

Meet the Composers

Silvestre Revueltas (31 December, 1899 - 5 October, 1940)

Silvestre Revueltas was a violinist and conductor who didn't write music until he was 30 years old. His music instantly became popular in his native Mexico and around the world, and *Sensemaya*, written in 1938, is one of his most famous pieces.

Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky (7 May, 1840 - 6 November, 1893)

Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, in Russia's Ural Mountains. When he was 8 years old, his family moved to the capital city of St. Petersburg. Even though Tchaikovsky was a good musician as a kid, it wasn't considered an acceptable profession, so his parents made him study law instead. Tchaikovsky traveled all over Europe for performances of his music. In 1891, he even came to America for the opening of Carnegie Hall, where he was invited to conduct his music.

Igor Stravinsky (17 June, 1882 - 6 April, 1971)

Stravinsky, also born in Russia, was the son of a famous singer, and he also studied law like Tchaikovsky. He became very successful composing music for ballet, and for the famous choreographer Serge Diaghilev, director of the Russian Ballet. At the opening of *Rite of Spring* in 1913, the audience found the music and choreography so shocking that there was actually a riot in the theater! Stravinsky lived in France and Switzerland and during World War II, he came to the United States, where he lived in both California and New York and taught, composed and conducted.

SoNA

Symphony of Northwest Arkansas
Paul Haas, Music Director



Behind the Scenes of SoNA

Masterworks IV — Open Rehearsal
Saturday, May 4, 2019 — 10 AM
Walton Arts Center

Sensemaya

Listen for:

- Intense rhythm: lots of energy driven by a huge percussion section
- Dissonance: notes that sound like they don't belong together

Variations on a Rococo Theme

Listen for:

- A lyrical, 'classical' theme that starts in the solo cello
- Very fast, virtuosic passages in the solo cello and woodwinds
- Melodies that are shared between the solo cello and the orchestra

The Rite of Spring

Listen for:

- Ominous, frightening *pizzicato* (plucking) in the strings
- Sudden dynamic changes (loud to soft/soft to loud)
- Sudden changes in mood and tempo (fast to slow/slow to fast)

Thank you for joining us today!

Please join us for
Questions & Answers
with
Maestro Paul Haas
at the conclusion of this rehearsal.

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