

BSO lifts crowd above weather, political fray

BY JUDY HARRISON  
BDN STAFF

Bangor Symphony Orchestra conductor Lucas Richman served up a program Sunday designed to lift concertgoers above the uncertainty of the meteorological and political fray that Mainers experienced the first week of March. The concert at the Collins Center for the Arts featured works by Johannes Brahms and

THEATER  
REVIEW

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Richman succeeded at giving symphony regulars a happy concert that featured soloist Inbal Segev, an amazing cellist who played with passion and precision. The concert began with a stunning concerto by Igor Stravinsky called “Dumbarton Oaks.” It was written in the late 1930s after the Russian composer visited the Washington, D.C., home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss. The couple commissioned it for their 30th wedding anniversary.

Whether intended or not, the concerto in E-flat is a portrait of a marriage. The first movement conjured up the joy, elation and apprehension of the early years. The lively second movement evoked images of growing children chasing dogs and cats, tussling with each other and their angry adolescence. The third movement sounded like empty nesters forging a new relationship, less frenzied than one they shared in the recent past. Segev and her cello, made by

Francesco Ruggieri in 1673, enchanted concertgoers in Tchaikovsky’s “Variations on a Rococo Theme.” The cello often is the instrument that best conveys the depths of grief and the bottomless pit of despair. Instead, Tchaikovsky composed a joyful piece reminiscent of the late Baroque period. Segev performed with precision and grace, and the orchestra followed her lead. The cellist, who began playing in Israel when she was 5, forced the BSO to play with

the same concise clarity she did. It was one of the orchestra’s best performances this season because of Segev’s inspiration. Richman told the audience as the concert began that hearing Brahms’ Symphony No. 2 was like “being wrapped in a warm blanket.” It did feel that way, but the orchestra performed as if that blanket was familiar and worn. After the precision with which the orchestra played with Segev, the Brahms symphony at times  
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MAGNUS STARK | PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY  
From March 10 to 27, Penobscot Theatre Company will stage “The Last Five Years,” a musical written by Jason Robert Brown that explores a five-year relationship between characters Jamie, a successful novelist, and Cathy, a struggling actress.

Staging a love story  
Best friends bring ‘The Last Five Years’ to life

BY SHELBY HARTIN  
BDN STAFF

Love and loss often coexist, meeting to create a story that has been lived over and over again across time. From that individually unique, yet commonplace human experience comes a narrative: one relatable to most and foreign to few. “The Last Five Years,” a musical written by Jason Robert Brown, explores that experience, chronicling a five-year re-

lationship between characters Jamie, a successful novelist, and Cathy, a struggling actress. In those five years a relationship begins, blossoms, flounders and ends, but not necessarily in that order. Inspired by the writer’s own failed marriage, the story follows Cathy in reverse chronological order, beginning with the end of their marriage, and Jamie in chronological order, starting at the beginning of the relationship. The two never interact face to face until their

timelines intersect in a fleeting moment of togetherness. “The Last Five Years” was adapted to film in 2015 and starred Maine actress Anna Kendrick, but it’s time for a couple of other Maine residents to fill the roles. The Penobscot Theatre Company will stage “The Last Five Years” from March 10-27, featuring two production regulars, Dominick Varney and Brianne Beck, who will hold the stage with songs of love and loss, taking audiences on a journey that

is separate from their own experience and a part of it. Varney and Beck, who have been friends for more than 20 years, will bring an already personal relationship to the stage while depicting the journey of the characters in this story. “Dominick and I have been best friends for 23-ish years, and I like to think that romantic relationships are based on initial friendship and a lot of those qualities you have in a friendship also relate to your romantic  
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Art mystery: Who’s the man in this painting?

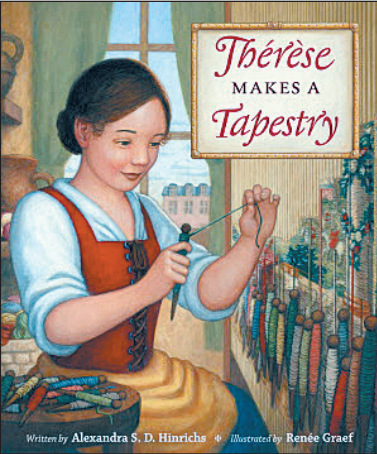
BY SHELBY HARTIN  
BDN STAFF

Its oil on hardboard and was painted in 1940 by Marsden Hartley, an American modernist painter of the first half of the 20th century. Its title is “Madawaska — Acadian Light-Heavy,” and you can see it, at the Art Institute of Chicago. According to Teddi-Jann Covell, president of the Bangor Art Society, it will be part of a retrospective of Marsden Hartley’s work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2017.

That much is known. What isn’t known is who the man in that painting is. Marsden Hartley was born in Lewiston, Jan. 4, 1877, and died in Ellsworth, Sept. 2, 1943. The subject of “Madawaska — Acadian Light-Heavy” also was a Mainer, according to Hartley’s writings. According to Covell, The Metropolitan Museum of Art reached out to her for help identifying the mystery man in the painting. She has since been on a search for information to uncover who this model, whom Hartley refers to in his writing, may be. According to Elizabeth Mankin Kornhaus-

er’s text “Marsden Hartley,” published by Yale University Press, this painting is “one of a series of paintings that Hartley intended for a gymnasium.” The model for the painting, who Covell’s contact at the MET believes was once named Albert Daigle, has preoccupied her time lately as she attempts to figure out who he was. Covell believes he may have changed his name to Norman Albert at some point in his life based on a tip from a friend who remembers working with a man in a Madawaska mill who fit the subject’s description.  
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The story follows Therese as she embarks on a plan to use her small loom to weave a special, intricate tapestry for her father, getting help from all over the manufactory. Illustrated by award-winning artist Renee Graef, the vivid imagery and detailed story draw readers into the story and delights with surprises. The book was published by J. Paul Getty Museum. “Getty publications approached me to see if I would have any interest in this project,” said Hinrichs in a recent phone interview. Hinrichs, whose work as a researcher for American Girl led Getty to her, drew on her experience while writing the book. “Working at American Girl taught me both about the process of writing a book, and the types of questions to ask,” said Hinrichs. The story, intended for children, combines historical facts and creative fiction into the engaging tale. “Therese is fictional, however it’s based on a lot of history. The ... manufactory is a real place, even today,” said Hinrichs. “What really led me to set the story there was when I learned that the weavers and the artists and their families lived on site. I just thought what a cool place to grow up.” Therese’s father also is based on a real person, and King Louis XIV also really visited the manufactory as well. As for the tapestry the story is based on? It’s real. “The tapestry she weaved is based on a real tapestry,” said Hinrichs. “There’s two versions of it currently hanging at the Getty.”  
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Colby College Museum of Art • Maine Film Center  
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March 11 – April 7 / **Common Street Arts**  
**Youth Art Exhibition** (Reception March 11, 5 – 7 PM)

March 22, 7 PM / **Railroad Square Cinema**  
**A National Evening of Science on Screen; Film screening of Computer Chess with guest speaker Clare Bates Congdon**

April 5, 4:30 PM / **Colby College Museum of Art**  
**Studio Artist Lecture: Elizabeth Jabar**

April 9, 7 PM / **Hathaway Creative Center**  
**PechaKucha Night Waterville – PK WTVL Vol. 20**

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 7:30 PM; April 10, 17, 2 PM / **Waterville Opera House**  
**Mary Poppins** (For tickets visit: [www.operahouse.org](http://www.operahouse.org))

March 22 – April 24  
**25th Annual Maine Open Juried Art Show @ Waterville Public Library**

a program of  
**Waterville Main Street and Waterville Area Art Society**  
**Reception March 24, 6 – 8 PM**