

Joyful Echoes

with the Minnesota Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, conductor

Holiday Concerts

Thursday, December 16, 2021, 11 am	Orchestra Hall
Friday, December 17, 2021, 8 pm	Orchestra Hall
Saturday, December 18, 2021, 8 pm	Orchestra Hall
Sunday, December 19, 2021, 2 pm	Orchestra Hall

*Joyful Echoes is dedicated to the memory of our friend,
colleague and extraordinary musician **Peter Ostroushko**.*

Act I: Through a Child's Eyes

ca. 45'

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

ca. 20'

Act II: I Put Away Childish Things

ca. 45'

ensemble

Christina Baldwin*

Robert O. Berdahl*

PaviElle French

Kevin Kling*

Thomasina Petrus*

T. Mychael Rambo*

Peter Rothstein, stage director and concept**

PaviElle French, writer and composer ("The Gift")

Kevin Kling, writer

Robert Elhai, composer and arranger

Peter Ostroushko, composer ("Heart of the Heartland")

Eric McEnaney, musical preparation

Alice Fredrickson, costume designer

Amber Brown, assistant costume designer

Kelli Foster Warder, assistant director/choreographer

Jim Lichtscheidl, movement director

Priscilla Bruce, hair and makeup designer

Z Makila, production stage manager

Additional arrangements by Daniel Lawonn and Andy Thompson.

* Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

**Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union





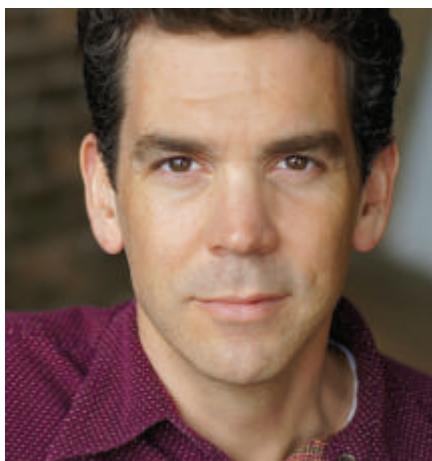
Sarah Hicks, conductor

Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra's principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. Her notable projects here have included co-creating the Inside the Classics and Sam & Sarah series with Orchestra violist Sam Bergman; conducting a live-in-concert recording with singer-rapper Dessa that was released on Doomtree Records; and leading many original Orchestra programs and Movies & Music concerts. Throughout the redesigned 2020-21 season, she also served as on-camera host of the Twin Cities PBS broadcast and online livestream, *This Is Minnesota Orchestra*, a role she continues throughout the 2021-22 season. She has conducted orchestras around the world, working often with singer-songwriter-pianist Ben Folds, and touring with Sting in 2011. A specialist in film music and the film-in-concert genre, she premiered Pixar in Concert and Disney-Pixar's *Coco* in Concert; her live concert recording of *A Celebration of the Music of Coco at the Hollywood Bowl* can be seen on Disney+ and her work on *The Little Mermaid Live* was broadcast on ABC in 2019. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.



Christina Baldwin, ensemble

Christina Baldwin is a singer, actor, writer and director who has engaged audiences in film, on stage and in the concert setting and serves as artistic director of the Jungle Theater. She is an advocate of new work and serves as artistic associate, music director and performer with The Moving Company. A collaborator with Theatre de la Jeune Lune for nearly 10 years, she co-adapted and performed the title role in their critically-acclaimed touring production of *Carmen* and was a part of their 2005 Tony Award-winning season. She has been a frequent soloist and recording artist with the Minnesota Orchestra and a writer-actor on the nationally broadcast public radio show *Wits*. More: christina-baldwin.com.



Robert O. Berdahl, ensemble

Robert O. Berdahl has been featured in productions at the Guthrie Theater from 1999 to the present, including *The Royal*

Family, *The Music Man*, *A Christmas Carol*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The 39 Steps*, *Macbeth*, *1776*, *She Loves Me*, *Pygmalion*, *Twelfth Night*, *The School for Scandal* and *Warm Beer Cold Women*. He also recently played Billy Flynn in *Chicago* at Theatre Latté Da, Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!* at the Ordway, and Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. Additionally, he has appeared in lead roles at other theaters locally and across the country. More: robertoberdahl.com.



PaviElle French, ensemble, writer and composer

PaviElle French began performing at age five. Her distinctive musical voice is described as a dynamic, soulful tonality with a fearless jazz based improvisational scat technique, a powerful range from tenor to soprano with rhythmic hip-hop-style delivery. She has won awards such as the Sage and an Emmy for choreography/dance and a documentary on her life and career. As an artist focused on Black/POCI/LGBTQIA communities, she speaks truth to power in her original work. She mentors young artists in the Twin Cities as she had mentors growing up, and feels it is her duty as an artist with a platform to be a voice. In 2015 she was named Best R&B Vocalist by Minneapolis *City Pages*. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.



Kevin Kling, ensemble and writer

Kevin Kling's stories and plays have been performed around the world. In addition to this week's program, *Joyful Echoes*, he has been part of the last four years of holiday programs with the Minnesota Orchestra. His collaborations with composer Victor Zupanc include *For the Birds* performed by Zeitgeist and both *The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool* and *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* performed by the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the St. Olaf Orchestra. His other collaborators include Steve Kramer, Chastity Brown, Mason Jennings, Dan Chouinard, Prudence Johnson, Bradley Greenwald, Dane Stauffer, Claudia Schmidt, Simone Perrin, Marc Anderson, Jaqueline Ultan, Michelle Kinney and James Hersch. Kling was named the Minneapolis Story Laureate by then-Mayor R.T. Rybak in 2014. More: kevincling.com.



Thomasina Petrus, ensemble

Thomasina Petrus is a 30-year equity actor and premier jazz vocalist in the Twin Cities. She is a founding member of New Dawn Theatre, a company member of Penumbra Theatre and Brownbody.org, and has collaborated with the Twin Cities' most beloved artists, mentors and friends including James "Cornbread" Harris, Sr., Javetta Steele, T. Mychael Rambo, Stokley, Walter Chancellor, Austene Van and Prince. She is a Playwright Center McKnight Theatre Arts Fellow, African American Registry Artist, Ivey Award winner, Minnesota Theatre Awards winner, and *Star Tribune* honoree. As creator of Thomasina's *Cashew Brittle*, she has been featured at the Minnesota State Fair, local retailers and online. More: thomasinascashewbrittle.com.



T. Mychael Rambo, ensemble

Regional Emmy Award-winning actor, vocalist, arts educator and community organizer T. Mychael Rambo has made an indelible mark here in the Twin

Cities performing principal roles at such theaters as Penumbra Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, Ordway Theatre, Illusion Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, New Dawn Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Ten Thousand Things Theater, Theater Latté Da, Children's Theatre Company and Minnesota Opera. He has also performed in stage productions at Carnegie Hall and abroad in Africa, Europe and South America. He has appeared in local and national television commercials, feature films, HBO mini-series and other television programming. He is an accomplished residency artist and an affiliate professor in the College of Liberal Arts, Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota.



Robert Elhai, composer

Dr. Robert Elhai most recently composed the filmed mini-opera *In The Midst Of Things* (In Media Res) for An Opera Theatre in Minneapolis. His other recent composing work includes incidental music for the Jungle Theater's *Little Women* and the scores for the History Theater's production of *Dirty Business*, Fortune's Fool Theatre's *The Lady With A Lapdog*, Nautilus Music-Theater's *Twisted Apples: Stories from Winesburg, Ohio*, and Theater Latté Da's *C. (based on Cyrano de Bergerac)*. He is the recipient of an Ivor Novello Award as well as Tony and Drama Desk nominations for his orchestrations in the Broadway production of *The Lion King*, for which he also supplied dance and incidental music arrangements. More: robertelhai.com.



Peter Ostroushko, composer

Mandolinist, composer, arranger and teacher Peter Ostroushko—who sadly passed away this past February—grew up listening to tunes played at family get-togethers in the Ukrainian community of northeast Minneapolis; this music provided the basis for many of his compositions. His works have been performed by the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, among many other ensembles, and his music has been featured on public television specials such as Ken Burns' film *The National Parks* and *Minnesota: A History of the Land*, for which Ostroushko won an Emmy. His recordings include *The Mandolin Chronicles*, a three-CD box set released on Red House Records. More: peterostroushko.com.



Peter Rothstein, stage director

Peter Rothstein works extensively as a director of theater, musical theater, opera and new work development. He is the founding artistic director of Theater

Latté Da, and since the company's inception in 1992, he has directed 73 main-stage productions, including 11 world premieres and 12 area premieres. He has been named one of Minnesota's Artists of the Year by the *Star Tribune*, Theater Artist of the Year by *Lavender Magazine*, Best Director of the Year by *City Pages* and Artist of the Year by *City Pages*. He has received nine Ivey Awards for Overall Excellence, and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. More: peter-rothstein.com.

Kelli Foster Warder, assistant director/choreographer

Kelli Foster Warder, who is the associate artistic director and director of impact at Theater Latté Da, worked with the Minnesota Orchestra on its Home for the Holidays theatrical concerts in 2018 and 2019. Her choreography credits include productions of *Annie* with the Children's Theatre Company; *Bernada Alba*, *Chicago*, *Once* and *Ragtime* with Theater Latté Da; *Ordway Cabaret* at the Ordway; *Annie* and *Ragtime* with the 5th Avenue Theater; *Ragtime* with Asolo Repertory Theatre; and *Immortal Longings* with ZACH Theatre. More: kellifosterwarder.com.

Alice Fredrickson, costume designer

Alice Fredrickson is a costume designer for opera, theater and film. Based in Minneapolis and originally from Oklahoma City, she has recently worked on the world premiere feature film *The Copper Queen* with Arizona Opera, and her opera credits including *Il Postino* with Virginia Opera/Opera Southwest, *Così fan tutte* with Mill City Opera and *Diana's Garden* with Minnesota Opera. Her theater credits include *Sweeney Todd* with Asolo Repertory Theater;

Bad News I Was There... at the Guthrie Theater; *Bernarda Alba*, *Chicago*, *Hedwig and the Angry Itch*, *Assassins*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Gypsy*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Oliver!* with Theater Latté Da, and *Hamlet* with Park Square Theater, among many others. More: alicelouisedesign.com.

Eric McEnaney, music preparation

Eric McEnaney enjoys a multifaceted career as one of America's foremost opera pianists and vocal coaches, having assisted on the musical preparation of more than 100 productions for companies throughout the country. He is currently a master coach for Minnesota Opera and has worked as a guest coach for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Central City Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Southwest, Skylark Opera and Lyric Opera of the North, among other companies. Additionally, he served as principal production pianist and coach at Florentine Opera Company for four seasons, where he oversaw the musical preparation of a dozen shows and two world-premiere recordings, *Sister Carrie* and the Grammy-nominated *Prince of Players*. More: ericmcenaney.com.