

Seraphim Chamber Choir presents

# THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Mar 23, 2023  
7:30 PM



Église Saint-Boniface  
3751 Av. de Hôtel de Ville  
\$20 regular, \$15 student

Artistic director : John Guzik

Download the program: [seraphimmontreal.com](http://seraphimmontreal.com)

# The Princess and the Pea

*Pieć Pieśni Op.75, No.3 Wcoraj dzlwcyno*  
Henryk Górecki (1933-2010)

**Once upon a time there was a Prince who wanted to marry a Princess. Only a real one would do.  
So he traveled through all the world to find her, and everywhere things went wrong.**

*Four Madrigals, No.2 Flowers for the Graces*  
Ned Rorem (1923-2022)

**There were Princesses aplenty, but how was he to know whether they were real Princesses? There was something not quite right about them all.**

*Come Away Sweet Love*  
Thomas Greaves (1570-1604)

*Though Amaryllis Dance in Green*  
William Byrd (1543-1623)

**So he came home again and was unhappy, because he did so want to have a real Princess.**

*Trzy spiewki, No.2 Miłosna*  
Kazimierz Serocki (1922-1981)

*Sobótkowe spiewki, No.2 W polu lipieńka*  
Kazimierz Serocki (1922-1981)

**One evening a terrible storm blew up.  
It lightened and thundered and rained. It was really frightful!**

*Am Walchensee Op.63, No.3 Nordwind*  
Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)

**In the midst of it all came a knocking at the town gate.  
The old King went to open it.**

*Pastime with Good Company*  
King Henry VIII of England (1491-1547)

*Ev'ry Bush New Springing*  
Michael Cavendish (1565-1623)

**Who should be standing outside but a Princess, and what a sight  
she was in all that rain and wind.**

*Verlaine Stamning*  
Hildor Lundvik (1885-1951)

**Water streamed from her hair, down her clothes into her shoes,  
and ran out at the heels.**

*Det forsta varregnet*  
Hildor Lundvik (1885-1951)

**Yet she claimed to be a real Princess.**

*C'est la petit' fill' du Prince*  
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

**“We’ll soon find that out,” the old Queen thought to herself.**

*La Biche*  
Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

**Without saying a word about it, she went to the bedchamber,  
stripped back the bedclothes, and put just one pea in the bottom  
of the bed. Then she took twenty mattresses and piled them on  
the pea.**

*Tu ne l'enten pas, c'est Latin*  
Claude Le Jeune (1528-1600)

The Queen then took twenty eiderdown feather beds and piled them on the mattresses. Up on top of all these the Princess was to spend the night.

*To Be Sung of a Summer Night*  
Frederick Delius (1862-1934)

*Serenade*  
Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

In the morning they asked her, “Did you sleep well?”  
“Oh!” said the Princess. “No. I scarcely slept at all. Heaven knows what’s in that bed. I lay on something so hard that I’m black and blue all over. It was simply terrible.”

*Kibnu Wedding Songs, No.2 Ilu õue pealt*  
Veljo Tormis (1930-2017)

They could see she was a real Princess and no question about it, now that she had felt one pea all the way through twenty mattresses and twenty more feather beds. Nobody but a Princess could be so delicate.

*Clotilde*  
Claude Monin

So the Prince made haste to marry her, because he knew he had found a real Princess.

*Jubilate*  
Bernhard Lewkovtich (né 1927)

As for the pea, they put it in the museum. There it’s still to be seen, unless somebody has taken it.

*Pod Krakowem Czarna Rola*  
Witold Lutosławski (1913-1944)

And that, my friends, is a true story!

*Alleluia*  
Michał Ossowski (né 1984-)

# Program Notes

**Henryk Górecki** *Pięć Pieśni Op.75, No.3* Wcoraj dzlwcyno

A romantic lullaby between two lovers, it is an affectionate dialogue from the lost Kurpian forest region of Poland. The lovers seem to resonate their affection eternally.

**Ned Rorem** *Four Madrigals, No.2* Flowers for the Graces

Written on the text by Sappho, “Weave garlands maiden. The happy graces love to look on happy faces. But turn aside from the ungarlanded!”

**Thomas Greaves** *Come Away Sweet Love*

**William Byrd** *Though Amaryllis Dance in Green*

Two 16<sup>th</sup> century madrigals that evoke the mischievousness of beautiful nymphs. Always toying with our affections, never attainable, and whose messages are full of double entendres.

**Kazimierz Serocki** *Trzy spiewki, No.2* Miłosna

**Kazimierz Serocki** *Sobótkowe spiewki, No.2* W polu lipieńka

A collection of Polish folksongs about love and loss. They describe how we may lose the things we cherish and how affection can bring pain as much it can bring joy.

**Joseph Rheinberger** *Am Walchensee Op.63, No.3* Nordwind

This fiery work is about love like a violent storm. It uses the analogy of the North winds that pass through lake Walchensee in southern Germany. “It is my Love who cried like a storm wind...open the door, let him in!”

**King Henry VIII of England** *Pastime with Good Company*

**Michael Cavendish** *Ev'ry Bush New Springing*

Another group of madrigals but in a humorous context. One composed by a King, the other about frowning upon unsolicited attention.

**Hildor Lundvik** *Verlaine Stamning*

Drops of rain gently falling in a puddle are portrayed in this Swedish evening song. As Spring rain slowly falls on the silent houses, we are overcome by a feeling of melancholy.

**Hildor Lundvik** *Det första varregnet*

The branches of the trees hang like black spiderwebs as they drip from the first rains of spring. One is drawn into the cold dampness of a February nocturn.

**Francis Poulenc** *C'est la petit' fill' du Prince*

The tale of a Prince's daughter who sought to marry. But her plans fell into an unfortunate turn of events on the treacherous shores of the Loire river.

**Paul Hindemith** *La Biche*

The Doe. This beautiful creature is questioned on what ancient mysteries it is hiding in the reflection of its eyes? What inexperience is it concealing on its brow?

**Claude Le Jeune** *Tu ne l'enten pas, c'est Latin*

There is a secret happening here, some obscurity underfoot. We have a young maiden who has gone to the mill to have her grain ground. But "You don't understand, it's Latin." People doing sneaky business...

**Frederick Delius** *To Be Sung of a Summer Night*

**Edward Elgar** *Serenade*

These sleepy numbers may lull you to sleep as well. Although, not a restful one, "Dreams, once they are broken, come not again."

**Veljo Tormis** *Kihnu Wedding Songs, No.2 Ilu õue pealt*

Beauty Disappears from the Yard by Estonian composer Tormis. The weeping pain of a Mother as she sees her daughter leaving the gate of the farmyard. The walls need cleaning, the pigpen scrubbing, the floor needs sweeping. They too cry for want of attention.

**Claude Monin** *Clotilde*

Delicate like anemones and columbines, water maidens entice you pursue that beautiful shadow which you desire.

**Bernhard Lewkovitch** *Jubilate*

Weddings are about celebration and rejoicing. This work “O Rejoice in the Lord all ye Lands” by Danish composer Bernhard Lewkovitch is also a fitting celebration of Hans Christian Anderson’s tale.

**Witold Lutosławski** *Pod Krakowem Czarna Rola*

A Black Field Near Krakow, is a soldier’s tale about leaving his love in the plowed black field. She has given him her handkerchief, but he will not wear it. A tale of honour and duty.

**Michał Ossowski** *Alleluia*

Joyous and jazzy. An exciting Seraphim discovery to end this tale of the Princess and the Pea.

# Seraphim Chamber Choir

– *Artistic Director* –  
John Guzik

– *Narrator* –  
Lucas Amato

– *Soprano* –  
Lauren Busheikin  
Ariane Cimon-Fortier  
Ana Gonzalez  
Beth Koudys  
Ivy Zhang

– *Alto* –  
Lana Cuthbertson  
Danielle Henry  
Marie-Rose Labrie  
Heather Reckling

– *Tenor* –  
Ryan Canuto  
Boris Domenech  
Martin Hirschhorn  
Tahnee Hutchens  
Daniel Miguez de Luca

– *Bass* –  
Ian Baird  
Scott Bradford  
Kevin Chen  
Brock Jenken  
Devin Kwok  
Rob Nahas