

# Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2020-21 Concert Season

Michelle Merrill, Music Director and Conductor  
Brunswick High School Auditorium

Monday, March 8, 2021  
8:00 p.m.

*D'un matin de printemps*

Lili Boulanger

Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor

Camille Saint-Saens

Intermission

Symphony No. 5

Dimitri Shostakovich

***The second concert of the season invites us to enjoy creative, compelling music performed by our orchestra of excellence and a gifted solo cellist.***

*D'un matin de printemps* (Of a Spring Morning) which opens our second concert is an evocative 20<sup>th</sup> century piece written with a fresh and joyful character. Unlike many of Lili Boulanger's other works, there is a certain frivolity to this music. However, there is a slightly darker middle section, and the constant time and mood changes in this 1918 work will keep us engaged. Strings and woodwinds are the stars of the piece, with the brass joining in the climax of trills, and one final, short last note from the full orchestra.

Camille Saint-Saens' structured his Cello Concerto in one continuous movement with three distinct sections, a break from convention when it was composed in 1872. The composer puts the cello soloist in the musical foreground with the orchestra serving as a shimmering backdrop. It is tremendously demanding for soloists, especially in the fast third section and is a favorite of great virtuoso cellists. Yo-Yo Ma's recording of "Five Great Cello Concertos" includes this one. Cellist Christopher Adkins, principal cellist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, will join us as guest artist on this elegant concerto.

The evening closes with Dimitri Shostakovich's powerful and controversial Fifth Symphony. The Symphony was written in 1937 at the height of Stalin's purges: a time of death, fear, and artistic repression. The rich fabric of the symphony includes a constant sense of urgency, an overwhelming sadness, and the public heard the music as an expression of the suffering to which it had been subjected by Stalin. However, the authorities claimed they found everything in the work they had demanded of Shostakovich, a move showing that the party could reward as well as punish. The fourth movement with its triumphant sound written in a major key has been debated to this day; was the ending magnificent, or a parody of magnificence?

***Our musicians' virtuoso talents shine!***