Symphony in 60: Beethoven Symphony No. 4

Minnesota Orchestra

Paul Watkins, conductor and cello

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 6 pm  |  Orchestra Hall

Tonight’s concert is performed without intermission.

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

Cello Concerto in A major, Wq 172

Allegro
Largo maestoso
Allegro assai

Paul Watkins, cello

Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony No. 4 in B-flat major, Opus 60

Adagio – Allegro vivace
Adagio
Allegro vivace
Allegro ma non troppo

Meet the Musicians Onstage: Following tonight’s concert, the audience is invited to join Minnesota Orchestra musicians onstage for conversation and beverage after the stage is cleared.

A profile of Paul Watkins appears on page 36. Program notes on the Bach and Beethoven works appear on pages 38 and 39.

C.P.E. Bach: Cello Concerto in A major

This cello concerto by Johann Sebastian Bach’s second surviving son, which also exists in versions for flute and keyboard soloist, showcases the cellist’s virtuosity in a pair of fast-paced, surprise-filled outer movements, while offering an achingly emotional central movement in a minor key.

Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

From deep shade, Beethoven’s Fourth Symphony emerges, powerful and athletic, into bright daylight. The Adagio is an expansive, rapt song. A blustery third movement goes twice through the scherzo-trio-scherzo cycle, and the finale is a comedy worthy of Beethoven’s erstwhile mentor, Haydn.