

Date: Monday, Sunday, March 17, 2013

Event: Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra Concert “From the Headwaters to the Sea”

Where: Hippodrome Theatre, Scottish Rite Bldg.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

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Great things happen when people join forces on a common project. The Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra is working with the Vigo County Public Library’s Big Read to present a concert based on the book “Tom Sawyer” which in turn celebrates “2013, the Year of the River”. The Sinfonietta concert “From the Headwaters to the Sea” will be presented on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hippodrome Theatre in the Scottish Rite Building.

Chris Schellenburg, VCPL Community Services and Marketing Coordinator, will narrate the concert. She reminds all attending the concert that they will be given a free copy of the book “Tom Sawyer”. The Sinfonietta has been a partner in the Big Read program since 2008 and was pleased that MS Schellenburg will join us again as she did in 2011 when the big Read celebrated the works of Edgar Allen Poe.

The orchestra will set the tone immediately with “Water Music” from George Friedrich Handel. First performed during a Royal Excursion on the River Thames, the Sinfonietta will play an abridged version of this fifteen movement work. The scene will move from England to Austria with the familiar sounds of “The Blue Danube”, possibly the most famous waltz in the world. The composer Johann Strauss went against his father’s wishes when he became a musician but went on to be known as the ‘waltz king’ and wrote over 500 waltzes, polkas and other forms of dance music.

The Moldau is the longest river in the Czech Republic with its source near the German border and its confluence with the Elbe River 35 kilometers north of Prague. The musical composition, “The Moldau”, by Czeck composer Bedrich Smetana is part of a cycle of tone poems called “My Fatherland” and describes a journey down this river.

Coming a bit closer to home we hear Ferde Grofe’s “Mississippi Suite” a musical journey down the Mississippi; its movements are titled: Father of Waters, Huckleberry Finn, Old Creole Days, and Mardi Gras. “The Dixieland One Step “ which features the music familiar in the New Orleans area also offers an opportunity to hear Sinfonietta’s Dixieland quartet featuring Steve Steppe, cornet, Bill Heinrich, trombone, Ed Harbour, clarinet and Michael Livingston, Tuba.

Tom Sawyer and his friends spent a lot of time playing pirate on the Mississippi River and dreaming of their daring raids and captured treasure. Eric Korngold who wrote the music for the film “The Sea Hawk” starring Errol Flynn captures the swashbuckling life of a lusty buccaneer. Other music on the playlist includes: “Moon River”, “White River Legend”, and “Contrasts for Orchestra.” The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The Sinfonietta gratefully acknowledges grants from Arts Illiana, the Indiana Arts Commission, the Wabash Valley Community Foundation and the City of Terre Haute.