidney Wright Endowed Presidential Scholarship, Butler School of Music Concerto Competition, Texas State University Concerto Competition, and Seoul Asia International Music Competition.

Her concerto appearances include performances with the Round Rock Symphony Orchestra, the University of Texas Symphony Orchestra, Texas State University Symphony Orchestra, the Balcones Community Orchestra, and Jeju Philharmonic Orchestra. Besides classical piano repertoire, she has frequently premiered new works by leading contemporary composers.

She has been invited to perform as guest artist at several international and national conferences including Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities, National Association of Composers/USA, and One Month Festival. Dr. Park was invited to be a jury member in Texas Young Artist Piano Competition in 2017.

She has recorded numerous albums with the compositions of Peter Petroff, Zvonimir Nagy, Haseulki Baek, and Joe Young. Dr. Park has earned her degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Texas at Austin (DMA), Texas State University (MM).

Program Notes

by Robert Radmer

At the age of 15 **Felix Mendelssohn** completed his Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, and it became his calling card as he traveled the European continent meeting the great musicians of his time. It opens with a powerful falling-yet-climbing motive that imparts fire and forward thrust to the whole movement. Gentle descending lines interrupt, but even the bright burst of a C Major passage cannot stay the coming dramatic, minor-key close. Relieving the tension, the Andante opens with a pastoral tune given out by the strings in the sunny key of E-flat Major. Strings and winds engage in a lovely dialogue revolving around bits of this melody, sometimes in a calm setting, sometimes a nervous one, presenting in sound the variety of emotions underlying many a conversation. The Menuetto presents a brooding, syncopated two-bar minor-key tune that brings to mind something far from the delicate elegance of the 18th century courtly dance. It is interrupted, however, by a most curious contrasting section, an organ-like chorale supported by understated string arpeggios. This calm, almost meditative passage leads back to the unsteady syncopations of the opening, which are firmly resolved with the blazing rhythm of the 16th-note scales and arpeggios which characterize the Finale. Mendelssohn's youthful imagination creates amongst the movement's flames and lightning bolts room for contrasting sections of serenity as well as intricately constructed fugal passages. Enjoy this marvelous work left to us by an astonishing teenager.



The 4th Piano Concerto is notable not as an example of **Beethoven's** bombast but as a showcase for another side of his personality. The work explores the introverted, searching and Classical facet of this remarkable talent rather than the blazing Romantic that is so familiar. Beethoven's signature technique of constructing entire movements out of tiny musical building blocks is on display in the opening Allegro moderato, in which a five note idea infuses almost every bar with its serene melodic affect. The Andante con moto juxtaposes the massed weight of the orchestral strings against a whispered yet noble vocal line in the piano. The movement's character resembles an argument rather than a conversation, although amity is attained in the end. The third movement Rondo is a tuneful and joyous release from all the preceding sombre introspection. Meditation blooms into dance, and all is well with the world.

Balcones Community Orchestra Players



Violin I

Mary Brown,
Concertmaster
Walter Romanko
Melissa Ruof
Catherine van Zanten
Kristen Roberts
Gerald Gaul

Violin II

Andrea Gore
Nancy Hoagland
Kay Mueller
Laurie Peckins
Susan Versluys
Olive Forbes

Viola

Mike Domjan
Jen Moon
Deb Weltzer

Cello

Karen Foster Cason
John Cox
Mary Beth Widhalm
Johannes Brinkmann
Steve DuPrez

Bass

Ann Smith

Flute

Sally Grant
Byron Gifford

Oboe

Herson de la Garza
Steve Peckham

Clarinet

Susan Horridge
Richard Davis

Bassoon

Lori Willoughby
Chuck Hazelwood

Horn

Noah Ruhl
Joanne Delk

Trumpet

Eric Bittner
Jose Yznaga

Tympani

Tony Gilliam

Dr. Robert Radmer

Music Director/Conductor



Robert Alan Radmer is the founder and Music Director of the Balcones Community Orchestra, now in its twenty-fifth season. He has worked with youth orchestras and adult ensembles in six states, and for ten years was on the faculty of St. Edward's University conducting the orchestra and teaching strings. In addition he serves on the faculty of the Austin Chamber Music Center. He is the Music Director and Conductor for the Central Texas Medical Orchestra working closely with Executive Director Walter Laich to raise funds for Austin area medical non-profit groups.

Radmer has appeared as a violist with chamber ensembles and orchestras in over two thousand performances since 1981 in 21 states and ten countries. He was awarded the Doctorate in Viola Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1993, and has served on the music faculties of Texas State University, the College of Saint Scholastica, Eastern New Mexico University, and Southwest Texas State University. Radmer was honored by being named Teacher of the Year in 1996 by the American String Teachers Association (New Mexico Chapter).

Robert teaches violin, viola and guitar in his private studio, and in his spare time he is a composer of concert music and is also an active member of the popular music scene in Austin. He performs and records as a guitarist, singer, songwriter and improvising violist with Jack Jensen in their band, Reel Sheboygan, and in 2022 he accompanied the Eagles with 37 of Austin's finest in concert at the Moody Center. He has started a new group at Austin Community College and is excited about making music with the Northridge String Orchestra.

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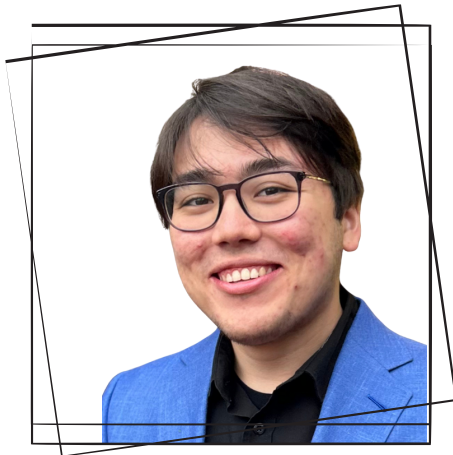
Thank you!

The BCO thanks St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and staff for the opportunity to perform in their lovely facility

Promotion: Libby Bryer
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THOMAS GOUGEON VIOLIN

Sunday, March 17th 4:00 pm
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Dear Friend of the BCO -

Your donations are greatly appreciated and help us continue, as we have for the past 25 years, to provide Austin and surrounding communities with eight free live classical music performances annually.

We have not always had the City of Austin's support, but when they did begin supporting small non-profit organizations like us it was very helpful. Then it stopped! There has been a three-year suspension of City of Austin funding for the arts according to the Austin Creative Alliance which advocates for the arts. Our dynamic city has grown, and our artistic and cultural vitality depends on the City Manager, Mayor and Council Members. Much work lies ahead to ensure advocating for the artists, cultural workers and community driven organizations like us. Until then, your donations mean more to us than ever.

Thank you, Robert Radmer



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So, this is your first live classical music concert?

Prepare to be delighted! Give yourself up to the music as these wonderful performers and their lively Conductor intend to soothe your soul and fire your imagination.

Take time to read the program notes, as they give insight into the composer's intentions and how those aims are to be accomplished in the music.

What is a community orchestra?

Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion. The all-volunteer group draws its repertoire from the masterworks for small orchestra, and presents live concerts in venues that approximate the conditions under which these works were first performed and heard. Thus, you may find our concerts casual, as this orchestra plays for everyone.

Conductor, Dr. Robert Radmer's philosophy is "Let them play, so that the world can hear!"

When should I clap?

Unlike pop concerts where we clap, yell, whoop and whistle at any given time, classical concerts are about being silent so that each detail is heard. Celebrating the orchestra comes at the beginning when the Conductor approaches the stage and again at the end of the pieces when all the sections (movements) are completed. There is usually a pause between movements and the Conductor will remain facing the orchestra as they prepare for the next wonderful round.

When it's over, the Conductor will face the audience with a smile. The music is designed to deeply move you. Feel free to express your joy!

Are children welcome?

More than ever our young minds are welcome to experience cherished music hundreds of years old. Every child should have the opportunity to hear and learn to play an instrument. Studies have shown that children who participated in music learning generally performed better in other studies.

So, yes, bring on the kiddos. Please keep in mind that your child should be ready to listen quietly for the magical hour-long concert.

Let Go, Relax and Enjoy!