



NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# Program Notes

for

# KIDS

November 17, 2016  
Woolsey Hall



# Brahms & Mozart

William Boughton, conductor  
Robert Blocker, piano

# Mozart and Brahms

## **The Way It Goes**

Martin Bresnick

## **Piano Concerto No. 23**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

## **Symphony No. 4**

Johannes Brahms

Tonight we're celebrating Yale University's School of Music (YSM)!

YSM started in 1890, and is still going strong today. Our first piece was composed (written) by Martin Bresnick, who teaches composition. Our pianist tonight is Dean Robert Blocker, who helps run the Music Department and is a well-known pianist around the world.

## Welcome to the NHSO!

### Before the concert begins:

- Turn off any device that makes noise.
- Read the *Program Notes for Kids*.
- Locate the restrooms and exits.
- Look around at the architecture of the theater.
- Listen to musicians warm-up their instruments.



### During the concert:

- Clap as people enter the stage.
- Listen quietly as the orchestra plays.
- Wait for every section (called *movements*) of a piece to be played, then clap. (Hint: the conductor will turn to face you when it's time.)
- During intermission, you are free to get up.
- At the end of the concert, people may stand up to show their appreciation. This is called a *standing ovation*.



ENJOY!

Words & Music Literacy Project

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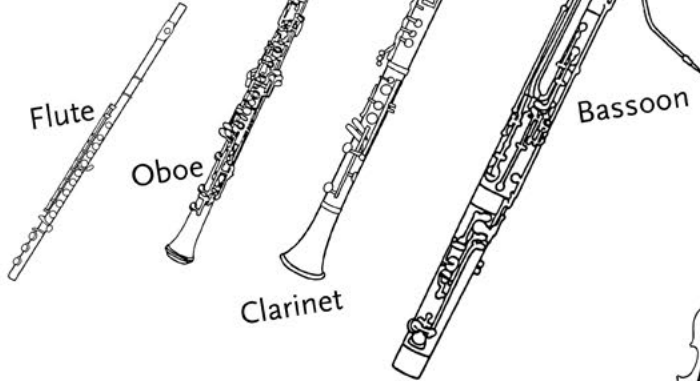
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# Instruments of the Orchestra

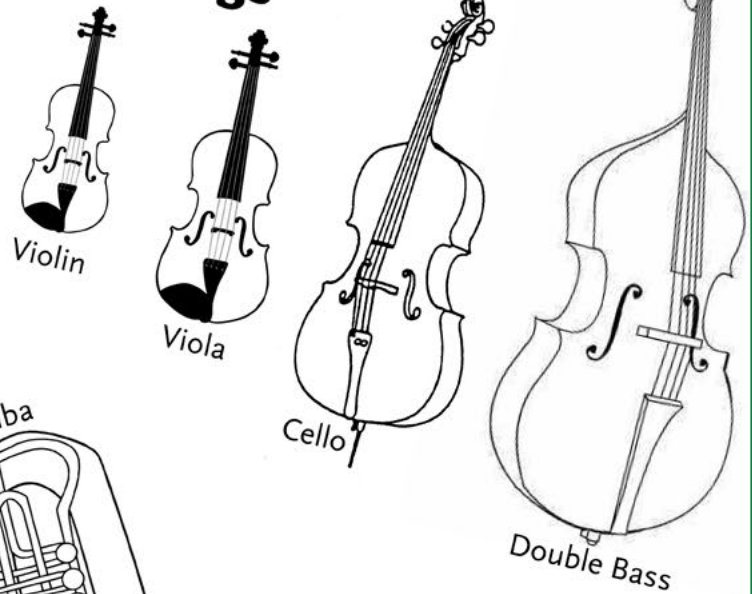


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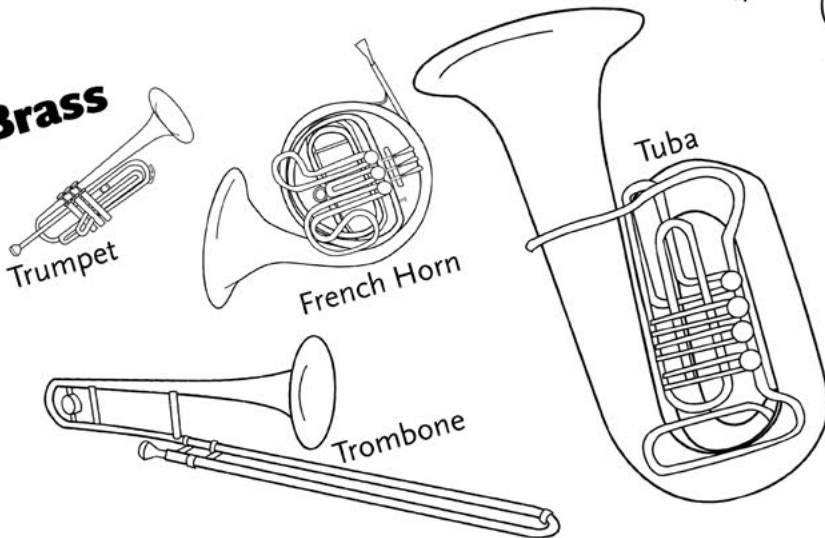
## Woodwinds



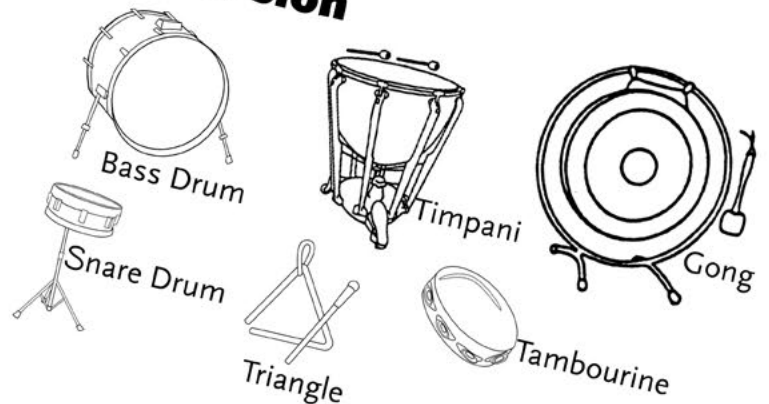
## Strings



## Brass



## Percussion



The orchestra is led by a conductor, sometimes called "maestro"

and more!

# The Way It Goes



**Martin Bresnick** was born in 1946 in New York City and knew by High School that he wanted to do something with music for the rest of his life. He went to the city's Performing Arts High School, and went to the University of Hartford before going onto Stanford University for more school. He started teaching at Yale in 1976, but has taught students at Universities around the world since then!

Bresnick wrote *The Way It Goes* in 2015 after he watched a play called *The Exception and the Rule*. At the end of this play, the actors face the audience and tell them that when things need to be changed, it's up to US to change them. If someone says to you, "That's the way it goes..." it's OK to question it. (Although, you should always listen to what your parents tell you to do!!).

## Piano Concerto No.23

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** is one of the most well-known composers that ever lived.

He began playing piano at age 4, after listening to his older sister, Nannerl, play the piano. The two of them also learned how to play violin. Both were considered **child prodigies**, or VERY talented musicians at a young age, and began playing for kings and queens when they were still very young.

As he got older, Mozart became one of the leading composers of his day in operas, masses, symphonies, and concerti. He wrote 27 piano concerti. The one you'll hear tonight (number 23) is one of his most played.



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

1756-1791

**I. Allegro**

(Fast)

**II. Adagio**

(Slow)

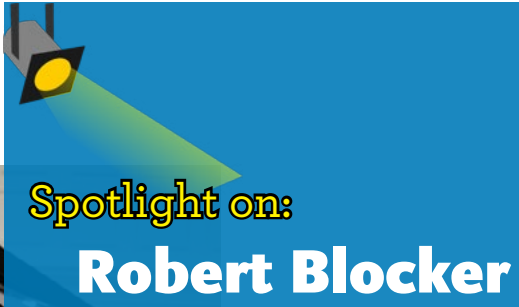
**III. Allegro Assai**

(Rather Fast)

### Help!: What's a concerto?!

A **concerto** is a piece of music, usually in three movements, written to have one musician (or a small group of them) play in front of an orchestra and show the audience all the cool things that their instrument(s) can do. At the end of the first movement, the entire orchestra will stop playing and the soloist will get to show off in front of the orchestra and audience! This is called a **cadenza**, and from time to time soloists even write their own. Sometimes, there's an extra cadenza in the third movement to give the soloist another chance to show off.

Normally, audiences aren't supposed to clap in between movements, but during some performances, people get so excited about how well the soloist played that they burst into applause at the end of the first movement!



**Spotlight on:**  
**Robert Blocker**



*The L.A. Times on a performance by Robert Blocker:*

“...he fulfilled the living image of a role model.”

**Robert Blocker** was born in 1946 and started playing the piano at five years old. He gave his very first concert to the public when he was only seven years old!

He has played in concerts around the country and even around the world - he's played in Mexico and Europe, and even in China and Korea.

When he's not playing his piano around the world, Dr. Blocker is the **Dean of Music** at Yale University right here in New Haven. This means he runs the whole music department and is the big boss.

We are lucky that he has taken the time to play for us tonight - As you can imagine ... he is a very busy man!

## Symphony No.4

### **I. Allegro non Troppo**

(Fast, but not too fast)

### **II. Andante Moderato**

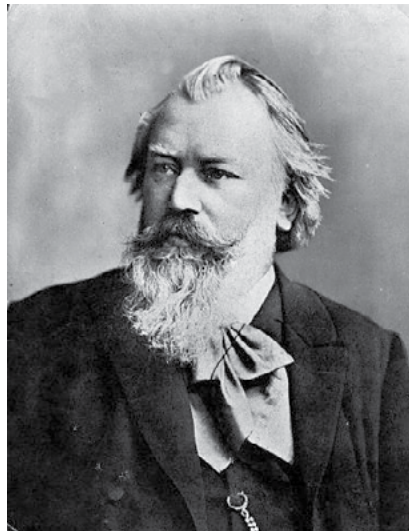
(At a medium walking speed)

### **III. Allegro Giocoso**

(Fast and playful)

### **IV. Allegro Energico e Passionato**

(Fast, with energy and passion)



### **Johannes Brahms**

1833-1897

A **symphony** is one piece of music that normally has four **movements** (kind of like chapters in a book). They usually sound different from one another: the first movement is fast, the second is slow, the third is medium/fast, and the last is fast again.

There are short pauses between movements. Usually, people don't clap then, but sometimes they get really excited and can't wait until the end of the whole piece to clap for the orchestra!

*Brahms' good friend, Eduard Hanslick's thoughts on hearing the first movement of this symphony for the first time:*

“I feel like I was just beaten up by two incredibly intelligent people.”

**Johannes Brahms** (Yo-hon-es Broms) was born in Hamburg, Germany, but spent most of his life in Vienna, Austria. He started playing piano when he was 7 years old. Since he came from a very musical family, his father gave him his first music lessons.

He became a famous composer during his career, but was always nervous about being compared to **Ludwig van Beethoven** (another famous composer who died right before Brahms was born). It took 15 years for Brahms to write his first symphony, which he finished in 1876. But after that, he was on a roll! He finished this symphony (his last one) in 1884, only one year after finishing his third.

# Scavenger Hunt

How many questions can you answer?

1. How many columns are there around Woolsey Hall? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many organ pipes are there behind the stage? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many french horns are on stage? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many woodwind instruments are on stage? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many lights are hanging from the ceiling? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were writing a review of Dean Robert Blocker's performance tonight, which words would you use to describe it? Check all that apply!

- |                                       |                                  |                                      |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captivating  | <input type="checkbox"/> Boring  | <input type="checkbox"/> Effortless  | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhilarating | <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fascinating | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fast    | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong      | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow    |

Are the beginning and ending of the movements in Brahms' symphony performed **piano** (softly) or **forte** (loudly)?

Beginning of Movement:

End of Movement:

- |                                      |       |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| I. Allegro non Troppo                | _____ | _____ |
| II. Andante Moderato                 | _____ | _____ |
| III. Allegro Giocoso                 | _____ | _____ |
| IV. Allegro Energico e<br>Passionato | _____ | _____ |

Out of the three pieces that you heard tonight, which one is your favorite? Why?

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# Concert Review

Write about your experience at the concert tonight.

Who did you see? What did you hear?

What did you think about the music and the experience?

What would you like to tell the Maestro and the musicians?

We would love to know what you think!  
Scan or copy this page and send it to us:

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## *KidTix*

**Did  
You  
Know?**

**frontier**  
BUSINESS EDGE

**Kids go FREE to  
ALL NHSO concerts!**

The NHSO offers free KidTix for children ages 7-17 with the purchase of an adult ticket. Additional child tickets available for \$10 each. KidTix must be purchased by phone by calling the NHSO box office at 203.865.0831 x20.



# Family Concert Series: “AROUND THE WORLD”

Travel around the world with the NHSO! The NHSO Family Concerts provide fun, interactive concerts for students ages 3-9 to meet the instruments of the orchestra.

Starting at 1:30pm before the concert, the NHSO offers an Instrument Discovery Zone where children can tap, tickle, and toot real orchestral instruments before the 2:00 pm performance. Following the concert, families are invited to stay for a healthy snack. New Haven Reads provides free children’s books for everyone who attends the concert. Attendance is **FREE** but donations are welcome!

TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO  
January 7 & 8

ANANSI THE SPIDER  
February 18 & 19

THREE LITTLE PIGS  
March 25 & 26

Featuring the NHSO  
Woodwind Quintet

Featuring the NHSO  
Brass and Piano Trio

Featuring the NHSO  
String Quartet

All Saturday performances are at Davis Street School in New Haven  
All Sunday performances are at Shelton Intermediate School



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**Frontier**  
COMMUNICATIONS

[www.NewHavenSymphony.org](http://www.NewHavenSymphony.org)