

# Milwaukee Summer Philharmonia

Ralph Lane, conductor

a regional summer orchestra

a division of Philharmonia Racine Ltd.

Sixth Season

in an All-Brahms Concert



*Johannes Brahms*

Monday, July 6, 2009, at 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church  
Racine, Wisconsin

**Brahms (1833-1897)**, born in poverty, was the first composer to amass a small fortune from composition alone. As a teenager, he earned a little money playing the piano in the harbor-side saloons of his native Hamburg. At twenty, he was hired as accompanist by the touring Hungarian violinist, Remenyi. On the tour, Brahms attracted the attention of the rising violin virtuoso Joachim, who not only hired Brahms but also groomed him for an interview with the Schumanns. The composer Robert Schumann was immediately impressed and, in his role as editor of Germany's most influential musical newspaper, wrote a prophetic article heralding the coming of the twenty-year-old genius of German music. Perhaps Robert's recognizing Brahms' talent was encouraged by Robert's 34-year-old wife Clara, a brilliant musician, who even at sixteen had been recognized as one of the leading concert pianists of Europe. A year later, Robert's mental health faltered, and he was institutionalized until his death two years later. During those two years, Brahms sacrificed his career to assist Clara in her household and with her seven children, as she continued to give concerts throughout Europe. A deep and lifelong bond of friendship was formed, and Clara was always among the first to see Brahms' new compositions and to give comment.

Two decades later, when Brahms was 43, he brought out his first symphony – long delayed probably by fears of Beethoven's long shadow. Relieved to have found great success, he set out immediately on the second, to be heard tonight, and completed it within a year. Clara's diary noted that, during that time, Brahms had come over one evening to play the just-completed first movement on the piano. She found it jovial, although Brahms – ever self-deprecating – advised his publisher to print it with the black borders of mourning. Was it, perhaps, that Brahms saw it as tragic, while Clara chose only to hear the

# Johannes Brahms

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Opus 73

*Allegro non troppo*

*Adagio non troppo*

*Allegretto grazioso (Quasi Andantino)*

*Allegro con spirito*

Admission is free. Those who may wish to contribute to the support of the orchestra may place their gifts in the baskets at the doors upon leaving.

**Milwaukee Summer Philharmonia 6427 Charles Street Racine WI 53402 Ph 262-752-0212**

## VIOLINS

Alex Ayers

Katharine Ayers

*Co-Concertmasters*

Ashley Barret

Corinn Bonkalski

Jennifer Haukohl

Joey Kahl

Michelle Pera

Jessica Wahl

Mary Beth Zielke

Jenni Reinke

*Principal*

Mary Kao

Mike McElwee

Victor Pan

Sandra Zalewski

## VIOLAS

Tom Dentici

*Principal*

Sue Chartrand

Beth Getman

## CELLOS

Adam Syers

*Principal*

Shep Crumrine

Carroll Gottschlich

Suzanne Janke

Caryl McAllister

Joshua B. Parman

Katie Simpson

## DOUBLE BASSES

Aliscia Benetti

*Principal*

James Dean

## FLUTES & PICCOLO

Carole Shiraga

Heather Hall

## OBOES

Elliot Czaplewski

Karon Bouwma

## CLARINETS

Lindsay Richter

Lauren Bantz

**BASSOONS**

Keith MacGaffey

Libby Garrett

**HORNS**

Jamin Hoffman

Sarah E. Pulfer

Allison Berndt

Jeanne Gurda

Julie Krause

**TRUMPETS**

Eric Sperry

Kevin Peterson

**TROMBONES**

Christopher Wood

Julie Bernier

Motoaki Kashino

**TUBA**

Rafael Pietri Davila

**TIMPANI**

Dan Lawitts