



From the  
**HEART**  
of Europe



THE Musical  
*Offering*

Chamber Music from the Heart



As the Twin Cities' premiere chamber music ensemble, what sets *The Musical Offering* apart is its unique combination of winds, strings, and piano, offering repertoire not heard anywhere else in Minnesota.

## MEET THE MUSICAL OFFERING'S MUSICIANS



*The Musical Offering's* bassoonist and co-artistic director **Norbert Nielubowski** joined the ensemble in 1988 shortly after winning a position in the Minnesota Orchestra's

bassoon section. A Chicago native, Norbert began his career at the Chicago Lyric Opera. He studied with Willard Elliot, John Miller and Louis Skinner as well as performing chamber music with oboist Ray Still and clarinetist Larry Combs. Alongside his musical career and teaching at the University of Minnesota's School of Music, Norbert has become a woodworker over the past 25 years, and together with his wife Caroline Lemen, horn, raised two daughters into young professional musicians.



**Caroline Lemen** is one of Minnesota's most versatile professional horn players, sought after by the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Ordway.

She holds teaching positions at the University of Minnesota's School of Music and Macalester College. Caroline's teachers include the legendary Gail Williams of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as Nick Adberg, both of whom she studied with at Northwestern University's School of Music. Caroline's expertise extends outside the concert hall: she is also a Ramsey County Master Gardener.



**Susan Billmeyer** became co-artistic director in 2014 after years of captivating audiences from the piano bench. She brings a unique perspective as an

interpreter and communicator of chamber music, and is as articulate behind a microphone as she is behind a keyboard. Billmeyer has performed regularly with the Minnesota Orchestra since 2005, and she has appeared on recordings for the BIS and Innova labels. When she is not at the piano, she can usually be found knitting.



**Gareth Zehngut** joined the Minnesota Orchestra's viola section in 2015 after moving from San Diego, where he performed with the San Diego Symphony. His mentors include Heidi

Castleman, Jeffrey Irvine, and Melinda Daetsch. Gareth, a nationally sought-after chamber music festival musician and coach, has quickly made the Twin Cities his home, thanks in part to a newfound enthusiasm for gardening.



This year we congratulate **John Snow** on his new appointment as principal oboist with the Minnesota Orchestra after many years as associate principle in the

ensemble. John is a two-time McKnight Fellowship recipient (2005, 2011) and distinguished alumni of the Yale School of Music. His professional career spans the globe, including the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Santa Fe

Every concert offers the opportunity for interaction with Minnesota Orchestra musicians, from the intimate concert experience in the wonderful acoustics of Sundin Hall, to intermission interviews and post-concert conversations.

Opera Orchestra, as well as dozens of chamber music festival performances. When he isn't working on reeds, John enjoys spending time in the cabin he built himself up north.



**Jane Garvin's** vibrant playing has entranced audiences in top performing groups all over Minnesota. She regularly performs shows at the Ordway and the Orpheum (two of her favorites are *Wicked* and *Cinderella*) as well as with Vocalessence and Mill City Summer Opera, all while performing with the Minnesota Orchestra for 25 years. Prior to life in Minnesota, Jane studied with her beloved teacher Lenoe Buyse, former assistant principal flute of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. When she isn't out performing, Jane enjoys spending time with her cats in the backyard accompanied by an iced beverage.



Cellist **Jim Jacobson** grew up in the Boston area and studied with Ronald Feldman at the New England Conservatory. Jim performed across the country in everything from TV commercials to Broadway shows before winding up in Minnesota. Jim performs regularly with the Minnesota Opera, Mill City Summer Opera, and has substituted with the Minnesota Orchestra for 24 years. Jim particularly enjoys performing chamber works with *The*

*Musical Offering*, especially alongside his partner Jane Garvin, flute.



*The Musical Offering's* violinist **Celine Leathead** is truly an international talent. Celine, a Montreal native, is the recipient of two Canadian Arts Counsel

Grants and has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra for more than 20 years. She picked up a violin at three years old, and won her first job as Associate Concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony after studying at the Curtis Institute of Music. Since moving to the Twin Cities in 1993, Celine has performed with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and is a former member of the Rosalyra String Quartet. Of all her accomplishments on and off stage, she is most proud of her four great adult children.



**David Pharris** headed north from Florida and Santa Fe to join the Minnesota Orchestra in 2005. He says the transition to Minnesota life wasn't hard: he was

already an avid coffee drinker, and he got acquainted with winter while studying with Robert Marcellus at Northwestern University's School of Music. He briefly returned south in 2013-14 to play with the Houston Symphony during the lockout, but wouldn't trade his colleagues and musical opportunities in Minnesota for anything.



## FROM THE HEART OF EUROPE

For our 2017-2018 season, *The Musical Offering* presents music from central Europe, filled with warmth, texture, and distinctive tastes of the folk cultures that nurtured their creation.

Featuring composers from Bohemia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Moravia, these works reflect sophisticated style as well as ties to their beloved homelands. Join us as we explore well known and less-familiar composers and celebrate their roots in the heart of Europe.



The Music Room, Mihály Munkácsy (Hungarian) 1878

## JOIN US FOR OUR 47TH SEASON

*“I’ve traveled the world listening to chamber music, and heard the best groups perform in the best halls of Europe, America, and Asia and still I’d rather come to a concert with The Musical Offering.”*

### HOME AND FAMILY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Our first concert of the season features three Czech composers from Bohemia, who were all connected to each other by teaching and family. Martinů’s delightful *Sonata for Flute, Violin, and Piano* displays his unique sense of harmony and Czech style, seasoned with his years spent in Paris. The *Piano Trio* by Martinů’s teacher Josef Suk is a wonderful late Romantic work from early in his career, and its style flows from the influence of his teacher Antonín Dvůřák (who later became his father-in-law), whose glorious *Serenade for Winds* concludes the program.

**Sonata for Flute,  
Violin, and Piano**

**H.254**

*Bohuslav Martinů*

**Piano Trio in C  
Minor, op. 2**

*Josef Suk*

**Serenade for  
Winds, op. 44**

*Antonín Dvůřák*

### THREE TIMES THREE

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

*The Musical Offering’s* November concert compares three trios, each of different instrumentation, in a cultural tour of central Europe. The lovely and light *Serenade for Flute, Violin, and Viola* from the German composer Max Reger opens with clean classical lines and beautiful harmonies. Bartók’s *Contrasts* follows, with a keen sense of rhythm and Hungarian folk dance in a piece dedicated to Joseph Szigeti and Benny Goodman. Finally, from Vienna comes the charming Beethoven *Trio op. 11*, in a wonderful arrangement for clarinet, bassoon, and piano.

**Serenade for  
Flute, Violin, and  
Viola, op. 141a**

*Max Reger*

**Contrasts**

*Béla Bartók*

**Trio, op. 11**

*Ludwig van Beethoven*

— ANNUAL FOOD AND WINE EVENT —

### TASTES OF HOME

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

The annual food and wine concert will feature three works that weave dances into their character. We open with the exciting *Polonaise for Cello and Piano* by Chopin, a proud folk dance from his Polish homeland. We pair it with the *Divertissement for Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon* by cosmopolitan Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff. This trio, true to jazz and American influences in Europe at the time, features a Charleston, a waltz called *Florida*, and a last movement full of folk dance rhythm. Finally, we present the *Nonet* by German composer Louis Spohr, a gorgeous and virtuosic piece on the cusp of German Classical and Romantic styles, featuring our wind and string players in equal measure.

Join us for our fifth annual concert of glorious music intermingled with food, wine, and lively conversation!

**Polonaise  
Brillante, op. 3**

*Frédéric Chopin*

**Divertissement for  
Oboe, Clarinet,  
and Bassoon**

*Erwin Schulhoff*

**Nonet**

*Louis Spohr*

### FROM DARK TO LIGHT

APRIL 15, 2018

Our final concert of the season shines the spotlight on three remarkable composers. The program begins with Moravian composer Leoš Janáček’s stunning and compelling *Violin Sonata*, followed by the lush, Romantic *Wind Quintet* by German composer August Klughardt. We close our season with Hungarian flair: Ernő Dohnányi’s *Sextet*, featuring strings, winds and piano, in a work that begins on the serious side and ends in a light-hearted, jazzy romp for all the players!

**Sonata for Violin  
and Piano**

*Leoš Janáček*

**Wind Quintet,  
op. 79**

*August Klughardt*

**Sextet in C Major,  
op. 37**

*Ernő Dohnányi*

## CONCERT TICKETS AND INFORMATION

All concerts will take place at 3:00 pm on Sundays in Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University. Parking is free, plentiful, and very close.

**SUBSCRIBER SAVINGS** – Don't miss our season subscription package! For **\$150**, you will receive tickets to all four concerts and our all-inclusive food and wine event. **Order by September 1 (online or phone) and pay only \$120. You'll get one concert free – a \$30 savings!**

**SINGLE TICKETS** – Single tickets are **\$30 for adults and \$10 for students**. The *Tastes of Home* food and wine concert on February 11, 2018, is **\$60 per ticket** (all-inclusive). You may purchase tickets online at [MusicalOffering.org/tickets](http://MusicalOffering.org/tickets), or by phone at 651-523-2459 and press "2". Tickets purchased in advance will be available at the box office on performance days.

The Musical Offering has never turned away individuals who could not afford a ticket. Contact [info@musicaloffering.org](mailto:info@musicaloffering.org) for all inquiries regarding tickets.

**FOLLOW TMO** – Be sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter and watch our Facebook page for concert previews, musician interviews, recordings and pre-concert videos, and additional concert announcements. You can find TMO on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and at [MusicalOffering.org](http://MusicalOffering.org).

 [facebook.com/TheMusicalOffering](https://www.facebook.com/TheMusicalOffering)

 [@TMOffering](https://twitter.com/TMOffering)



*Visit our Facebook page to watch behind-the-scenes videos and live performances.*

*"Hearing just one musician on a part helped me appreciate just how good these Minnesota Orchestra musicians are."*

*"Between sitting so close and getting to hear musicians talk about the pieces, I feel like I get to know music in a way that's different than at the orchestra."*

### GETTING THERE AND PARKING –

Sundin Music Hall is located at **1531 Hewitt Avenue on the campus of Hamline University in Saint Paul**. Free parking is available one half-block east and NiceRide bikes are available nearby. The Hamline campus is a stop on the new A Line rapid bus route, and is located just blocks north of the Metro Transit Green Line. The hall features curbless entry feet from the door and is accessible for all who wish to hear our music.



*Thank you for supporting The Musical Offering!*

Subscribe or order tickets today.

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

651-523-2459 and press "2"



*The Musical Offering is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization generously sustained by individual gifts. We welcome and appreciate your support. All gifts are tax-deductible.*