

# Minnesota Orchestra

Osmo Vänskä, conductor

Sam Bergman, host

Saturday, January 15, 2022, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Sunday, January 16, 2022, 2 pm | Orchestra Hall

These performances explore Jean Sibelius' Fifth Symphony and the story behind its significantly different original and final versions. In the concert's first half, spanning slightly less than an hour, host Sam Bergman will detail the work's unusual history and share what makes it such a remarkable composition, and the Orchestra will perform portions of each version.

## I N T E R M I S S I O N

ca. 20'

### Jean Sibelius

Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major, Opus 82 (final version)

Tempo molto moderato - Allegro moderato - Presto

Andante mosso, quasi allegretto

Allegro molto - Misterioso

ca. 31'





**Osmo Vänskä**, conductor

Profile appears on page 8.



**Sam Bergman**, host

Violist Sam Bergman joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2000. Born in Boston, he grew up primarily in small-town Pennsylvania, studying violin and viola with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Philadelphia Orchestra. Since 2005, he has produced, written and hosted more than 40 original narrated shows for the Minnesota Orchestra, many of those with conductor Sarah Hicks for the orchestra's Inside the Classics series. Recent programs have included a celebration of LGBTQ composers; a deep dive into the way the human brain interacts with music; and *The Prodigious Life of Clara S*, a two-act play created in collaboration with The Moving Company, tracing the life and career of pianist and composer Clara Schumann. In July 2022 The Moving Company, Bergman and the Orchestra will again collaborate with a new musical play, *Beethoven: The Artist's Influence*. In 2018, Bergman teamed with soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw to create a new performance series called Outpost, which blends chamber music by living composers with spoken word performances by Minnesota actors, poets, comics, journalists and storytellers. More: [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org).



## Jean Sibelius

**Born:** December 8, 1865,  
Tavastehus, Finland

**Died:** September 20, 1957,  
Järvenpää, Finland

### **Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major**

**Premiered:** December 8, 1915  
(original version); November 24,  
1919 (final version)

World War I threatened the global consciousness in a way that it had never been assaulted before; for the first time it dawned on the human imagination that it might be possible to destroy civilization. That war, however, left Scandinavia untouched, and the residents of those countries watched warily as the horror unfolded to the south. In 1915, the first full year of the war, Jean Sibelius drafted his Fifth Symphony. He did not connect it directly to the war, but it is hard not to feel that it registers some response to that traumatic time. Sibelius wanted his symphony understood only as music: for the London premiere in 1921, he specified that “The composer desires the work to be regarded as absolute music, having no direct poetic basis.” But while the symphony may not consciously be about the war, it makes statements of strength and hope from out of that turbulent time.

Sibelius' Fifth Symphony went through three different versions spread out over five years. The composer had made a successful tour of America in 1914, and he returned home to find Europe at war. A notebook entry from September 1914 brings his first mention of the new symphony, as well as an indication of how depressed he was: “In a deep valley again. But I already begin to see dimly the mountain that I shall certainly ascend...God opens his door for a moment and His orchestra plays the Fifth Symphony.” He drafted the symphony in 1915 and led the premiere on December 8 of that year. But Sibelius was dissatisfied, and across 1916 he revised the symphony, combining its first two movements and so reducing the number of movements from four to three. But when this version was performed in December 1916, he was still unhappy, and he came back to the symphony three years later and revised it a third time. This final version premiered in Helsinki on November 24, 1919, a year after the war's end.

**Instrumentation (final version):** 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani and strings

Program note by **Eric Bromberger**.