

# Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

Neal Gittleman, Music Director  
Wednesday, January 13, 1999, 8pm  
Thursday, January 14, 1999, 8pm  
Memorial Hall

## CLASSICAL SERIES PROGRAM NO. 5

All-Orchestral Program

Neal Gittleman, Conductor

Jaime Morales-Matos, Cover Conductor

Michael Schelle  
(b. 1950)

**Seventh Samurai (World Premiere)**

Joseph Haydn  
(1732—1809)

**Symphony No. 7 in C Major, “Noon”**

Adagio—Allegro

Recitativo: Adagio

Menuetto and Trio

Finale: Allegro

*Mr. Morales-Matos*

INTERMISSION

Dmitri Shostakovich  
(1906—1975)

**Symphony No. 7 in C Major, op. 60, “Leningrad”**

Allegretto

Moderato (Poco allegretto)

Adagio

Allegro non troppo



**JAIME MORALES-MATOS**

Globe-trotting, trombone playing Jaime Morales-Matos is in his fifteenth season as Music Director of the Central Ohio Symphony, where he has brought new direction to the Symphony's artistic programming and performances. He describes his position here as "very special" due to several factors. "The musicians are here because they love music, not because it is a job. It is beautiful to work with people who love what they are doing. This community has an appreciation for the arts and supports the arts. At Gray Chapel, the audience is in constant contact with the musicians. We are all in the same place in the hall or in the building. That interaction is part of the fabric of this community."

As a conductor, Jaime has conducted throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America, as well as in his native Puerto Rico. He served as Cover Conductor of the Dayton Philharmonic from 1996 to 1999 assisting Music Director Neal Gittleman and leading the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. He conducted members of the New York Philharmonic at the prestigious Casals Festival in a concert broadcast on public television in 2003 and was selected in 2007 as one of the most promising young conductors by the American Symphony Orchestra League.

In addition to his conducting, Jaime has wide-ranging experience as a trombonist. He has performed in this country and elsewhere, including Europe and Latin America, and has premiered various pieces written for him. Jaime directs and plays trombone with Son del Caribe, a Cincinnati-based Latin music ensemble considered by many to be the top salsa band in Ohio.

Jaime is Associate Professor of Trombone at Miami University of Ohio. He is very active as a Master Class artist in the United States and Latin America, and has taught trombone extensively. He received his undergraduate training at Indiana University and holds a Master's degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

## SHOSTAKOVICH'S *SEVENTH*, A BRIEF APPRECIATION

Strange, perhaps, to write a “brief appreciation” of such a long, monumental symphony. But because it’s such a major musical work, I’ll be brief here and let Shostakovich’s music speak for itself.

My good friend—and former DPO and DPAA Trustee—Rap Hankins calls this “The Symphony that Saved the World”. And he might be right! Without Shostakovich’s “Leningrad Symphony” we might be living in the world of *The Man in the High Castle*, wearing brown shirts festooned with swastikas and speaking German as a second (if not a first) language.

Dmitri Shostakovich composed his Seventh Symphony in his home city of Leningrad during the more than two-year-long Nazi siege of the city. Not only was the symphony written in Leningrad during the siege, it was performed in Leningrad during the siege, a singular display of defiance in the face of great adversity and suffering.

That performance caused a sensation throughout the countries of the anti-fascist alliance. The score was microfilmed and flown by military aircraft from the Soviet Union to the West via Tehran in April of 1942, leading to a British premiere by the London Philharmonic in June 1942 and a U.S. premiere by the NBC Symphony the following month. At a time when the outcome of the war was very much in doubt, the “Leningrad Symphony” was a major morale boost for all the Allies and the symphony became a cultural rallying cry for freedom-loving people around the world.

Did Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7 turn the tide of World War 2? Not by itself. The siege of Leningrad wasn’t broken until early 1944 and there was much heavy fighting to follow before V-E Day. But this symphony *was* a major emotional (and propaganda) victory for the Allies, and it certainly played a role in boosting the anti-Nazi war effort.

So maybe this really is Rap’s “Symphony the Saved the World”.

—Neal Gittleman