Igor Stravinsky’s *Petrushka* was one of three major ballet scores the legendary Russian composer wrote for Sergei Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes in Paris during the years 1910 to 1913. Sandwiched in between the lush, evocative *Firebird* and the revolutionary *Rite of Spring*, *Petrushka* is perhaps the least well known of the three, but singularly fascinating both as a musical work and a historical milepost of that fraught and divisive period of European history.

On the first half of tonight’s performance, host Sam Bergman and conductor Sarah Hicks will delve into the history and controversy of this seminal ballet, and feature additional music by Richard Wagner, Maurice Ravel and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The Orchestra will perform *Petrushka* in full after 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 earlier this month of Bacewicz’s Piano Quintet No. 1. He has 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 remainder of the 2018-19 season she will lead the Orchestra in performances with Dessa—to be recorded for a future album on the Doomtree label—Hamilton star Renée Elise Goldsberry and Igudesman & Joo; a Star Trek Into Darkness film music concert; and Inside the Classics programs centered on Amy Beach’s Gaelic Symphony and the history of LGBT composers and performers. Away from Orchestra Hall, she conducts concerts this season with the Antwerp Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Dallas Symphony and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.