

Music for *food*



SEASON 14 FINALE  
MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN AND  
HERSHEY FELDER PERFORM  
*ENOCH ARDEN*

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 7:30 PM BROWN HALL

# Music for *food*



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# PROGRAM

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*Enoch Arden*, Op. 38 (1897)      Music by Richard Strauss (1864-1949)  
Text by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

First Part [50 minutes]

## INTERMISSION

Second Part [35 minutes]

Hershey Felder, narration  
Marc-André Hamelin, piano

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## PROGRAM NOTES

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Melodrama - the recitation of a text with piano, instrumental or orchestral accompaniment - was in the last century a popular genre, and Strauss had no lack of models upon which to create his own. Beethoven (incidental music to *Egmont*), Schubert (*Die Zauberharfe*), Berlioz (*Lelio*), Grieg (Berlioz) and many other composers famous and obscure wrote melodramas. The role of the speaker often went (as it goes also tonight) to a famous actor or singer. Strauss wrote *Enoch Arden* in 1897 for his friend Ernst von Possart, an eminent actor recently turned administrator of the Munich Court Opera. Strauss chose for his text Tennyson's poem *Enoch Arden*, first published in 1864 and translated into German some years later. The first performance was given in Munich on March 24, 1897 with Strauss at the piano. Von Possart and Strauss then took the work on tour around Germany to great success, adding to Strauss's already substantial reputation as the composer of *Don Juan*, *Till Eulenspiegel*, *Death and Transfiguration* and *Also sprach Zarathustra*.



Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was one of England's greatest poets and a true representative of the Victorian Age. Best remembered today for *The Idylls of the King*, much of his writing reveals him as a moral teacher-poet, in whose works the notion of the heroic ideal is uppermost, set in exquisitely crafted, highly melodious text. Such too is the blank-verse narrative poem *Enoch Arden*. Clearness of conception, nobility of tone and musicality of the text itself are features of Tennyson's prose. Regarding the latter, "the mere sound of his words and phrases lingers in the brain, apart from any meaning, as the echoes of a musical cadence linger along a vaulted roof," wrote F. J. Rowe and W. T. Webb in their introduction to an early edition.

The story in brief is this: Enoch, Philip and Annie are seen playing together as children. Later, as adults, Annie favors the more assertive Enoch as her husband, while the gentler Philip is left to brood. Enoch and Annie have two fine, healthy children and live happily together for seven years. Then disaster strikes. Enoch falls and is injured just as Annie is about to give birth to a third child. No longer capable of operating his own fishing boat (of which he is so proud), and terrified by the prospect of plunging his family into poverty, Enoch sells his boat and signs on with the merchant marine. Years go by, with no news from Enoch. In the meantime, Philip, with only the noblest of motives, more and more becomes the benefactor, both financially and emotionally, to Annie and the children. When all hope of Enoch's return is lost, Annie accepts Philip as her new husband.

But Enoch is not dead. He has been cast, Robinson Crusoe-like, onto a desert island in the South Seas where he languishes for years before being rescued (Tennyson's cruel parody of "paradise" here is unmistakable) and returning to his village. Enoch is now so changed in appearance that he goes about unrecognized. He peers into the home he once called his own, and sees a perfect picture of domestic contentment - Annie, his children, Philip, and another child not his own all together around the hearth - and silently withdraws to nurse his bitter fate alone, resolving never to inform his beloved Annie of the hurt she has caused him. Only on his deathbed does he reveal all to his landlady, who, upon Enoch's passing, informs Annie in turn. "And when they buried him the little port/Scarcely had seen a costlier funeral."

Strauss's music is surprisingly scant compared to the size of the text. The most significant musical passages are associated with the key points in the story. There are also a short introduction and one major interlude for each of the two parts. Four leitmotifs help unify the work: one for each of the three main characters plus one for the surging sea, which serves, as in Crabbe's *The Borough* (another tragic story set in an English fishing village, which served Benjamin Britten for his opera *Peter Grimes*) not only as a backdrop to the story but as a metaphor for the turbulent emotions at play. The descriptive sea motif is heard at the very outset. The character motifs are more epigrammatic, each heard in turn under the speaker's initial descriptions: Annie Lee ("the prettiest little damsel in the port"), Philip Ray ("the miller's only son"), and Enoch Arden ("a rough sailor's lad"). Norman del Mar comments in his monograph on Strauss that these three motifs are "undeniably soft-grained to the point of sentimentality, but this is in keeping with the period of the drama, in which every character behaves impeccably from beginning to end." And herein lies the crux of the story - impeccable behavior - for no character intentionally does another any harm, yet all, particularly Enoch, who suffers horribly, are forced to accept the harsh realities of life brought on to some extent by those closest to them.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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## HERSHEY FELDER

American Theatre Magazine has said, "Hershey Felder, actor, Steinway Concert Artist and theatrical creator is in a category all his own." Following 28 years of continuous stage productions and over 6,000 live performances throughout the U.S. and abroad, Hershey Felder created Live from Florence, An Arts Broadcasting Company, based in Florence, Italy, which has produced more than eighteen theatrical films to date. They include the recently-released Noble Genius-Chopin& Liszt;The Assembly; Violetta, the story of Verdi's Traviata; Dante and Beatrice; Mozart and Figaro in Vienna; the world premiere musicals Nicholas, Anna & Sergei; the story of Sergei Rachmaninoff; Puccini, the story of famed opera composer Giacomo Puccini; Before Fiddler, a musical story about writer Sholem Aleichem; Great American Songs and the Stories Behind Them, Leonard Bernstein and the Israel Philharmonic, a documentary, and the popular Musical Tales in the Venetian Jewish Ghetto. Two seasons of programming are currently available at [www.hersheyfelder.net](http://www.hersheyfelder.net) with season 3 being launched in spring of 2024. Hershey has given performances of his solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theatres and has consistently broken box office records. His shows include George Gershwin Alone (Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre, West End's Duchess Theatre); Monsieur Chopin; Beethoven; Maestro (Leonard Bernstein); Franz Liszt in Musik, Lincoln: An American Story, Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin, Our Great Tchaikovsky, and A Paris Love Story and Monsieur Chopin. His compositions and recordings include Aliyah, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; Fairytale, a musical; Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano; Song Settings; Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra; Etudes Thematiques for Piano; and An American Story for Actor and Orchestra, and the opera IL QUARTO UOMO that premiered in Fiesole, Italy in the summer of 2023 with the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

Hershey is the adaptor, director, and designer for the internationally performed play-with-music The Pianist of Willesden Lane with Steinway artist Mona Golabek; producer and designer for the musical Louis and Keely: 'Live' at the Sahara, directed by Taylor Hackford; and writer and director for Flying Solo, featuring opera legend Nathan Gunn. Hershey has operated a full-service production company since 2001. He has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Rt. Hn. Kim Campbell.

## MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN

“A performer of near-superhuman technical prowess” (The New York Times), pianist Marc-André Hamelin is known worldwide for his unrivaled blend of consummate musicianship and brilliant technique in the great works of the established repertoire, as well as for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. He regularly performs around the globe with the leading orchestras and conductors of our time, and gives recitals at major concert venues and festivals worldwide.

Highlights of Mr. Hamelin’s 2023–2024 season include a vast variety of repertoire performed with the Philharmonisches Orchester Hagen (Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3), Netherlands Radio Philharmonic (Reger’s Piano Concerto), and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (music by Franck and Boulanger). Recital and chamber music appearances take Mr. Hamelin to Prague, Poland, Oslo, Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, London’s Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam’s Muziekgebouw, Portland Piano International, Cleveland Chamber Music Society, Cliburn Concerts and Brevard Music Center with Johannes Moser, and across the U.S. with the Takács Quartet. Festival appearances include Tanglewood, Le Festival de Lanaudière, Grand Teton Music Festival, Tuckamore Festival, Schubertiade, and Rockport Chamber Music Festival.

Mr. Hamelin is an exclusive recording artist for Hyperion Records, where his discography spans more than 70 albums, with notable recordings of a broad range of solo, orchestral, and chamber repertoire. In September 2023, the label releases Mr. Hamelin’s recording of Fauré’s Nocturnes and Barcarolles, including a short four-hand suite, played with his wife, Cathy Fuller. In 2022, he released both a two-disc set of C. P. E. Bach’s sonatas and rondos and a two-disc set of William Bolcom’s complete rags that both received wide critical acclaim.

Mr. Hamelin has composed music throughout his career, with over 30 compositions to his name. The majority of those works—including the Etudes and Toccata on “L’homme armé,” commissioned by the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition—are published by Edition Peters. Mr. Hamelin performed his Toccata on “L’homme armé” along with music by C.P.E. Bach and William Bolcom on NPR’s Tiny Desk in 2023. His most recent work, his Piano Quintet, was premiered in August 2022 by himself and the celebrated Dover Quartet at La Jolla Music Society.

Mr. Hamelin makes his home in the Boston area with his wife, Cathy Fuller, a producer and host at Classical WCRB. Born in Montreal, he is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Record Critics’ Association, and has received 7 Juno Awards, 11 Grammy nominations, and the 2018 Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance from Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music. In December 2020, he was awarded the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry from the Ontario Arts Foundation. Mr. Hamelin is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Québec, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

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