



DREAMS & LEGENDS | PROGRAM NOTES

October 23, 2013

We're particularly pleased to be collaborating with the Boston University Trumpet Ensemble, taught and led by Terry Everson. They made it possible for us to program Janáček's Sinfonietta, which calls for nine trumpets, two bass trumpets, and two tenor tubas in addition to the more-or-less standard orchestral brass section. We've also taken advantage of the presence of Terry Everson's students to have them start each half of our concert with a fanfare written for twelve trumpets by Terry Everson himself. I daresay that few of us, have ever heard a twelve-trumpet fanfare. You'll find, however, that with the three orchestral trumpets plus the extra nine there are also twelve trumpets in the Janáček

This program gives us glimpses of musical developments over the past 87 years. The dates of composition for the works on the program are 1926 for Janáček, 1939 for Carter, 1993 for the Harbison and 2008 for the Schimmel. Terry Everson's Fanfares are also of very recent vintage.

We've programmed the Pocahontas ballet suite as a tribute to Elliott Carter after his passing last year at the age of 103. In 1939 Elliott's musical style was more like the typical mid-twentieth-century Americana, but this very fine work is nevertheless indicative of his future growth and evolution into one of our greatest composers. Even at this early point in his musical life, his music was intricately and meticulously worked out.

John Harbison's Cello Concerto was commissioned by the Boston Symphony for Yo-Yo Ma. Our performance, with the outstanding Jan Müller-Szeraws, will be the concerto's first performance in Boston in twenty years. The work is in three continuous movements, each in a markedly different style. One of the unusual aspects of the first movement is the frequent doubling of the soloist's line by individual instruments in the orchestra.

Carl Schimmel's Call for Scores—winning work has a highly unusual title and theme. Most of us know what a woolgatherer is; but we may be less familiar with "chapbook," an archaic term for a small book or pamphlet of popular stories or songs sold by chapmen (hawkers or peddlers)—now used to describe a short collection of poetry. The structure of this eight-minute piece is as unusual as the six poetic forms on which the six movements are based. Janáček's Sinfonietta is one of the masterpieces of the twentieth century. The extra brass instruments produce strikingly unusual and original effects. Janáček's unique musical language, based on Czech speech patterns and rhythms, creates works that are inspired, expressive, and moving.