

The Russian Century with the Minnesota Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, conductor | Sam Bergman, host and viola
Natalie Nowytski, vocalist

Sam and Sarah

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

By any measure, Russia experienced a tumultuous 20th century. From the violent end of the Tsarist era to the dawn of Bolshevism, from Stalin's brutal reign to the reforms of Glasnost, from the collapse of the USSR to the uncertain current era, there are few countries that have seen so much upheaval in such a short time. Tonight's program traces this history in music and delves into the lives and legacies of Russian composers across the past 120 years.

Modest Mussorgsky/ orch. Maurice Ravel	Selections from <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i> Baba-Yaga – The Hut on Fowl's Legs The Great Gate of Kiev	ca. 6'
Dmitry Kabalevsky	Overture to <i>Colas Breugnon</i> , Opus 24	ca. 5'
Reinhold Glière	<i>Introduction</i> , from <i>The Zaporozhy Cossacks</i> , Opus 64	ca. 3'
Galina Ustvolskaya	Symphonic Poem No. 2	ca. 12'
Dmitri Shostakovich	Two Pieces for String Octet, Opus 11 Prelude Scherzo	ca. 11'
	I N T E R M I S S I O N	ca. 20'
Dmitri Shostakovich	<i>Allegro</i> , from Symphony No. 10 in E minor, Opus 93	ca. 5'
Sergei Prokofiev	<i>Allegro giocoso</i> , from Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, Opus 100	ca. 10'
Sofia Gubaidulina	Movement VI from <i>Stimmen...verstummen</i> (Voices...silence)	ca. 5'
Lera Auerbach	<i>Icarus</i>	ca. 12'
Polina Nazaykinskaya	<i>My Soul Craves for the Sky</i> Natalie Nowytski, vocalist	ca. 4'

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.

Sarah Hicks, conductor

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 2019-20 season, she conducts the Orchestra in numerous programs including performances with Cloud Cult; a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald featuring Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare; Sam and Sarah concerts; and live performances of movie scores in the Movies and Music series including *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Away from Orchestra Hall, she recently conducted performances of Disney Pixar's *Coco* at the Hollywood Bowl as well as the orchestra in ABC's live televised production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.

**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 Sam and Sarah concert series, and he also hosts the Orchestra's Symphonic Adventures concerts 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 one in February at which he performed Gabriella Smith's string quartet *Carrot Revolution* with Orchestra colleagues. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.

**Natalie Nowytski**, vocalist

Natalie Nowytski is a Twin Cities-based performer, award-winning composer and educator specializing in traditional Eastern European vocal styling. Her repertoire spans more than 50 languages, including her native Ukrainian. In addition to her classical training, she has studied and performed with folk luminaries across the U.S., Bulgaria, France, Czech Republic and Serbia. She has been featured on National Public Radio, PBS and *A Prairie Home Companion*. Performance highlights include engagements with the Rose Ensemble, Olga Bell, Peter Ostroushko, Ruth MacKenzie, Orkestar Bez Ime, Mila Vocal Ensemble, Theater Latté Da, Ethnic Dance Theatre and Flying Foot Forum. Informed by her experiences as a first generation Ukrainian-American, she also writes genre-bending folk-inspired music for theater, dance, a cappella choir and chamber ensembles. She has received performance and composition awards from the American Composers Forum, Jerome Foundation, McKnight Foundation, SAGE Awards and Minnesota State Arts Board. More: natalien.com.