

# CAPE SYMPHONY

## **“The Romantics” Show Notes**

The Cape Symphony presents [The Romantics](#) on Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 PM at the [Barnstable Performing Arts Center](#).

### **Cape Symphony**

[Jung-Ho Pak](#), Conductor

[Cape Symphony Musicians](#)

[Board and Staff](#)

### **Guest Artists**

[Ying Li](#), Piano

Cape Symphony Horn Section

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#### **KONZERTSTÜCK (CONCERT PIECE) FOR FOUR HORNS AND ORCHESTRA**

Robert Schumann

1. Lively
2. Sentimental and expressive
3. Very lively

#### **ACADEMIC FESTIVAL OVERTURE**

Johannes Brahms

*Intermission*

#### **PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1**

Franz Liszt

1. Fast and majestic
2. Somewhat slow
3. Moderately fast and lively – Fast and animated
4. Fast in an animated march style

## **PRELUDE TO DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG (THE MASTER SINGER FROM NUREMBERG)**

Richard Wagner

### **About Today's Program**

During the Romantic period in music, composers became superstars. Brahms, Franz Liszt, Wagner, and Robert Schumann revolutionized the art of live performance, seducing audiences with their unbridled talent and charisma. These four giants of the Romantic period were more daring and emotional in their work than anyone before them. We're excited to bring you the work of these rock star composers!

Composer Robert Schumann was inspired by the legacy of Beethoven. His *Konzertstück (Concert Piece) for Four Horns and Orchestra* is rarely performed because it requires four excellent French horns. Our French horn players, Clark Matthews, Principal, Emily Buehler, Dave Rufino, and Neil Godwin, will take center stage to play the heroic hunting motifs of this exciting piece.

Johannes Brahms wrote pure music with elegant style. When he was informed that he would receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Breslau, he wrote the *Academic Festival Overture* for the commencement ceremony. Apparently, he originally planned to write a simple thank-you note, but the conductor who had nominated him for the honor told him he was expected to write a piece of music! In this tuneful, optimistic overture, Brahms used university student songs – what today we would call a mashup – to create a humorous yet complex and colorful work.

The fiery Franz Liszt was the Lady Gaga of his time, curating his look and personality for his audience, and taking advantage of the new technology - photographs. He lived extravagantly and wrote music that was unplayable by most people other than himself. Liszt truly embodied the rock star image of the Romantic era.

Richard Wagner was a larger than life persona, known for his celebrity and controversy, and his powerful vision for opera changed the form. *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (The Master-Singers of Nuremberg)* is one of his masterpieces, and the comic opera's uplifting tone made it immediately popular. The story takes place in the German city of Nuremberg in the 1500s, and focuses on the city's guild of master singers. Wagner was inspired by a book about the history of German poetry, which included details of the master singers and in particular, Hans Sach, the most famous master singer. This is Wagner's only opera that is based in history and not in myth or legend. The *Prelude* contains the key motifs of the opera.

During the concert, Jung-Ho Pak will recognize the nearly 40-year service of Stuart Gunn, Principal Tuba, who is retiring from the orchestra. Stu joined the Cape Symphony in 1985 as a substitute player under Royston Nash and eventually saw the tuba position elevated to a principal player.

**Enjoy “The Romantics”**

Join the Cape Symphony for [The Romantics](#) on Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 PM at the [Barnstable Performing Arts Center](#), 744 West Main Street, Hyannis MA 02601.

To purchase tickets for [The Romantics](#), visit [capesymphony.org](http://capesymphony.org), call the Box Office at 508-362-1111, email [tickets@capesymphony.org](mailto:tickets@capesymphony.org), or visit 2235 Iyannough Road in West Barnstable, MA.

*With thanks to Wikipedia.*