

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

“Winterlude is a great opportunity to hear four fabulous works of music that don’t often get heard live today.

Aside from being inspired, Mendelssohn, like Mozart, was also precocious. Between the years 1821 and 1823, when the composer was in his early teens, he wrote 12 symphonies for string orchestra and they still delight and engage audiences today, 200 years later. We will play two of those string symphonies. They are often overlooked in orchestral programming, existing in the shadow of the composer's four symphonies for full orchestra written when he was an adult.

Johann Sebastian Bach’s primary job in his life was as a church musician, and in that role, he wrote hundreds of cantatas both sacred and secular. They are among his greatest compositions, but few get heard today. The environs of the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church are the perfect acoustical and spiritual setting for this music.

It is hard to imagine that there was a time the music of a genius like Bach had fallen into relative obscurity, but while his music was still known by some, it was seldom performed after his death in 1750. Audiences were more interested in hearing the new works being composed by living composers than music of a dead composer from a previous era. Mendelssohn was instrumental in changing that. Right at the same time Mendelssohn was writing the string symphonies, his grandmother gave him a copy of the score of Bach’s St. Matthew’s Passion, and Mendelssohn became an immediate fan. He organized performances of Bach’s work and brought it back into the public’s awareness and interest.”

Maestro Timothy Muffitt

Music Director & Conductor