

**Lexington Symphony
Presents
“The Muse”
Stravinsky • Finzi • Nielsen
Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 pm
Tickets On Sale Now**

For Immediate Release

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Lexington, MA – Lexington Symphony, under the musical direction of Jonathan McPhee, is proud to present “The Muse.” Lexington Symphony’s “The Muse” is sure to be a compelling and evocative evening full of a wide range of musical styles. The concert brings together music that has ignited the creative spark in choreographers like George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. This beautiful program includes works from world-renowned composers including Stravinsky, Finzi, and Nielsen. Tickets for Lexington Symphony’s “The Muse” on Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 pm at Lexington’s Cary Hall, are \$33-\$55 and are on sale now at www.LexingtonSymphony.org. Group and student discounts are available.

The Muse – FEBRUARY 16 AT 7:30PM AT CARY HALL

“The Muse” stands out as a rich connection to the art of movement. This program will include *Concerto in D* and *Apollon Musagète*, both composed by the famous Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. Stravinsky first emerged on the world stage as a composer for Serge Diaghilev’s company of Russian dancers called the Ballet Russes, with such groundbreaking works as his *Firebird*, *Petroushka*, and *Rite of Spring*. One young dancer from the Ballet Russes, George Balanchine, was brought to New York City to create the company we know today as New York City Ballet. Balanchine choreographed *Apollon Musagète* while another resident choreographer at NYCB, American Jerome Robbins, choreographed *Concerto in D*, which became known as the ballet “The Cage.” Musically these are very different pieces and they were interpreted with completely different flavors.

The other two works on this program, Finzi’s *Clarinet Concerto, Op. 31* and Nielsen’s *Little Suite for Strings Op. 1*, though never choreographed, have fascinating rhythms and a descriptive character that lend themselves well to being set to dance.

“The Muse” is a concert that has a heavy focus on strings and clarinet, with Principal Clarinetist Bill Kirkley in the forefront of Finzi’s *Clarinet Concerto*. Bill Kirkley is one of Lexington Symphony’s most

accomplished players, as well as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Lexington Symphony. He has been a featured soloist twice for the orchestra, is the Principal Clarinetist for the Cape Ann Symphony, Boston Musica Viva, and the Gordon Symphony, and additionally, he is a member of the Orchestra of Indian Hill, and is a substitute clarinetist with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops. His performance of Finzi's piece will be emotional and intensely exciting.

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LEXINGTON SYMPHONY

Lexington Symphony is a professional, musician-owned orchestra of accomplished musicians who share a passion for classical music, a commitment to community engagement, and a commitment to exacting standards of performance. Founded in 1995 by Conductor Hisao Watanabe and a group of dedicated musicians and supporters, Lexington Symphony maintains a grassroots community spirit while producing high-quality performances. The Symphony offers six concerts each season at Cary Hall in Lexington, and reaches thousands of area youth annually with Orchestrating Kids Through Classics™, its award-winning educational outreach program for third and fourth graders.

With an emphasis on making music accessible to the community, Lexington Symphony offers world-class programming, affordable tickets, and outreach programs that introduce music lovers of all ages to classical music.

Music Director Jonathan McPhee, who joined the Symphony in 2004, is one of the leading musical figures in New England. Each of Lexington Symphony's four core classical concerts are preceded by a Conductor's Talk by McPhee, in which he explores the thoughts of the composers and the history behind the music in a way that illuminates the listening experience to follow. Under McPhee's leadership, the Symphony continues its work as a renowned, first-class organization firmly committed to its community. www.LexingtonSymphony.org

CARY MEMORIAL HALL

The Cary Memorial Building is a historic structure located in Lexington Center at 1605 Massachusetts Avenue. The Cary Memorial Building, named for Isaac Harris Cary, was built in 1928 with a donation from his two daughters. The Colonial styled building, with its grand auditorium, has provided the community with a year-round site for musical programming and popular events for eighty years and is home to the Lexington Symphony. The building is handicapped accessible, and is fully air-conditioned. www.caryhalllexington.com