Tonight’s performance delves into the legacy of composer-pianist Amy Cheney Beach (1867-1944), whose 1894 *Gaelic* Symphony was the first major orchestral work to be published by an American woman. In addition to excerpts from Beach’s symphony, the orchestra will play music by Antonín Dvořák, Ludwig van Beethoven, Gustav Mahler, Rebecca Clarke, William Schuman, Florence Price and George Whitefield Chadwick. On the second half of the program, the Orchestra will perform Beach’s *Gaelic Symphony* in full.

*Gaelic Symphony, Opus 32*

Allegro con fuoco  
Alla Siciliana  
Lento con molto espressione  
Allegro di molto

The program page from Amy Beach’s sole appearance with the Minnesota Orchestra—then known as the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra—on December 14, 1917, at the Minneapolis Auditorium, with Emil Oberhoffer conducting. Billed as “Mrs. H. H. A. Beach,” she was the soloist in her own Piano Concerto in the concert’s second half, while her *Gaelic Symphony* was performed before intermission.

**Meet the Musicians Onstage:** Following tonight’s concert, the audience is invited to join Minnesota Orchestra musicians onstage for conversation and beverages after the stage is cleared.
Sam Bergman, host and viola

Sam Bergman joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2000. In addition to performing as violist, he serves as host and writer for the Orchestra’s Inside the Classics concert series, and he also hosts the Orchestra’s Symphonic Adventures programs for high school audiences. In recent years he has performed as a guest or substitute musician with ensembles including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, IRIS Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra. He has appeared in many Minnesota Orchestra chamber music concerts, including a performance in February of Bacewicz’s Piano Quintet No. 1. He has also written frequently for the Orchestra’s website, including a series of posts about the historic Cuba tour in 2015. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.

Sarah Hicks, conductor

Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra’s principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. During the 2019 Sommerfest and 2019-20 season, she leads the Orchestra in performances with Cloud Cult and a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald featuring Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare; Home for the Holidays and A Musical Feast performances; the Inside the Classics and Sam & Sarah series; and live performances of movie scores as complete films are shown on a large screen, including Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, Up and It’s a Wonderful Life. Away from Orchestra Hall, she conducted concerts this season with the Antwerp Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Dallas Symphony and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.