

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2020-21 Concert Season

Michelle Merrill, Music Director and Conductor
Brunswick High School Auditorium

Monday, January 25, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Suite No. 1 from <i>Façade</i>	Sir William Walton
Flute Concerto in D major	Carl Reinecke
Intermission	
Symphony No. 3	Felix Mendelssohn

We will enjoy a touch of whimsy, a soaring flute, and a “Scottish” symphony during our first concert of the season.

This concert opens with the music of a polka, a waltz, a yodeling song, a tango, and a tarantella – but not in any conventional form. Instead we are treated to exaggerated, playful strains of these familiar genres. The suite of songs was taken from the *Façade*-Entertainment composed by Sir William Walton and poet Edith Stillwell in which she read her poems over Walton’s compositions. The result is a bit of whimsy that is an enchanting experience for both the musicians and the audience.

Carl Reinecke’s Flute Concerto in D major was the last concerto composed before his death in 1910. A contemporary of Schuman and Mendelssohn, Reinecke shared Schumann’s fondness for the Romantic Period. His last concerts were able to carry those sounds into the 20th Century. The concerto will be performed by Les Roettges, the CSG’s Planters Exchange Principal Flute Chair. The music allows the flutist to take center stage throughout while pairing with various other members of the orchestra in a cheerful first movement, a slow dark second movement, and finally stirring the brass and strings into dramatic swells of harmony and texture that lead to a triumphant finale.

While on a walking tour of Scotland in 1829, Felix Mendelssohn visited the ruins of Holyrood Chapel and wrote home that he thought he had found there the beginning of his “Scottish” Symphony. However, by the time he finished 13 years later, he had stopped referring to the Scottish inspiration. The first three movements all use the sonata form with a continued thematic transformation of the original idea he had notated on his tour. Although the finale suggests Scottish folk dance, it also introduces a new majestic theme in a repeated section, closing with the feel of a victory hymn.

This concert will engage our imagination!