The first half of tonight’s program focuses in part on music from the former Soviet Union. Alexander Tsfasman was a Soviet jazz pianist, composer, conductor, and arranger who was a major figure in Russian musical life from the 1920s to the 60s. His Jazz Suite for Piano and Orchestra from 1945 is rarely heard outside of Russia and we are delighted to introduce the work by returning guest soloist Ilya Yakushev. During WWI, while living in Switzerland, Stravinsky wrote his Ragtime for eleven instruments that includes the cimbalom. Both Stravinsky’s Jazz Suite No.2 and Tcherepnin’s Bagatelles are orchestrations of earlier piano works. We conclude with the most famous of Mozart’s symphonies, his Symphony No. 40 in G minor, one of only two in the minor key. Thank you for supporting the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra’s Masterworks series, we are delighted you are here.

Andrew Sewell
Music Director
ANDREW SEWELL, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Maestro Andrew Sewell enters his nineteenth season as music director of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and second season with the San Luis Obispo Symphony having had long tenures with the Wichita, Toledo and Mansfield, Ohio Symphonies. Known for his innovative programming and knack for discovering new talent, Sewell is a highly skilled orchestra builder with a wide knowledge and range of repertoire. In demand as a guest conductor, he has led the Toronto, Detroit, Milwaukee, Columbus, Syracuse, Illinois, Monterey, Gulf Coast and Eugene Symphony Orchestras, as well as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Christchurch Symphony, National Symphony of Mexico, Kyushu Symphony (Japan), City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, OK Mozart Festival, WI Peninsula Music Festival and Masterworks Festivals in the US and London.

A native of New Zealand, Maestro Sewell received his music training on the violin, piano and cornet, and began conducting at age 16. Six years later, he made his professional opera debut with the Mercury Opera and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. Winning the Australian Guarantee Corporation’s Young Achiever’s Award allowed him to further his studies abroad. Sewell holds a Master of Music degree with Honors in Conducting from the University of Michigan.

The summer Concerts on the Square® in Madison continue to expand, drawing weekly crowds of 45,000 people and are a highlight of the summer. While not conducting, he enjoys cycling and other outdoor pursuits and visiting family in New Zealand. He and his wife, Mary have three grown children and reside in Madison, Wisconsin. Over the years he has been credited with numerous awards for services to music including the 2017, Service to Music Award from the Association of Wisconsin Symphony Orchestras, the 2013 Rabin Arts Youth Award for Individual Achievement by the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra, the 2005 Best Individual Artist Award by Wichita Arts Council, and 2005 Musician of the Year by the Wisconsin State Journal, for services to music and the greater arts community. You will often see him at a local coffee shop, grocery store or cycling along the backroads of Wisconsin or San Luis Obispo.
Maestro Andrew Sewell conducting
Ilya Yakushev, piano

**IGOR STRAVINSKY**
(1882-1971)

**Suite No. 2 for small orchestra (1921)**
[7]

**ALEXANDER TCHEREPNIN**
(1899-1977)

**Bagatelles for piano and orchestra (1918)**
[14]

- Allegro marciale
- Con vivacita — Molto meno mosso, lento
- Vivo
- Lento con tristezza
- Dolce
- Allegro con spirito
- Prestissimo
- Allegro marciale
- Allegretto
- Presto
- Coda

Ilya Yakushev, piano

**STRAVINSKY**

**Ragtime (1918)**
[4]

**ALEXANDER TSFASMAN**
(1906-1971)

**Jazz Suite for piano and orchestra (1945)**
[18]

- Snowflakes
- Lyrical waltz
- Polka
- Fast movement

Ilya Yakushev, piano

**INTERMISSION**

**W. A. MOZART**
(1756-1791)

**Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550 (1788)**
[35]

- Molto allegro
- Andante
- Menuetto: Allegretto
- Allegro assai

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Between November 1914 and April 1917, Igor Stravinsky wrote a set of easy piano duets, partly for his children and partly as sketches for his own use. Between 1917 and 1925 he fashioned six of them into two sets of pieces for small orchestra. He finished his Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra first, in 1921, for a performance in a Paris music hall. In it we find portraits of three Stravinsky contemporaries. Ballet impresario Serge Diaghilev is represented by a circus polka, composer Alfredo Casella appears in march form, and composer Eric Satie rounds out the set as a waltz.

The earliest known bagatelle is by the French Baroque master Francois Couperin, who included one in a suite of harpsichord pieces published in 1717. The term “bagatelle” has kept its meaning over the years, and many composers, including Beethoven, Dvorak, and Bartok have written these short, light pieces. In 1958, the year he became an American citizen, Russian-born composer Alexander Tcherepnin wrote his Ten Bagatelles, Op. 5, for piano. Two years later, he arranged them for Piano and Orchestra.

In 1917, just as the genre was being eclipsed by jazz, Stravinsky wrote his Ragtime for 11 instruments. Taking an analytical approach, he strung various ragtime devices together with fragmentary cadences. Adding an element of exoticism to the instrumentation, he included a cimbalom, an instrument associated with gypsy music.

Like his fellow Soviet composers, Dmitri Shostakovich and Joseph Schillinger, Alexander Tsfasman was attracted to the jazz that spilled over from America in the 1920s. For Shostakovich the interest was fleeting, and Schillinger didn’t write real jazz until he settled in the United States. Tsfasman was a leading Soviet jazz pianist, composer, conductor, arranger, and publisher from the 1920s until the late 1960s. His Jazz Suite for Piano and Orchestra, subtitled “Snowflakes,” is a cheerful romp that blends classical romanticism with jaunty ’20s Charleston rhythms.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote his first symphony at the age of nine and within 15 years he had written another 30 or so, largely because his Salzburg employer expected them. In 1781, when he became self-employed, Mozart stopped writing symphonies, and seven years passed before he returned to the genre and wrote his last three. Exactly why he composed them is unknown, but they are some of the greatest symphonies ever written. The second of the three, his Symphony No. 40 in G minor, is one of only two that Mozart wrote in a minor key. The first movement sets a tone of turbulence and tragedy. The second movement is lyrical, and the third movement, a syncopated minuet, is said to be so angry that dancing to it would be impossible. The fiery finale opens with a flashy upward phrase known as a Mannheim Rocket, which leads to a modulating passage that includes every note in the chromatic scale except for G-flat, throwing the home key into question.

Both Beethoven and Schubert copied down passages from the symphony, which may have influenced the fifth symphony of each composer. It’s possible that Haydn quotes it in his 1801 oratorio The Creation as a memorial to the deceased younger composer he so admired.
**VIOLIN I**  
Suzanne Beia, *Concertmaster*  
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Russian pianist Ilya Yakushev, with many awards and honors to his credit, continues to astound and mesmerize audiences at major venues on three continents.

In the 2016-17 season, Ilya Yakushev appeared as piano soloist with the symphony orchestras of New Haven (CT), El Paso (TX), Dubuque (IA), La Crosse (WI), Lake Forest (IL); and Glacier Symphony (MT), in addition to recitals in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Washington.

Highlights of Yakushev’s 2017-18 season include return appearances with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Edmonton Symphony, Las Cruces Symphony, and Reading Symphony, as well as performances with Decatur Symphony and Johnstown Symphony. He will also play recitals in Texas, Louisiana, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.

In February 2014, British label Nimbus Records published “Prokofiev Sonatas Vol. 1” CD. American Record Guide wrote “Yakushev is one of the very best young pianists before the public today, and it doesn’t seem to matter what repertoire he plays – it is all of the highest caliber.” Volume 2 was published in January 2017, as well as an all-Russian repertoire CD in September 2017.

In past seasons, he has performed in various prestigious venues worldwide, including Glinka Philharmonic Hall (St. Petersburg), Victoria Hall (Singapore), Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall (New York), Davies Symphony Hall (San Francisco), and Sejong Performing Arts Center (Seoul, Korea). His performances with orchestra include those with the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, Boston Pops, Rochester Philharmonic, Utah Symphony, and many others.

Winner of the 2005 World Piano Competition which took place in Cincinnati, OH, Mr. Yakushev received his first award at age 12 as a prizewinner of the Young Artists Concerto Competition in his native St. Petersburg. In 1997, he received the Mayor of St. Petersburg’s Young Talents award, and in both 1997 and 1998, he won First Prize at the Donostia Hiria International Piano Competition in San Sebastian, Spain. In 1998, he received a national honor, The Award for Excellence in Performance, presented to him by the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation in Moscow. Most recently, Mr. Yakushev became a recipient of the prestigious Gawon International Music Society’s Award in Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Yakushev attended the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music in his native St. Petersburg, Russia, and subsequently came to New York City to attend Mannes College of Music where he studied with legendary pianist Vladimir Feltsman. Ilya Yakushev is a Yamaha artist.
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WCO’s Family Community Series is a free, family-friendly program that offers a fun exploration of classical music for families with children of all ages. Our format is purposefully different from typical concert settings – our performance is interactive, engaging, and we encourage kids (and adults) to move freely during the performance.

Please join us for our next performance: Beethoven Lives Next Door! Experience live music, storytelling, and learning for the whole family as Beethoven and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra bring to life the famous theme of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony.

March 30, 2019 | 9:30am & 11:15am
Warner Park Community Recreation Center – Madison
Preconcert activities begin 30 minutes prior to each performance.

**Side By Side**

Since 2006, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra has partnered with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra to perform a free admission concert at the Overture Center for the Arts. The Side By Side program matches the emerging musicians from the Youth Symphony Orchestra (WYSO) with the professional musicians of the WCO. Together, the musicians prepare a full orchestral program, develop mentoring relationships, and provide a free of charge performance for the community. Please join us for our next performance!

May 21, 2019 | 7:30pm
Overture Center for the Arts
The winner of the 2019 Young Artist Concerto Competition is pianist Sakurako Eriksen, Wauwatosa, performing Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, mvt. 3 by Sergei Prokofiev. The runner-up was violinist Monona Suzuki of Fitchburg, who performed Maurice Ravel’s Tzigan.

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition gives gifted high school students from around the state the opportunity to showcase their talents with Music Director Andrew Sewell and the musicians of the WCO. The competition is open to students in grades 9-12 residing in the state of Wisconsin. We accept applications from piano, string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players.

As winner of the 2019 Young Artist Concerto Competition, Sakurako will perform as a soloist at the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra’s June 26, 2019 Concerts on the Square®, and receive the David Lewis Crosby Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

The runner-up, violinist Monona Suzuki will receive a scholarship in the amount of $500. For more information about next year’s competition, contact the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra office at 257-0638.
With deep gratitude, the WCO thanks **Cornerstone Society** members who make annual gifts of $1,000 or more to support WCO’s mission to advance Wisconsin communities through the transformative power of music. Join us in thanking them for their support.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Distillery Marketing & Design
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Ilya Yakushev
February 23, 2019
7:30 pm

Ya-Fei Chuang
April 6, 2019
7:30 pm

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MASTERWORKS

january 25
MIRIAM K SMITH
cello
Saint-Saëns · Cello Concerto No. 1
Beethoven · Symphony No. 8

february 22
ILYA YAKUSHEV
piano
Stravinsky · Ragtime
Mozart · Symphony No. 40

march 22
MICHAEL & JESSICA SHINN
piano
Schoenberg · Verklärte Nacht
Cabaniss · Double Rainbow

april 19
PIERS ADAMS
recorder
Holst · Brook Green Suite
Suk · Serenade

may 10
MARY MACKENZIE
soprano
TIMOTHY JONES
bass
Shostakovich · 14
Debussy · Petite Suite

all masterworks 7:30
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