The Colorado Symphony and the Denver Art Museum: An Inspired Pairing

The Colorado Symphony is delighted to participate in the Denver Art Museum’s Passport to Paris exhibition through a series of activities that explore connections between French art and music.

Between November and late January, the Colorado Symphony will present four Masterworks programs that celebrate composers and musicians who lived, worked and were inspired by Paris, including Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel and Frederic Chopin. Audiences are in for a special treat when Artistic Advisor Andrew Litton conducts Daphnis et Chloé at the Colorado Symphony, Ravel’s historic romantic ode to two of mythology’s great lovers, November 22–24, 2013. Masterworks performances are Passport to Paris, November 1–3; an all-Ravel program, Andrew Litton in Concert, November 22–24; Return to Paris, January 17–19; and Inside the Score, Impressionism, November 15.

Passport to Paris marks the second time the Colorado Symphony and the Denver Art Museum have worked together to explore intersections between visual art and symphonic music. Last November, the orchestra performed a program that complemented DAM's wildly successful Becoming Van Gogh exhibition; Faure’s “Requiem” and “Pavane” were among the pieces performed as works by Van Gogh, drawn from his years in Paris, were projected on large screens.

Every Saturday between November 2 and February 9 at 1 p.m., Colorado Symphony musicians will offer performances for Denver Art Museum visitors, with a series of afternoon concerts that celebrate the canon of classical French music. The Colorado Symphony will also curate a soundtrack for the four galleries within the historical Court to Café: Three Centuries of French Masterworks from the Wadsworth Atheneum, complementing the art on the walls with music that reflects and illuminates the works’ history.

The Colorado Symphony and the Denver Art Museum will co-present a variation of Inside the Score: Impressionism as a dedicated program for high school students on November 13 and 14. Teachers will receive curricular materials that connect the program to classroom work; students will have the opportunity to download the soundtrack to the program.

The impressionist period, explored in Passport to Paris’s exhibition Nature as Muse: French Impressionist Landscapes from the Frederic C. Hamilton Collection and the Denver Art Museum, was a fertile period for classical composers, including Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. The intersection of these two worlds will be explored in Inside the Score: Impressionism, an interactive program that combines visual art and music, co-curated by Colorado Symphony resident conductor Scott O’Neil and Angelica Daneo of the Denver Art Museum on November 15.