



"THE PLANETS" March 14, 7 p.m.

Holst's *The Planets*, Liszt's *Prometheus* Newbold's *Equuleus*, Roberts' *The Pleiades* 





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## **Biographies**



## **Kevin Kozacek, Music Director**

Originally a native of Colorado, Kevin Kozacek graduated from the University of Northern Colorado where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, with an emphasis in choral conducting under the tutelage of Dr. Howard Skinner. Mr. Kozacek received both his Master of Education and Master of Music degrees from Northern Arizona University, studying orchestral conducting under Dr. Nicholas Ross and Dr. Daniel O'Bryant. He has additionally studied conducting under Maestros Lawrence Golan, Don Thulean, App Hsu, Harold Farberman, Raymond Har-

vey and Zvonimir Hacko. Mr. Kozacek has guest conducted orchestras in Kiev, Ukraine and Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and been invited to conduct workshops and high school honor orchestras in local Arizona school districts. Mr. Kozacek taught public school music in grades K-12, and directed theater, instrumental ensembles and choral groups in churches and communities in England, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and Arizona. He served for ten years as the founding Artistic Director for ProMusica Arizona Chorale & Orchestra. In 2012 he was invited to serve as the founding Music Director for North Valley Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Kozacek and his wife Cindy are proud parents of two sons, Matt and Chris, and have two grandchildren, Audrey and Owen.

Laura Syjud, Concertmaster—Laura was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and was raised in a very musical home. Her mother was a piano teacher, who started instructing Laura on the piano at age five. Laura later chose to study the violin as her instrument of choice for her elementary school orchestra, and continued studying violin throughout high school and college. She studied Music Education at Northern Arizona University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, graduating with honors, Cum Laude. She also received the Northern Arizona University Outstanding Senior Award from the College of Arts and Letters. Laura has studied violin with Dr. Carolyn Broe, Dr. Phyllis Skoldberg, Dr. Louise Scott, Karin Hallberg and Suzanne Wagor. She has been teaching in the Paradise Valley Unified School District as a String Orchestra teacher for the past ten years, and has performed in numerous orchestras in the Phoenix and Scottsdale area. After school hours, she enjoys teaching private students in her violin studio. She also performs in quartets for weddings and other professional opportunities.

## **Program Notes**

**Franz Liszt** (1811-1886) was a Hungarian composer, pianist and conductor known mainly for his virtuosic skill as a pianist. Liszt's primary contribution to compositional technique was the symphonic poem, which is the form of this program's *Prometheus*. Based on an ancient Greek myth, *Prometheus* tells of a Titan that helped create man from clay, but then stole fire from Jupiter to give it to man. As punishment, Prometheus was chained to a rock where every day an eagle came and ate his liver. His liver grows back every day, and the eagle returns every day to consume it once again. The four themes within *Prometheus* are listed by Liszt as 1) Boldness, 2) Suffering, 3) Endurance and 4) Redemption, which are easily identified as you listen to the piece. *Prometheus* was originally written in 1850 as an overture and eight choruses for Herder's play *Prometheus Unbound*. Because of his limited orchestral background, Liszt was unable to orchestrate his works himself, so it was left to Joachim Raff to complete the work. In 1855 Liszt personally re-wrote and re-orchestrated the work as his *Symphonic Poem No. 5* 

**Soon Hee Newbold** was born in Seoul, South Korea, and began playing piano at age five and violin at age seven. She has won prestigious competitions and performed as a concert artist, and is a well-recognized composer, conductor, and actress. In 2008, she was commissioned to write a piece in memory of Kamila Lemanowicz, a former bass student from Niles West High in Skokie, Illinois. Due to Kamila's love of horses, and the dreams and memories that she had of riding throughout her native Poland landscape, Newbold chose the constellation Equuleus as the theme for the composition. Equuleus, which means "little horse," is located next to Pegasus, the "winged stallion." The melodies in the music of *Equuleus* paint images beginning with a simple trot across the field, to the vast expanse of a rolling landscape, and finishes with a wild race to home.

**Sue Roberts** is a native of Southern California, where she attended Cal State at Fullerton. *The Pleiades* was inspired by the constellation Pleiades, which is located in the constellation Taurus. In mythology, the Pleiades are the seven daughters of Atlas, and are obsessively pursued by Orion. Zeus turns them into doves so that they may escape, and the whirling swirling constellation of the Pleiades is the result. *The Pleiades* is written in the 7/8 time signature, which is grouped at times in a 3+2+2, and sometimes in a 2+2+3 structure, giving the piece a swirling character. The seven beat structure of the piece is in direct reference to the seven daughters constellation.

**Gustav Holst** (1874-1927) was born in Cheltenham, England. As a child, Holst was rather sickly. He needed glasses, though this fact was overlooked for a while before anyone realized it. He had asthma, and suffered from neuritis. Though he loved piano, and also begrudgingly played the violin, his neuritis made practice unbearably painful. Because of this, as a teenager he decided to take up trombone, which didn't require digital dexterity. He was educated at London's Royal College of Music, after which he became a gifted teacher. He was awarded teaching positions at the James Allen School (1903-20), St. Paul's Girl's School (1905-34), and Morley College (1907-24). He became interested in Hindu and Sanskrit, which was the basis of many of his earlier works, such as the operas *Sita* and *Savitri*, as well as four sets of *Hymns From the Rig Veda*. After a cycling trip to Algeria in 1907, he composed the orchestral work *Beni Mora*.

## **Program Notes (cont.)**

These earlier works helped set the compositional foundation of exotic tonality and rhythm that became a hallmark in Holst's pieces. Holst became very interested in astrology when on a vacation to Spain in 1913. He called it his "pet vice," and often cast horoscopes for his friends. Holst began writing *The Planets* before the outbreak of WWI in August of 1914, beginning with Mars and finishing with Mercury in 1916. The seven-movement suite does not include Earth or Pluto, omitting Earth because the composition is based on astrological planetary themes, and because Pluto had not yet been discovered. The first private performance was held in 1918 in London's Queen's Hall with Adrian Boult conducting. The first public performance of the complete suite took place in London in 1920.

Holst's inspiration for *The Planets* is clearly found in these direct guotes: "As a rule I only study things that suggest music to me...recently the character of each planet suggested lots to me...these pieces were suggested by the astrological significance of the planets...for instance, Jupiter brings jollity in the ordinary sense, and also the more ceremonial type of rejoicing associated with religions or national festivities. Saturn brings not only physical decay, but also a vision of fulfillment. Mercury is the symbol of mind." So, in order to better understand Holst's composition, we must first understand a bit about astrology. In ancient cultures, astrology was a practice that blended astronomy, philosophy, and religion. Zeus (Jupiter in Roman myth) and the other gods and goddesses were based on the planets and constellations visible to the ancient astronomers. Astrology is the study of the interaction between those heavenly bodies, and can be understood as a philosophy that "helps to explain life, rather than a type of mysticism that can be used as a predictive tool." Rather than discussing what the planets do to us, astrology helps explain our basic emotions and traits based on planetary indications.

Mars: Energy, Vigor, Initiative

Venus: Beauty, Harmony, Attraction

Mercury: Intellect, Communication, Understanding

Jupiter: Belief, Travel, Expansion
Saturn: Control, Deep Study, Fixation
Uranus: Change, Invention, Revolution

Neptune: Intuition, Dreams, Collective Unconscious

Holst was not a conventionally religious man. Besides his interest in astrology, he was interested in Eastern religious theory, and the existence of "supra-human" forces in our lives. Maybe it is due to his abstruse beliefs that *The Planets* has enjoyed such enduring success, as the music speaks to each of us in a different way. Since astrology is a philosophy blending astronomy, planetary influences on our personalities, and ancient mythology, these program notes, coupled with the visual production accompanying our performance, will provide the audience with a broad pallet from which to enjoy and understand *The Planets*, and Holst's magnificent music depicting our Solar System.

## North Valley Symphony Orchestra Presents

## "The Planets"

Prometheus: Symphonic Poem No. 5

Franz Liszt

#### **NVSO Orchestra Kevin Kozacek - Conductor**

Equuleus

Soon Hee Newbold

The Pleiades

Sue Roberts

#### **NVSO Youth Orchestra Kevin Kozacek - Conductor**

30 Minute Intermission

"Conductor's chat" during last 10 minutes of intermission

## The Planets, Op. 32

Gustav Holst

- Mars, the Bringer of War T.
- II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace
- III. IV. Mercury, the Winged Messenger
- Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
- ٧. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
- VI. Uranus, the Magician
- VII. Neptune, the Mystic

#### **NVSO Orchestra Kevin Kozacek - Conductor**

Please silence all electronic devices for our concert... Thank you

## **NVSO Adult Orchestra Personnel**

#### First Violin

Laura Syjud\*<sup>+</sup>
Beth Chiarenza
Susan Haack
Frank Islas
Anne Phelan
Carol Routh
Marj Sherman
Sujoy Spencer
Janet Steinberg
Marshall Valentine

#### Second Violin

Murilou Chilman\*
Sydney Cooney
Dennis Dorch
Stanley Green
Albert Islas
Chad Kurtzman
Anne Lackey
Michelle Lowry
Pearl Mahar
Alexandra Oprea
Justin Palacios
Lauren Vogini

#### Viola

Craig Triplett\*
Janet Plummer
Gail Salameh
Katie Tay
Jessica Triplett
Noel Washington

#### Cello

Emily Helton-Riley\*
Carrington Buze
Bob Chilman
JoAnn Cleland
Alyssa Mahar
Alta Thoreson

#### Bass

Mary Kelly\* Howard Robinson Dylan Suehiro Fred Wengrzynek

#### Flute/Piccolo

Alex Mcle\*
Joshua Barnes
Jenny Erickson
Katie Hager
Cheryl Riggle
Nora Welsh

#### Oboe

Ted Plambeck\*
Eliot Lee

## Bass Oboe

Bryan Held

#### **English Horn**

Suzanne Johnsen\*

#### Clarinet

Annemarie Strzelecki\* Carol Peat Jules (Max) Rogers

#### **Bass Clarinet**

Dan Greene

#### **Bassoon**

Mandy Lucia\* Carla Eschenbrenner Alisa Mastin

#### Contrabassoon

Martin Haub ♪

#### Horn

Philip Johnson\*
Sally Hadzimuhovic
Kroy Miller
Ione Murray
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#### **Trumpet**

Dennis Umber\* Teddi English Lori Hefner Kerry Williams

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Alan Wiseman\* Ryan Diefenderfer Greg James Dennis Patterson

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Mike Burt\*

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Liz Patronik\* John Bailey Matt Deller Hal Gill Cindy Kozacek

## Celeste/Organ

Caryl Gough-Queen ♪

#### Harp

Pamela Hahn \*↓ Laura Goldstein ↓

- \* Concertmaster
- \* Principal
- ♪ Guest

(members listed alphabetically)

## **NVSO Youth Orchestra Personnel**

#### Violin 1

Sydney Cooney\*
Samantha Baird
Nicole Campos
Andreja Donaldson
Megan McGary
Haley McKeown
Alexandra Oprea
Justin Palacios
Keyin Reid

#### Violin 2

Sophia Packard\*
Karlo Canete
Luis Antonius Canete
Julianna de Mello
Rebecca Felton
Czarina Perez
Madison Rose
Sage Witt

#### Viola

Noel Washington\* Rachel Chung Gabriella Sandhu Megan Tomson Rasa Walter

#### Cello

Connely Packard\* Eleanor Faussane Madison Harmon Nathan Hayward Brielle Watchman

#### **Bass**

Kaine Holloway

#### **Director:**

Kevin Kozacek

#### Assistant Director:

Murilou Chilman

#### Orchestra Manager:

Kristel Donaldson

\*Principal

(members listed in alphabetical order)

# Sounds of the Southwest Singers Personnel

#### **Sopranos:**

Carol Bland
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Dena Cunningham
Leann Weitz Deller
Julie Hollman
Bonnie Lambert
Boni Locke
June Marvel
Karen Neely

Yvonne Storer Autumn-Lynn Tummavichakul Lisa Wagner Ginger Worden

#### Altos:

Eileen Barczak Nancy Butler Jean Charlton Linda Couch Andrea Dixon Ethel Kelly Valerie Lawrence Caryl Leander Patricia Mares Kathleen Pilling Estelle Taylor Velma Trotter



The **Sounds of the Southwest Singers** community choir is an all-volunteer 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, currently with just under 100 members. The choir, founded in March, 2010, performs locally and internationally, having performed at New York's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, venues in Germany, Austria, Disneyland, California Adventures and at Pearl Harbor aboard the USS Missouri in Hawaii. In October, 2014 they sang as part of a larger ensemble in Rome, Italy performing at the Vatican. Their goal is to continue making a difference musically in their community and wherever their talents take them, singing secular, sacred, classical, patriotic, Broadway and pop musical genres. They are directed by Matt Deller and accompanied by Eric Fish.

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## Welcome to

## North Valley Symphony Orchestra's

2014-15 Concert Season

North Valley Symphony Orchestra (NVSO) is a non-profit community-based orchestra made up of multi-generational musicians from the greater Phoenix north valley. NVSO aims to "build community through music," by providing a place for members to enjoy the collective art of making music, as well as offering enriching cultural experiences for Phoenix north valley audiences through pop and classical concerts.

Mark your calendars for the remaining concerts in our 2014-15 season:

## "Scenes of America" - May 2, 2015

NVSO's final concert of the season is a patriotic tribute to the land that we love. O'Connor's *Appalachia Waltz* is a new kind of Americana-styled Western art music, with ancestry in bluegrass, folk, and traditional European classical styles. The concert centerpiece is Dvorak's popular *Symphony #9*, inspired by his journey to America in the 1890's. NVSO Youth Orchestra will perform Vivaldi's *Violin Concerto in A Minor*, featuring the winner of the annual Summerford Violin Concerto competition.

## "American Sampler" - May 9, 2015

Join us for a free concert, featuring a full program presented by NVSO's Youth Orchestra and Symphonettes. The Youth Orchestra is made up of string players with three to five years experience on their instrument. Symphonettes are young string players who are "in training" to join the Youth Orchestra. Both groups of young players want to share their passion of music with you this holiday season. (Resurrection Church, 4930 E. Greenway Rd. — 4:00 p.m.)

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