

# STL SYMPHONY

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Friday Morning Classical Concerts

### Mozart and Brahms

Friday, February 8, 2019 10:30am

Stéphane Denève, conductor

David Halen, violin

Members of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus

Amy Kaiser, director

**MOZART** Eine kleine Nachtmusik

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** The Lark Ascending

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** Serenade to Music

**BRAHMS** Symphony No. 2

### ***Eine kleine Nachtmusik***

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

First performance: 1787

Run time: 20:00

[Listen on YouTube](#)

*What does the title mean?* — the German title translates to “little night music.” The work is also known as Mozart’s Serenade No. 13 in G major.

*Instrumentation* — The serenade was originally written for a string quintet of two violins, viola, and cello with optional bass. However is often performed by larger string orchestras. A serenade in the classical era is short collection of light pieces. You can think of a serenade as a mini symphony.

### **The Lark Ascending**

Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

First performance: 1920

Run time: 15:00

[Listen on YouTube](#)

*Inspired by the poem* — *The Lark Ascending* is a poem by George Meredith about the song of the skylark. The poem inspired Ralph Vaughan Williams to write a musical work of the same name. Vaughan Williams originally composed the work in 1914 for violin and piano, but later re-scored it for solo violin and orchestra, which is the version that is more often performed of the two.

### **Serenade to Music**

Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

First performance: 1938

Run time: 14:00

[Listen on YouTube](#)

*Instrumentation* — In the 20th century, serenades are freely explored adaptations to the original formal layout and instrumentation. *Serenade for Music* by Vaughan Williams was composed for 16 vocal soloists and orchestra. In some parts of the work, the soloists sing together as a “choir,” sometimes in as many as twelve parts. Other times, soloists sing alone.

*Vaughan Williams and Shakespeare* — The text is an adaptation from Act V, Scene 1 of *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare.

### **Symphony No. 2**

Composer: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

First performance: 1877

Run time: 48:00

[Listen on YouTube](#)

*The sounds of nature* — Symphony No. 2 was composed by Johannes Brahms in the summer of 1877, during a visit to Pörtlach am Wörthersee, a summer vacation town in Austria. Although described by Brahms as a melancholy work, you can still hear pastoral like melodies that were influenced by the idyllic surroundings of his summer cottage.

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### Know before you go

Visit [slo.org/educationvisits](https://slo.org/educationvisits) for additional classroom resources including a virtual tour and history of Powell Hall, information on the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and a *Know Before You Go* sheet on concert etiquette.

### Potential activities to enrich student learning

1. Vaughan William's *The Lark Ascending* showcases the dark rich sounds of a violin while telling the story of the sky-lark in George Meredith's poem of the same title. Partner up with an English teacher colleague and explore learning activities that would connect the music with the poem. Here's a link to the poem: <https://www.bartleby.com/246/680.html>
2. Learn from the pros: discuss how your experience at the symphony has informed your understanding of the instrumental technique and musicianship being taught in the classroom. For example: evaluate the SLSO's ability to blend sound between sections and incorporate that skill into your classroom.
3. Complete the following statements with your students: I noticed..., I value..., I wonder...
4. Today's concert explores music from three different time periods in the history of orchestral music. As we move across the timeline, what do you notice about the size of the orchestra and the instrumentation of each piece? What other differences did you notice?

