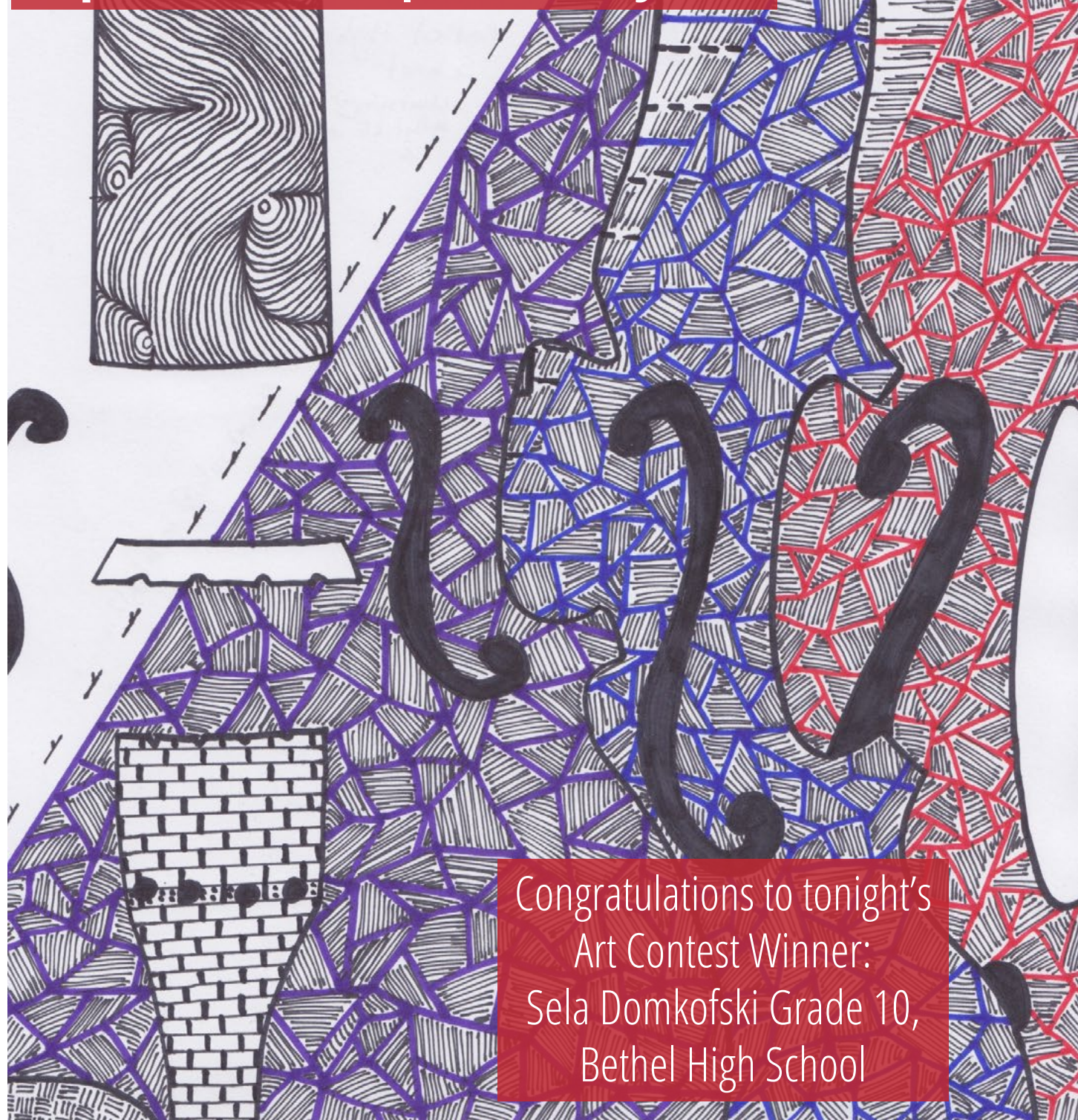




NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# Program Notes for Kids

September 26 | Woolsey Hall



Congratulations to tonight's  
Art Contest Winner:  
Sela Domkofski Grade 10,  
Bethel High School



# La Mer/Liquid Interface

"Minuet" from Piano Sonata  
No. 2  
Maurice Ravel (orch. Neale)

Piano Concerto for Left Hand  
Maurice Ravel

--- INTERMISSION ---

Liquid Interface  
Mason Bates

La Mer  
Claude Debussy

## 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*.



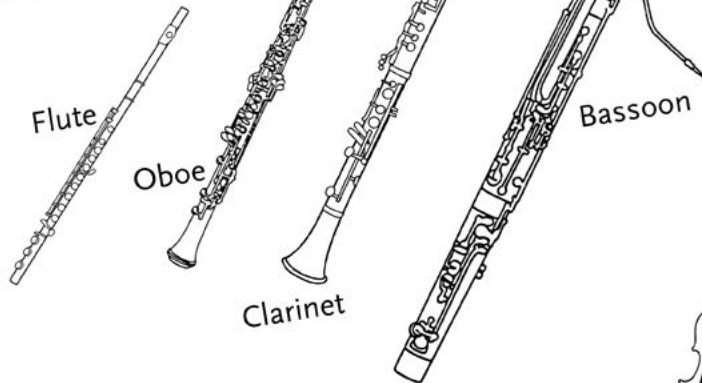
ENJOY!

# Instruments of the Orchestra

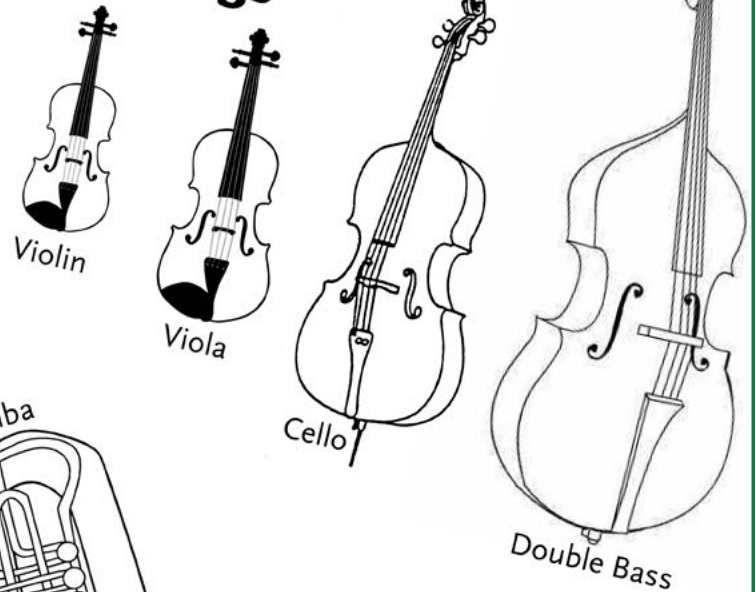


125 YEARS  
NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

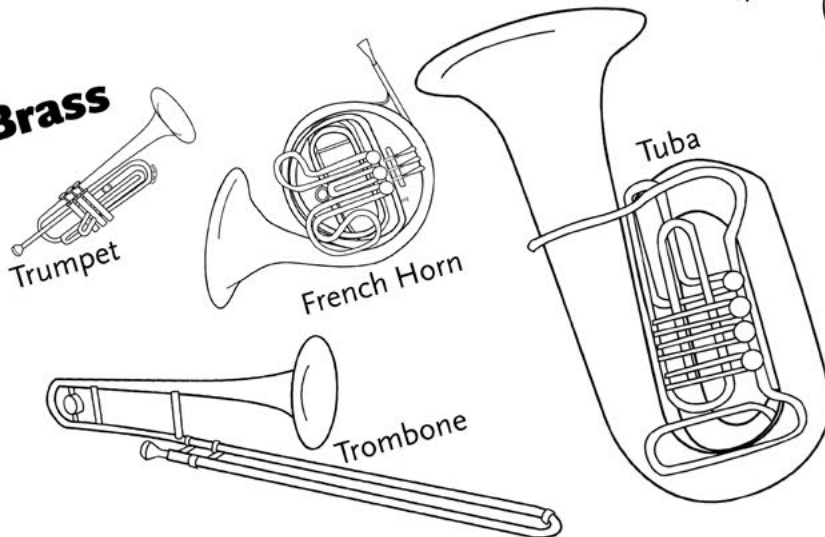
## Woodwinds



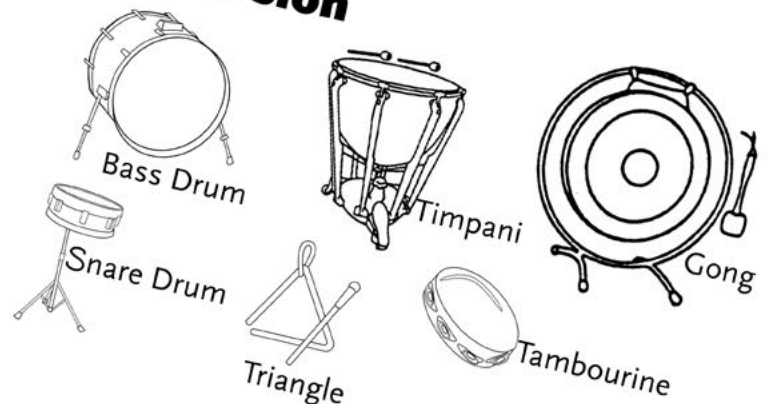
## Strings



## Brass



## Percussion



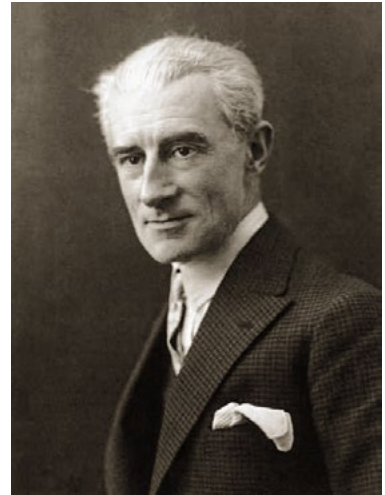
The orchestra is led by a conductor, sometimes called "maestro"

and more!

# Maurice Ravel

The NHSO is playing not one, but TWO pieces by French composer **Maurice Ravel** tonight! He was born in 1875, and was of **Basque** descent (an area of land in between France and Spain). He started playing piano when he was just 7 years old, and showed amazing talent at that young of an age. He learned composition and harmony a few years later, and then went on to attend the **Conservatoire de Paris** (Paris Conservatory), the best music school in all of France.

Maurice was known for loving all different kinds of music, and used different types in his own pieces. You might hear some Spanish music, or Russian music, or even some jazz! Can you hear them in these pieces tonight?



The first piece that we will hear is called **“Minuet” from Piano Sonata No. 2**. Maurice Ravel wrote this piece for a solo piano to play, but our Music Director, Maestro Alasdair Neale, heard it while he was driving one day and thought to himself “I think the clarinets should play that part! The flutes should play that part!” So he decided to **orchestrate** the piece, which means that he took the original piano piece and re-wrote it for different instruments of the orchestra!

Make sure to give him a big round of applause if you like how it turned out!



Jeremy Ajani Jordan

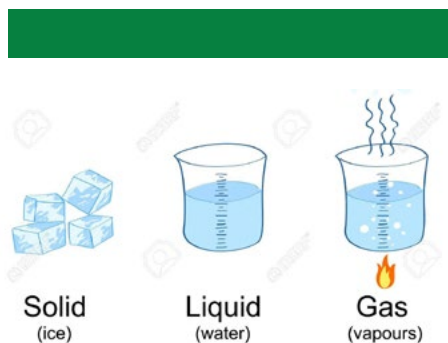
The second piece is called **Concerto for Left Hand**, and was written by Maurice Ravel for a pianist named **Paul Wittgenstein** (picture below). Paul lost his right hand when he was serving in the Army during World War I. He was so talented that Ravel wrote him a piano piece for JUST his left hand, but it sounded like he was using 2 hands! Sometimes pianists play this piece with two hands, but others use just one hand like Ravel wanted. Try to see if Jeremy Jordan uses 1 or 2 hands!

Our piano soloist tonight is Jeremy Ajani Jordan. He started playing piano when he was VERY young, and he was already playing huge concerts by age 9! He’s also really good at playing jazz music, not just classical.



# Liquid Interface

**Mason Bates** is an American composer originally from Virginia. In addition to writing music for orchestras, Mr. Bates also enjoys electronic music and was a DJ in Oakland, California! He has worked closely with the San Francisco Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, and is currently the Composer-in-Residence at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.



Mason Bates was inspired by water when he was writing *Liquid Interface*. Not just liquid water, but also water that turns into ice and water that turns into vapor. He saw a lake of water go from being solid and people skating on it to it melting, and then becoming totally liquid and people swimming in it. You'll hear 4 movements (like chapters of a book), and each one is water in a different form. You'll hear electronic sounds, like boat creaks and ice cracking. And in the third movement, you'll hear some jazz/swing music from New Orleans (whose nickname is Crescent City). Listen to how cool the piece is whenever these sounds come through the orchestra!

## La Mer

**Claude Debussy** is a French composer who was born in 1862. He was an incredible pianist, and like Maurice Ravel attended the Conservatoire de Paris.

The piece that we are playing tonight is called **La Mer**, which is French for "The Sea." When he was writing it, he decided to stay AWAY from the beach and the sea, and instead only look at paintings and artwork that showed different types of water.

There are three **movements** in this piece (like chapters of a book), and people usually don't clap in between them. Debussy gave them all names that are like different types of water. Do you think that each movement sounds like its title?

1. *De L'aube sur a midi sur la mer* (From dawn to noon on the sea)
2. *Jeux de vagues* (Play of the waves)
3. *Dialogue du vent et de la mer* (Dialogue of the wind and the sea)



# 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 Jeremy Ajani Jordan'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"/> Fire        | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow    |

Are the beginning and ending of the movements in Mason Bate's *Liquid Interface* performed piano (softly) or forte (loudly)?

Beginning of Movement:

End of Movement:

- |                     |       |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| I. Glaciers Calving | _____ | _____ |
| II. Scherzo Liquido | _____ | _____ |
| III. Crescent City  | _____ | _____ |
| IV. On the Wassee   | _____ | _____ |

Out of the four pieces that you heard tonight, which one did you like best? Why?

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# CONCERT REVIEW

Write or draw 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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Did you know?

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

The NHSO offers free KidTix for children age 17 and under with the purchase of an adult ticket. Additional child tickets are available for \$10 each. KidTix can be purchased online or by calling the NHSO box office at 203.787.4282.



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