

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2020-21 Concert Season

Michelle Merrill, Music Director and Conductor
Brunswick High School Auditorium

Monday, April 12, 2021
8:00 p.m.

<i>Coriolan</i> Overture	Ludwig von Beethoven
<i>Siegfried Idyll</i>	Richard Wagner
Intermission	
Symphony No. 3	Ludwig von Beethoven

Our fourth concert of the season opens and closes with the genius of Beethoven, as part of the global celebration of his 250th birthday.

Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture depicts a Roman leader's transition from brutality to tenderness by capturing the moods of the story of Gaius Marcius Coriolanus rather than its narrative. A main C minor theme represents Coriolanus' resolve and war-like tendencies as he is about to invade Rome. A more tender E-flat major theme reflects the pleadings of his mother to desist. An explosive beginning gives way to lighter winds, but there is a continuing sense of underlying urgency as it moves to a pastoral feeling, ending quietly as the troubled Coriolanus takes his own life.

A mother and son theme also informs the second piece on the program in Richard Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. Originally titled *The Tribschen Idyll*, the symphonic poem presented in sonata form celebrates private joys, domestic bliss, and the birth of a son, Siegfried. Wagner presented it to his wife Cosima as a birthday present on December 25, 1870, gathering a small ensemble on the stairs of their home, Tribschen, on Lake Lucerne, Switzerland. He later arranged the piece for full orchestra and retitled it *Siegfried Idyll*. This work is considered the most personal of all his compositions and has been described as a sumptuous piece of music that expresses his paternal and romantic love.

Beethoven's brilliant Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*, closes the program. It is considered a milestone work of classical-style composition and marks the beginning of the Romantic period in classical music. Gigantic in scope, the symphony covers a wealth of emotional ground thematically and marks the beginning of Beethoven's creative middle-period. In terms of astonishing output of superlatively complex, original, and beautiful music, this period in his life is unrivaled by any other composer in history.

This concert will inspire us!