

January 2016

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Matinee at the Movies 2015

## PEORIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES FAMILY MATINEE - Fairy Tales and Scary Tales

Peoria, IL – *“A Season of Inspiring Programs”* – George Stelluto, Music Director for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra.

The Peoria Symphony Orchestra’s (PSO) 118<sup>th</sup> season of exceptional concerts continues on Sunday, January 24, 2016, 3:00 pm at the Peoria Civic Center Theater with FAMILY MATINEE - Fairy Tales and Scary Tales.

The entire family is invited to an afternoon of musical ghost stories and fairy tales told by some of the world’s greatest composers. In its third year of presenting a family-oriented concert Maestro George Stelluto said,

*“I am excited we are offering this series so families have the opportunity to spend time together enjoying music.”*

Children of all ages are encouraged to wear a costume of their choice to the concert, FAMILY MATINEE - Fairy Tales and Scary Tales, and if they choose, may participate in the on-stage costume parade and contest. Celebrity judges will choose six lucky winners and the costumed winners will be recognized on-stage and awarded prizes donated by local businesses such as Rivermen Hockey, Peoria Chiefs, Kartville, Fannie Mae candy, Casey’s Pizza, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria Zoo, and Wildlife Prairie Park.

Pre-concert activities will set the mood in the Civic Center lobby beginning at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 24, 2016 including professional face painting, popcorn, punch, and photographs with costumed characters depicting the music of the concert.

The PSO offers this concert to introduce children to classical music in a comfortable setting. It’s an opportunity to break down the barriers of attending the symphony and according to a study from the Institute of Education, University of London, “playing classical music to young children boosts their concentration and self-discipline. It improves their general listening and social skills by being exposed to repertoires from classical composers including Ravel, Beethoven and Mozart. In addition, they are likely to appreciate a wider range of music in later years.”

The concert is filled with well-known music that will appeal to children as well as adults. Many of the works performed on this concert FAMILY MATINEE - Fairy Tales and Scary Tales are featured in the 1940 Disney film *Fantasia*. The concert will include Mussorgsky’s, *Night on Bald Mountain*, Saint-Saëns *Danse Macabre* and *Carnival of the Animals*, Tchaikovsky’s, *Sleeping Beauty*, and Dukas,’ famous *Sorcerer’s Apprentice*. The first two works are on the “scary” side: Mussorgsky’s threatening *Night on Bald Mountain*. Subterranean sounds of supernatural voices, appearances of the spirits of darkness, the bell of the village sounding in the distance and finally daybreak depict the orchestral fantasy of this piece.

The skeletal *Danse Macabre* by Saint-Saëns paints a musical image of the Dance of Death with the solo violin playing the role of Death. The ghostly main theme develops and just as the dance reaches its wildest; it is cut short by Dawn.

The gorgeous music from Tchaikovsky's fairy-tale ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* is performed by the PSO. Considered a masterpiece the music depicts characters familiar to children of all ages: evil fairies, Princess Aurora, fairy godmothers, Puss in Boots and the White Cat, and, of course, Prince Charming.

Two French pieces round off the concert, the *Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Dukas, and the sometimes satirical and hilarious *Carnival of the Animals*. The familiar images of Mickey Mouse and single-minded brooms were inspired by a 1797 Greek poem which tells the story of a lazy student magician left alone with orders to fill buckets of water. The music is colorful and mysterious with a whirlwind of activity that represents magic spells.



A truly lighthearted and funny piece *Carnival of the Animals* has become wildly popular with animals depicted in music. In 1949, the American poet Ogden Nash wrote a set of verses for the work which are read in magnificent voice by our Narrator for the concert Dr. Kim Pereira. Dr. Pereira teaches Acting at Illinois State University's School of Theater. He grew up in Bombay, India and has been in the US since 1985. An author, journalist and professional speaker, Professor Pereira's talent for the spoken word will be a highlight of this magical afternoon.

Tickets for the PSO's FAMILY MATINEE – Fairy Tales and Scary Tails start at \$30 and student tickets are \$11. A FOUR-PACK family sale is available for just \$62 (\$82 value) and tickets are available by calling the PSO Box Office at 309.671.1096, 101 State Street, Peoria, IL. Box Office hours are 10:00 - 4:00 Monday through Friday, or online to [www.peoriasymphony.org](http://www.peoriasymphony.org). For FOUR-PACK family sale use code: family.

The concert is underwritten by PNC with additional support from Children's Hospital of Illinois.

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