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Imaginations Soar with *Fantastique!*

Fantastique! The perfect title for the Traverse Symphony Orchestra's Sunday, October 24, 3pm concert in Corson Auditorium. From the imagination and brilliance of Paul Dukas and Hector Berlioz come two of classical music's favorites. With uncommon rhythmic vitality and stunning orchestration, both have achieved "audience select" status.

Motivated by passion, Berlioz began *Symphonie fantastique* in an attempt to gain the favor of actress Harriet Smithson. The work tells the story of a young, imaginative musician who, tortured by unrequited love, poisons himself and plunges into a deep sleep filled with dramatic visions, including his own execution. In the printed score, Berlioz records, "The beloved woman herself has become for him a melody, like a fixed idea which he finds and hears everywhere."

The symphony's place in history is assured by a new technique used by Berlioz to organize the work called the *idée fixe*. The *idée fixe* is a short, recurring theme periodically heard throughout the work that unifies the composition as a whole.

About the work Berlioz said: "The predominant qualities of my music are passionate expression, inner fire, rhythmic drive – and the unexpected."

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is programmatic music in that it claims to tell a story. In this case that of a magician who can transform a broomstick into an animate being having it perform all his household chores. A favorite of concert goers, it eventually gained much wider exposure as part of Walt Disney's 1940 film *Fantasia*.

The program also features soloist Panayis Lyras, a Van Cliburn Competition medal winner and Artist in Residence at Michigan State University performing Franz Liszt's *Totentanz*. That Franz Liszt was a piano virtuoso is apparent, as the score requires the soloist to display virtuosic technique of paramount proportions.

For ticket information call 231-947-7120 or visit www.traversesymphony.org. Season sponsor is Northwestern Bank. Concert sponsor is Orchard Creek Health Care. The media sponsor is WCCW FM.

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