

Minnesota Orchestra

David Afkham, conductor

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 7 pm | Orchestra Hall

Richard Strauss	<i>Don Juan</i> , Opus 20	ca. 18'
Anton Webern	<i>Passacaglia</i> , Opus 1	ca. 11'
Robert Schumann	Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Opus 120 Ziemlich langsam – Lebhaft Romanze: Ziemlich langsam Scherzo: Lebhaft Langsam – Lebhaft	ca. 29'



David Afkham, conductor

David Afkham, who debuted with the Minnesota Orchestra in October 2021, became chief conductor and artistic director of the Orquesta y Coro Nacional de España in 2019. This position builds on the success of his tenure as the orchestra's principal conductor since 2014. Afkham is in high demand as a guest conductor with some of the world's finest orchestras and opera houses and has established a reputation as one of the most sought-after conductors to emerge from Germany in recent years. His recent and upcoming highlights as guest conductor include returns with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Münchner Philharmoniker, HR Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, Swedish Radio Symphony, Orchestra of Accademia Santa Cecilia and NHK Symphony Orchestra, as well as debuts with the Pittsburgh Symphony and Dresden Philharmonic. He was the winner of the 2008 Donatella Flick Conducting Competition in London and was the inaugural recipient of the Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award in 2010. From 2009 to 2012 he was assistant conductor of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester. More: davidafkham.com.

one-minute notes

Strauss: *Don Juan*

Richard Strauss' symphonic poem tells of a man's romantic exploits, disillusionment with life and ultimate death in a swordfight; notable are the work's mighty horn calls, sweeping violin music and gorgeous cantilena for solo oboe.

Webern: *Passacaglia*

Anton Webern's *Passacaglia* blends lush Romantic orchestration with the expanded harmonic language of the 20th century. Pizzicato strings announce the theme in the opening measures, and 23 imaginative variations follow.

Schumann: *Symphony No. 4*

The four movements of Robert Schumann's Fourth Symphony are played without pause, with nearly the entire symphony growing out of one theme-shape from the opening measures. Of special note are a delicate *Romance* movement and an energetic finale in which the pace quickens again and again.