OPENING NIGHT:
TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY NO. 2

Grant Park Orchestra
Carlos Kalmar Conductor
Benjamin Beilman Violin

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich
Jubilation

Sergei Prokofiev
Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op. 19
Andantino
Scherzo: Vivacissimo
Moderato — Allegro moderato

BENJAMIN BEILMAN

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 17, Little Russian
Andante sostenuto — Allegro vivo
Andantino marziale, quasi moderato
Scherzo: Allegro molto vivace
Finale: Moderato assai — Allegro vivo

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*Best wishes to all on wonderful performances!*
ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH (born in 1939)

**JUBILATION** (1996)

*Scored for:* piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, English horn, two clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, contrabassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion and strings

*Performance time:* 6 minutes

*First Grant Park Orchestra performance*

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, a native of Miami, was the first woman both to earn a doctoral degree from Juilliard and to win a Pulitzer Prize in music. From 1995 to 1999, she was the inaugural appointee to the Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Zwilich now holds the Francis Eppes Distinguished Professorship at Florida State University. “Jubilation was commissioned,” she wrote, “by the University of Georgia for the opening of its Performing and Visual Arts Center in Athens, Georgia in April 1996. Though short, the piece is almost a concerto for orchestra, emphasizing the ensemble's vibrant colors and contrasts, the virtuosity of its players, and the orchestra’s almost unparalleled ability to give voice to musical drama.”

SERGEI PROKOFIEV (1891-1953)

**VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 1 IN D MAJOR, OP. 19** (1915-1917)

*Scored for:* woodwinds in pairs plus piccolo, four horns, two trumpets, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp and strings

*Performance time:* 22 minutes

*First Grant Park Orchestra performance:* July 16, 1954, Nikolai Malko, conductor, with Fritz Siegal as soloist

Early in his career, Sergei Prokofiev classified his music into four distinct styles: classical or neo-classical; modern; toccata or motoric; and lyrical. It was largely in this last style that he composed his First Violin Concerto. The gentle mood that pervades the Concerto is established immediately at the beginning by the principal theme; a quickening of the tempo introduces the second subject. The scherzo, an example of Prokofiev's toccata or motoric style, is in the form of a compact rondo. The finale returns the introspective mood of the first movement.
PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)
SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN C MINOR, OP. 17, LITTLE RUSSIAN
(1872-1873, revised 1879-1880)
Scored for: woodwinds in pairs plus piccolo, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones and tuba, timpani, cymbals, bass drum, gong, and strings
Performance time: 36 minutes
First Grant Park Orchestra performance: July 24, 1968, Irwin Hoffman, conductor

In June 1872, after an exhausting year of teaching, composing and writing music criticism in Moscow, Tchaikovsky visited his beloved sister, Alexandra, in Kamenka in Ukraine. He was refreshed not only by the time spent with his family, but also by the chance to return to the country and its people. Among the things he enjoyed most was hearing the peasants sing, and it may have been that the Second Symphony was inspired by rustic music. The work’s subtitle refers to the Ukrainian region from which Tchaikovsky borrowed those themes, known in Tsarist days as “Little Russia.” The Symphony’s slow introduction is based on a variant of the traditional Russian song Down by Mother Volga, which appears elsewhere in the movement. The second movement was taken whole from Undine, Tchaikovsky’s unsuccessful opera of 1869, where it was used as a wedding march. The center of this three-part movement (A–B–A) is a treatment of Spin, My Spinner. The third movement is a scherzo whose central trio shifts rhythmic gears into a jaunty duple meter. The dazzling finale is a set of variations on the Ukrainian tune The Crane.

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