



February 13, 2019
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**VSA Presents The Music of Mozart: Selections from “Amadeus”
Free film screening the morning of the concert**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) presents, “The Music of Mozart: Selections from ‘Amadeus,’” on Sunday, February 24 at 3pm at the Montrose Pavilion. The VSA is an all-volunteer performing arts organization in its 48th season. Its winter orchestra concert features selections from the award-winning 1984 film, “Amadeus,” an opulent tale and fictionalized biography of Mozart. The public is welcome to attend a free screening of the film the morning of the concert.

The VSA welcomes back soloist Susan Ellinger, who will perform her piano artistry on Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, which plays over the film’s closing credits. "Mozart's Concerto in D Minor is

an incredibly dramatic and exciting work that I'm very excited to perform with the VSA," Ellinger said. "This concerto is...a very virtuosic and pianistic work that audiences love." Praised for her "refined, poised and singular" vision, Ellinger has performed extensively as both a soloist and chamber musician, presenting recitals at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium, Tanglewood Music Festival, the Taos School of Music, and many more. She resides in Grand Junction and serves as the artistic director of the Paonia Blue Sage Center for the Arts, where she created and directs their comprehensive and successful year-round concert series program.

"Amadeus" is considered one of the best films of all time and a cinematic work of art. It was based on an award-winning, avant-garde stage play by the same name. The concert program will include references to these mixed media along with outside reviews and articles.

The piece that opens the film opens the concert, and it ends, as does the film, with the concerto performed by Ellinger. "Being familiar with the movie will serve to heighten our audience's experience during the concert, so we encourage you to make a day of it," VSA Board Member Priscilla Fry said.

The free screening is open to the general public and starts at 9:15am at the Pavilion. (The film is rated R.) "Our hope is that our performance provides an elevated appreciation for Mozart and encourages people to enjoy the film and all the nuanced elements and questions it brings to life."

The Montrose Daily Press is garnering headliner billing as the "concert partner" sponsor. "The Montrose Daily Press is a community media company with newspapers, websites, magazines, events and specialty publications serving Montrose and the surrounding areas," Publisher

Tonya Maddox said. “For more than 137 years, we have been dedicated to shining a light on the issues that affect, engage, benefit and empower our local community. That is one of the reasons we are proud to support the VSA and their 48th season of music making for our local community.”

Fry said that the organization is thrilled to receive the support of the Montrose publication. “It’s so rare and special that we on the Western Slope have access to classical music through the VSA, and we look to the regional community for support through attendance and sponsorship to sustain us,” Fry said. “The Daily Press has really stepped up to assist us, and we are so very grateful for their sponsorship.”

“Many consider Mozart to be the ‘world’s first rock star,’” Fry said. “With that teaser and student tickets (age 17 and under) at just \$5, we encourage kids to enjoy lunch in town and our 3pm concert for a fun outing.”

An artist’s reception with light appetizers and a cash bar will immediately follow the performance. “This after-party provides the audience the opportunity to meet the guest artist as well as VSA orchestra, chorus, and board members,” Fry said. “And with adult tickets at \$17 (seniors are \$16), you can make an entire day of it by attending the free movie screening in the morning.”

For information, upcoming concerts, tickets, and the audition process, visit the VSA on Facebook @ValleySymphonyAssociation and at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets are also available in Delta at Clubb’s, in Montrose at Montrose Music and the Montrose Pavilion, and at the door on event days.

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COURTESY PHOTO/GRAPHICS (Dropbox links)

Photo 1: Valley Symphony Association Orchestra (2018-2019)

Orchestra (landscape):

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4du16v4f2wha3qh/Season%2048%20VSA%20Orchestra%20-landscape%20-%20DSC_1523.JPG?dl=0

Orchestra (portrait):

https://www.dropbox.com/s/fnjqrr3yxpjk6dj/Season%2048%20VSA%20Orchestra%20-%20portrait%20-%20DSC_1526.JPG?dl=0

Photo 2: Options for Piano Soloist Susan Ellinger

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0cxasupucvyieop/AAB98ysDkWAgbYS9-mYvIFada?dl=0>

Graphic 1: The Music of Mozart: Selections from “Amadeus”
poster/image

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e5xn90e117jl9in/AADR2D2-XYqUjqve39zDaeeZa?dl=0>

About the concert, “*The Music of Mozart: Selections from ‘Amadeus’*”

Sunday, February 24, 3pm

(Orchestra)

This concert will highlight selections from the award-winning 1984 film, “Amadeus,” an opulent tale and fictionalized biography of Mozart. We welcome back soloist Susan Ellinger, who will perform her wonderful piano artistry on Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, which played over the film’s closing credits. The Montrose Daily Press is the concert partner for this event.

Free screening of *Amadeus*

Sunday, February 24, 9:15am

“Amadeus” is considered one of the best films of all time and a cinematic work of art. Being familiar with the movie will serve to heighten our audience’s entertainment experience during the concert.

The piece that opens the film opens our concert, and it ends, as does the film, with the concerto performed by piano soloist Susan Ellinger.

About the *Valley Symphony Association*

The power of music to bind generations.

Since 1970, the Valley Symphony Association orchestra and chorus has culturally enriched the community and its members by bringing together some of the best volunteer musicians from the North Fork and Uncompahgre Valleys to discover and present works of great composers, past and present. Performance styles range from classical orchestral to upbeat pop, from purely instrumental to a combination of orchestra and chorus.