

Preview

April concert highlights: emphasis on Spring

by Daniel Hathaway



April's showers may not inspire Northeast Ohioans to go on pilgrimages, as Chaucer famously noted, but especially this year, concert planners' thoughts have turned to another Spring rite: Stravinsky's ballet *Le sacre du printemps*, which received its infamous debut on May 29, 1913 by Sergei Diaghilev's Ballet Russes at the Champs-Élysées Theatre in Paris.

On April 13 at E.J. Thomas Hall, the **Akron Symphony** will team up with **David Shimotakahara's GroundWorks Dance Theater** for a fully-choreographed performance of *Rite* involving 100 musicians, eight professional dancers and fifteen members of a student ensemble. Later, on April 20, **Gerhardt Zimmermann** will lead the **Canton Symphony** in Stravinsky's famous work in Umstadt Hall. In between, on April 16, you can hear the work in its pre-orchestration version for two pianos played by **Gerald Evans** and **Margarita Denenberg**

on the Lorain County Community College Signature Series.

Another extravagant celebration of Spring — perhaps not so self-consciously primitive but lusty enough in its own right — is Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, based on songs by medieval wandering scholars collected at the Bavarian abbey of Benediktbeuern (a page pictured above). **Franz Welser-Möst, The Cleveland Orchestra, Chorus and Children's Chorus** are offering four performances between April 11 and 14 (Sunday afternoon) prefaced by Bach's concerto in A for oboe d'amore played by **Robert Walters**. (ClevelandClassical will be hosting information tables in the lobbies that weekend; please stop by and say hello.)

Spring also figures prominently later in the month when **Les Délices** offers its baroque take on the four seasons suggested by Vivaldi (April 20 and 21) and featuring hurdy-gurdy virtuoso **Tobie Miller** and soprano **Clara Rotsolk**, and again at Severance Hall (April 25 and 27) when **Franz Welser-Möst** leads **The Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus** in Haydn's full-length oratorio, *The Seasons*, with soloists **Malin Hartelius**, **Maximilian Schmitt** and **Luca Pisaroni**.

Mahler's great **"Resurrection" Symphony** goes well with the season of the earth's renewal, and the **Dana School of Music** at Youngstown University will marshal a lot of musical resources to perform it at Stambaugh Auditorium on April 26.

The sounds of nature also figure in an unusual concert to be given by composer-singer-naturalist **Lisa Rainsong** on April 7 at the Bath Church titled “Musical Lessons from Earth's First Musicians.

If it's Spring, it's time for the **Baldwin Wallace Bach Festival**, which takes place on April 19 and 20 and celebrates the music of Bach and his circle in four concerts including the lovely *Christmas Oratorio* (which cycles around every fourth year, Spring or not).

Not especially season-specific but notable in their own right are a long list of visiting artists who will touch down in the area for April concerts. Here are some of them:

BRASS: **Western Brass Quintet** at Oberlin (April 5); **Canadian Brass** at E.J. Thomas Hall (Tuesday Musical, April 16).

CHAMBER MUSIC: The **Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio** with the **Miami Quartet** at Kent State (April 13) and with the **CIM Orchestra** at Severance Hall (April 17); **Imani Winds** in Wooster (April 14); cellist **Robert deMaine** with pianist **Peter Takács** at Oberlin (April 14); and on the Cleveland Chamber Music Society Series, **Quatuor ébène** (April 16) and the **Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet** (April 30).

CLASSICAL GUITAR: **Marcin Dylla**, Poland (Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, April 5); the **Minneapolis Guitar Quartet** (Sandusky Concert Association, April 7).

EARLY MUSIC: **Schola Antiqua of Chicago** at St. John's Cathedral (music by Chaucer's contemporary Guillaume de Machaut, April 26).

ORGANISTS: **Ken Cowan** (April 7) and **Peter Richard Conte** (April 28) at Stambaugh Auditorium, Youngstown; **Christopher Houlihan** at Fairmount Presbyterian, Cleveland Hts. (April 19); **Bálint Karosi** (BW Bach Festival, April 19); **Dorothy Papadakos** (Holy Trinity Lutheran, Akron, April 19).

PIANISTS: **Stanislaw Ioudenitch** at Oberlin (April 13); **Nathan Carterette** at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland (April 17).

VIOLINISTS: Matteo Fedeli plays the 1726 Stradavarius “ex Adams Collection” at Severance Hall under the auspices of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit (April 28).

YOUNG VIOLINISTS & PIANISTS: Laureates of the **Oberlin Cooper Competition** return for a marathon performance in Finney Chapel (April 11).

There are many more events — 110 we know about so far during the month of April, including multiple concerts by **CityMusic Cleveland** (April 10 on) and **Apollo's Fire** April 25-28, the **Cleveland Philharmonic** with competition winner **John Mietus**, double bass (April 14) and the **Cleveland Women's Orchestra** at Severance Hall with violinist **Jin-joo Cho** and cellist **Cicely Parnas** (April 28). Check the ClevelandClassical [concert listings](#) for details.

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