CONNECTING ORCHESTRA AND COMMUNITY: From the concert hall to the great outdoors

League of American Orchestras Conference
June 19, 2013
Musical Birding Hikes
Hikes

Program Notes

In the *Cantus arcticus*, Rautavaara turned to a redefinition of the concerto. Although audiences have always thought of the genre as a work for soloist and orchestra, the composer boiled it down to refer to two groups of sounds. Commissioned for the University of Oulu, the northernmost university in Finland, the *Cantus arcticus* incorporates a largely traditional chamber orchestra along with bird sounds taped by the composer.

He explains the work with great serenity:

> "The *Cantus arcticus* was commissioned by the 'Arctic' University of Oulu for its degree ceremony. Instead of the conventional festive cantata for choir and orchestra, I wrote a 'concerto for birds and orchestra.' The bird sounds were taped in the Arctic Circle and the marshlands of Lapland. The first movement, *Savo ('The Marsh'),* opens with two solo flutes. They are gradually joined by other wind instruments and the sounds of fog birds in spring. Finally, the strings enter with a broad melody that might be interpreted as the voice and mood of a person walking in the wilds. In *Melankolia*, the featured bird is the shore lark; its twitter has been brought down Space and Mountain Parks naturalist Dave Sutherland to listen for our local birds, and hear selections from the orchestral work. Early birds should meet at Saw Hill Ponds, on 75th Street about 0.6 miles north of Yampa Road, for this easy hike. Beginning bird watchers strongly encouraged! Please do not bring dogs.

The shore lark you hear in the work's second movement is a wide-ranging bird, known in North America as the horned lark. In fact, the open grasslands of Boulder County are home to these distinctive birds year-round! Look for them in places such as Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead north on..."
World Premiere of Symphony No. 1, “Formations”

Composer Jeffrey Nytch
“Formations” Symphony

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More ‘Nature & Music’ Connections

- Movie music concert featuring locally produced outdoor films, such as *Chasing Ice*
- Curriculum for this year’s education program
- Art exhibit inspired by Beethoven’s “Pastoral” Symphony