

## Springfield Symphony Orchestra

### #OpeningNight

September 16, 2023

Learn more about the music behind SSO's first show of the year!

### Paul Dukas

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1897)

This piece, which is most known for its appearance in Disney's *Fantasia* (1940) film, tells the story of an apprentice who tries to replicate his master's spells leading to the animation of a broom into a living being. The piece develops four main themes throughout: one for the broom, one for the apprentice, one for the water, and one for the sorcerer.

#### Broom's Theme (partial)



The broom theme dominates the piece, often heard in the bassoon.

See if you can pick out each character's theme as you listen!

### Guillaume Connesson

The Beautiful Hours (2022)

Connesson's *L'heure bleue* is a three-movement concerto for oboe.

The word "concerto" comes from Italian, in which it means to harmonize, and was derived from Latin, in which it suggests a competition or contest.

Concertos require the featured musician to perform in harmony and contest with the entire orchestra to be heard above them.

The oboe is an excellent instrument since its unique timbre and color allow it to pierce through the texture of the orchestra.

The oboe has also often been considered the instrument most similar in timbre to the human voice, alongside the clarinet and strings.

### Mussorgsky & Ravel

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874/1922)

Modest Mussorgsky, being moved by the death of his friend Victor Hartmann, a Russian artist, completed this 1874 piano suite, depicting Hartmann's art exhibit.

The piece replicates Mussorgsky's experience meandering through the gallery. A promenade, composed from a Russian lullaby, drives the piece from movement to movement as if Mussorgsky was humming as he strolls through the exhibit.

Maurice Ravel transformed the piano suite into a piece for full orchestra in 1922 and brought the work into modern musical canon.

SSO will provide a fully immersive experience, performing alongside copies of the surviving artwork that inspired this masterwork!



Guide compiled by: Garrett Nichting