

2017 + 2018



portsmouth  
symphony orchestra  
JOHN PAGE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



## John Page, Music Director



Award winning conductor John Page was appointed Music Director of the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra in 2011. Mr. Page's conducting career began with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland in 2000, and his 2002 performances of Viktor Ullmann's *The Emperor of Atlantis* garnered the prestigious Irish Times Opera of the Year award. Since then he has returned to Ireland frequently to record with the Irish Film Orchestra and his many recordings with PBS show *Celtic Woman* have earned multiple platinum discs.

In 2003 Mr. Page moved to the US and was appointed Zander Fellow to the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and from 2005 to 2009 he was the orchestra's Assistant Conductor. In 2006 John Page joined the Faculty of New England Conservatory as Resident Conductor and Music Director of the NEC Sinfonietta and later, NEC Symphony and in spring 2011 was a Visiting Associate Professor at Boston University assuming the duties of Director of Orchestral Activities. He is also the Artistic Director of the PARMA Orchestra and was appointed Director of Orchestral Activities at Tufts University in 2012.

Since December 2011 Mr. Page has conducted the extremely successful Celtic Woman Symphony Tours of the US. He has conducted many major orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Virginia Symphony and West Virginia Symphony, the Ulster Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

## Randy Armstrong, Artist in Residence

Randy Armstrong has been hailed by the Boston Globe as "a sure-fingered, guitar virtuoso" and *Downbeat Magazine* has called his music "a marvelous kaleidoscope of shifting melodies, rhythms and instrumental colors." He is the Director of the Phillips Exeter Academy West African Drumming Ensemble and North Indian Music Program and taught courses for PSU Integrated Arts Graduate Studies.

Randy is the co-founder of Do'a World Music Ensemble and *Unu Mondo* and has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska, Belize, India, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and South Africa and West Africa. He has appeared on over 45 albums, theater and film scores and has been the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment on the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts. As a composer and recording artist, he has released a solo CD: *No Regrets*; and a double CD soundtrack for the 4 part PBS primetime series, *Dinner on the Diner* filmed in Spain, South Africa, Scotland and Southeast Asia.

He has served as an Arts Councilor for the NH State Council on the Arts appointed by two NH Governors and is on the NHSCA Arts In Education and Arts in Health juried rosters. Randy has presented educational programs for tens of thousands of students throughout his career.

Randy is celebrating the release of his CD entitled: **BEYOND BORDERS**. Five years in the making featuring 35 musicians from around world, it is a *Global Voyage* in Music. *Beyond Borders* was nominated for the 2015 ZMR Music Awards – Best World Album. His original score and soundtrack CD for the theater and dance production, **THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS** was released at the premiere performance in San Jose, CA in September 2016 featuring 11 international dance traditions with over 50 actors ages 4 to 84.

For information, please visit: [www.randyarmstrong.com](http://www.randyarmstrong.com)

An advertisement for Louis F. Clarizio, DDS PA, Oral Surgery & Dental Implant Center. The ad features a logo with a stylized smile and the text "Proud Supporter of The Portsmouth Symphony". It lists two office locations: Portsmouth Office (568 Hillington St., Portsmouth, NH 03801) and Somersworth Office (504 High St., Somersworth, NH 03878). Contact information includes phone and fax numbers for both offices. The website www.drclarizio.com is also listed.

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**PORTSMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

John Page, Music Director

*Produced in collaboration*

*with the Portsmouth Athenaeum*

*Sunday, November 5, 2017, 3:00 p.m*

*Inside the Music, 2:00 p.m | The Music Hall, Portsmouth, NH*

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**Suite from Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)**

**Maurice Ravel**

- I. Pavane of the Sleeping Beauty
- II. Hop o' My Thumb
- III. Laideronette, Empress of the Pagodas
- IV. Conversations of Beauty and the Beast
- V. The Fairy Garden

**Tribute in Courage**

**Randy Armstrong**

*Artist in Residence, Randy Armstrong*

*arr. Steven Blake*

*Marty Quinn, Tabla*

**Kennedy Portrait**

**William Kraft**

*Jerome Meadows, narrator*

—Intermission—

**Presentation of Portsmouth Athenaeum Prize in Humanities (PAPH)**

**La Mer**

**Claude Debussy**

- I. De l'aube à midi sur la mer
- II. Jeux de vagues
- III. Dialogue du vent et de la mer

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *Mother Goose - Maurice Ravel Continued*

The fourth movement is titled Conversation of the Beauty and the Beast. Here Ravel includes a pair of dialogues from the story:

"When I think of how good-hearted you are, you do not seem to me to be so ugly."

"Yes, indeed—I have a good heart, but I am still a monster."

"There are many men more monstrous than you."

"If I were smart enough, I would invent a fine compliment to thank you, but I am only a beast."

"Beauty, will you be my wife?"

"No, Beast!"

"Then I die content, having the pleasure of seeing you again"

"No, dear Beast, you shall not die—you shall live to be my husband!"

In Ravel's setting, the clarinet takes the part of Beauty, with a lovely lilting waltz, while the Beast is characterized by a grotesque contrabassoon theme. When Beauty declares her love, their melodies are combined. There is a magical moment, from the harp and triangle, and the Beast then reappears in the solo violin, showing that he has been transformed to his former state, a handsome prince (of course!).

The final movement, The Fairy Garden, is a set of free variations on a slow and lyrical melody presented by the strings. In the 1911 ballet score, Ravel describes this movement as an "apotheosis"—a slow procession of the Prince and Princess through the Fairy Godmother's garden. The movement closes, suitably, with wedding bells.

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### Tribute in Courage - Randy Armstrong

TRIBUTE IN COURAGE was composed by Randy Armstrong as a homage to all people throughout the world who stand against racial injustice, religious prejudice, gender inequality and discrimination in all its forms. The composition embodies musical influences from North Africa, the Middle East, India, Europe, North and South America, and South Africa. TRIBUTE IN COURAGE was first recorded in 1982 on the Philo/Rounder Records album, COMPANIONS by Do'a World Music Ensemble and subsequently recorded as a solo guitar piece on his 2004 DOMO Records release, NO REGRETS. The orchestral work was arranged by Steve Blake of the PSO. The North Indian tabla is performed by longtime music associate, Marty Quinn, who played on the original recording.