PIONEER VALLEY SYMPHONY

PEER GYNT

a unique virtual adventure for music lovers of all ages

with Maria José Botelho

SEP 26  | 7:00 PM
PVSOC.ORG
413.773.3664
PEER GYNT

TIANHUI NG  DIRECTOR
MÁRIA JOSÉ BOTELHO  STORYTELLER

Saturday, September 26 • 7:00 pm

presented virtually

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Mass Cultural Council

new england public media

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

The Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation

Local Cultural Councils of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett and Shutesbury

supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency
Dear friends,

Thank you for joining us for the launch of our 2020-2021 season. The Pioneer Valley Symphony has been hard at work to put together safe, accessible programming for our 82nd season that is dynamic, engaging, and unique.

Until it is safe to provide live performances, we are offering a wide variety of virtual opportunities to connect and engage with music in unique ways. We have reimagined our traditional activities, are launching a new Discovery Series that offers deeper insight into music, and creating opportunities to enjoy music together as a community.

Although we are connecting in different ways, we are still the same PVS. We are committed to bringing important music to our community, providing creative ways by which to engage with and understand it, and making our offerings accessible to all who are interested.

This is a critical moment for our community; at a time when we are required to remain physically distant to protect ourselves and others, there is a keen desire to connect, engage, and strive for some normalcy. You can help us provide these opportunities for connection, learning and inspiration by sponsoring one or more of our virtual offerings this season.

At this moment, when performing arts organizations are being called on to employ every ounce of flexibility, creativity and resilience they possess, your investment in the PVS is a vote of confidence in the value of music in all our lives. We recognize this is a financially uncertain time for many of us. If you are able to support the PVS, please consider making a gift to the PVS or becoming a member of the Continuo Society by signing up for automatic monthly gifts.

Thank you,
Kristin Donohue
TIANHUI NG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

The American Prize-winning conductor Tianhui Ng has been the Music Director of the Pioneer Valley Symphony since the 2018-2019 season. Tian is also the Music Director of the Mount Holyoke College Symphony Orchestra (USA) and the Victory Players (USA).

An advocate of new music, he is especially trusted for his work in introducing audiences to new and less familiar music.

He has assisted in and premiered new works by Pulitzer and Rome Prize winners and many young composers. His 2014 premiere of Mary D. Watkins’s Civil Rights era opera, Dark River, was critically acclaimed in the United States, which he adapted for a community singalong format for premiere with the Pioneer Valley Symphony in July 2020.

Tian’s irrepressible musical spirit first expressed itself when he conducted a choir of kindergarten children in his native Singapore at the age of five. A pianist, singer and trombonist, he later studied composition and early music at the University of Birmingham (UK) where he discovered his love for Stravinsky and contemporary music. Returning home, he helped found one of the first contemporary music ensembles in the country, and was soon composing for animation, dance, film, chorus, and orchestra. It was during this time that he discovered his affinity for inter-disciplinary work and created the groundbreaking site-specific community-based arts festival, NOMAD, with which he has won awards from the Singapore National Arts Council. His works have since been heard in diverse settings such as the Hong Kong Film Festival, Animation World Magazine (USA), and Apsara Asia Dance (Singapore). Tian continued his education at the Yale School of Music (USA) where he helped to start a new tradition with the music of his graduation recital reflecting on war and conflict.
Maria José Botelho is Associate Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture at the College of Education of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She specializes in the critical teaching and research of K-12 English language arts and children's and young adult literature.

Maria José coordinates the Reading & Writing Program at the College of Education and is the faculty director of the Five College Doors to the World Project, which offers summer institutes and an online resource for pre-K to grade 5 teachers, librarians, and curriculum specialists on the critical multimodal engagement with global and multicutural children's literature.

Emese is a Mount Holyoke College sophomore studying Music Performance and Italian. She has performed internationally in high ranking choirs and in several choral competitions, including Carnegie Hall and the Kodaly Institute. Her Hungarian heritage and love for music led her to the International Kodaly Institute in Kecskemét where she earned her first Kodaly Method Certificate when she was just 18 years old. A strong advocate for music education, Emese plans to pursue a Masters degree in music education (autism concentration).
Like many local cultural and performing arts organizations, the Pioneer Valley Symphony (PVS) saw its 81st season abruptly end due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the cancelled events was the highly-anticipated 25th annual Education Concert, which was to bring a live orchestra performance to nearly 1,000 third- and fourth- graders and their teachers from 15 schools in Franklin County, Massachusetts. This concert, the culmination of a larger six-week music education curriculum developed by the PVS to help deepen students’ understanding and appreciation of music, is now being reimagined as a virtual event for audiences of all ages and launches the PVS’s 82nd season.

PVS Music Director Tianhui Ng has worked closely with Dr. Maria José Botelho of the University of Massachusetts Amherst College of Education on an innovative collaboration that weaves storytelling together with music. The program centers around the incidental music that Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg composed for Henrik Ibsen’s 1876 staging of the Norwegian folktale of Peer Gynt, which includes some of the most recognized works in the classical repertoire.

Though the cancellation of the beloved Education Concert was disappointing to students and musicians alike, the PVS was able to transform this setback into an opportunity to broaden the reach of this exciting work. No longer limited by the size of our 1,000-seat auditorium, this live, virtual presentation is now accessible to the broader community for music enthusiasts of all ages to enjoy.
PVS PRESENTS...
FALL 2020 EVENTS

$15 PER EVENT

SAT 9/26 • 7PM
PEER GYNT
WITH MARIA JOSÉ BOTELHO
LED BY TIANHUI NG

SAT 10/17 • 7PM
100 YEARS OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT
WITH ANDREA MOORE
LED BY TIANHUI NG

SAT 11/7 • 7PM
THE SUSTAINABLE VOICE
WITH EXPERTS FROM THE FIELD
LED BY SARAH PAQUET

SAT 12/12 • 7PM
PVS HOLIDAY SINGALONG
LED BY TIANHUI NG & SARAH PAQUET
HIDDEN FIGURES
Women composers through the ages

THE CONVERSATION STARTS SAT 10/17 • 7PM
PVS PRESENTS...

100 YEARS OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT
WITH ANDREA MOORE

PVS DISCOVERY SERIES

10/28 7 PM  RENAISSANCE  WITH ANNA MARSH
11/11 7 PM  POST WWII  WITH LIANE CURTIS
11/22 4 PM  BAROQUE  WITH PAULA MAUST
12/2  7 PM  CLASSICAL  WITH ADELINE MUELLER
12/20 4 PM  ROMANTIC  SPEAKER TBD

TICKETS
$15/event  $60 for all 5

PIONEER VALLEY SYMPHONY