



CIVIC SYMPHONY of GREEN BAY

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CIVIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS 'A FRENCH MUSICAL PLAYGROUND'

Green Bay, Wis. - The Civic Symphony of Green Bay continues its 25th season and will be stopping at "A French Musical Playground" for its second concert of the season at the Meyer Theatre on Friday, November 15, at 7 p.m. The concert will feature works by all French composers: Francis Poulenc's "The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant," Georges Bizet's "Jeux d'enfants" (Children's Games), and Claude Debussy's "Clair de lune." The concert will also feature two pieces composed by Jacques Offenbach: "The Doll Song" from the opera *Tales of Hoffmann* and the overture from the opera *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

Poulenc's "The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant" is based off the classic French children's book written and illustrated by Jean de Brunhoff. This piece is arranged for orchestra and a narrator. The narrator tells how Babar the elephant grows up with both elephants and humans in his life. Poulenc's musical score accompanies the narrator as Babar's story is told.

In Bizet's "Jeux d'enfants" (Children's Games), each movement represents a traditional aspect of childhood—and the movements are named accordingly. One movement is called "La Toupie" (Spinning Top) and the first few measures start with fast alternating notes which will put anyone on edge. It is just like a person is waiting to see if a spinning top will keep spinning or fall. The other movements are called "Trompette et Tambour" (Trumpet and Drum), "La Poupée" (The Doll), "Le Bal" (Prom), and "Petit Mari, Petite Femme" (Little Husband, Little Woman).

Debussy's famous "Clair de lune" (Moonlight), arranged for orchestra, will also be performed. Debussy was inspired by a poem written by Paul Verlaine in 1869 titled "Clair de lune." Although Debussy took the name of Verlaine's poem, this beautiful piece is named appropriately as it attempts to depict the "calm moonlight sad and beautiful"—just as Verlaine's poem states.

"The Doll Song" from Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* will feature soprano Maria Hinnendael. Hinnendael is a 2018 graduate of St. Norbert College and holds degrees in vocal performance and communication. She is the co-founder of The Princess Company, where she plays the roles of a few Disney princesses, and she was also recently appointed as the choir director at St. Agnes Parish. Hinnendael cantors regularly at St. Norbert Abbey and enjoys teaching voice lessons at Studio 12.

The overture from Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* includes the "Can Can." The "Can Can" is a fun and familiar melody many people can relate to and is well-known today as a happy childhood melody that people of all ages can enjoy.

The Civic Symphony of Green Bay is made up of volunteer musicians who come from many backgrounds. They are doctors, engineers, teachers, professional musicians, and more. The concert will be sponsored by Schneider National.

For more information about the concert, please visit <https://gbcivic.org/events/>.

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