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May 4 & 5, 2019

Jung-Ho Pak, Conductor Natasha Paremski, Piano Chatham Chorale, Joseph Marchio, Music Director Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Sergei Rachmaninoff

INTERMISSION

Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2

Maurice Ravel 1. Sunrise 2. The Courting of Pan and Syrinx 3. Bacchanal

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Steinway piano provided by M. Steinert & Sons.



Romantic Legends

Many composers have been inspired by legendary love stories – and many film directors have been inspired by their music! Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet

Fantasy Overture" reflects scenes from the Shakespeare play, including the sword fight between the Montague and Capulet families, the celebrated balcony scene between Romeo and Juliet, and, ultimately, the suicide of the two young lovers. The composer repeated the same musical "love" theme at the ball, on the balcony, in Juliet's bedroom and in the tomb. Director Franco Zeffirelli used Nino Rota's beautiful "Love Theme" in the same way for his 1968 film *Romeo and Juliet*, and Baz Luhrmann also used this idea of a musical signature when he directed the 1996 *Romeo + Juliet* with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes.

Other famously romantic movies feature the gorgeous 18th variation of Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini," including 1980's Somewhere in Time, starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. The film tells the story of a young playwright who meets a mysterious elderly

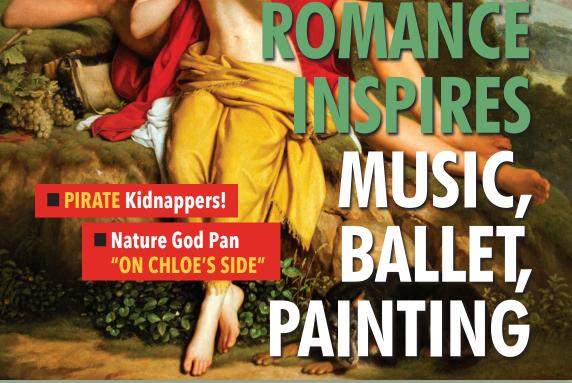
woman at his first opening night. He uses hypnosis to travel back in time and meet her as a young woman. Of course, they fall in love, but their relationship has serious challenges! The beautiful love theme, instantly recognizable from the many times it's appeared in movies and TV shows, is actually the main Paganini melody played "upside down" – in a major key, giving the sound warmth and charm. Apparently, Rachmaninoff knew how appealing this sounded, because he remarked, "This one is for my agent."



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Did you know that the ancient Greeks wrote novels? *Daphnis and Chloe* is perhaps the most famous example, and is full of as many hidden identities, kidnappings, and plot twists as any soap opera. A charming courtship unfolds between a goatherd and a shepherdess, but their romance is tested by many hardships, including abduction by pirates and rescue by the god Pan! Ravel's Impressionist score for the ballet "Daphnis and Chloe," which premiered in 1912 at the Ballet Russes in Paris, provides a passionate background to the story, and is considered some of Ravel's best work. This *Daphnis and Chloe* painting is by Louise Marie-Jeanne Hersent-Mauduit, a 19th-century French painter.

Nature of four! Born in

Natasha Paremski began her piano studies at the age of four! Born in Moscow, she moved to the United States when she was eight, becoming a U.S. citizen shortly thereafter, and is now based in New York.

At the tender age of only nine, Natasha made her professional debut in California! Perhaps even more astonishing, she was only fifteen when she debuted with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and recorded two albums with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

A passionate chamber musician, Natasha is a regular recital partner of GRAMMY-winning cellist Zuill Bailey. You'll remember Zuill's extraordinary playing during our 2018 "Impressions of Don Quixote" concert.

Beyond the traditional concert hall, Natasha is involved in interesting projects. She was the featured pianist in choreographer Benjamin Millepied's *Danses Concertantes* at New York's Joyce Theater. (He's most famous for choreographing the movie Black Swan and marrying Natalie Portman).

In 2007, Natasha participated in the filming of *Twin Spirits,* a project starring Sting and Trudie Styler that explores the music and writing of Robert and Clara Schumann.

Learn more about Natasha and her latest CD on her website: natashaparemski.com.

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