

HOUSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023
8:00 PM at Jones Hall

PROGRAMME INFO

Join us for the HSO's performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's cinematic, richly evocative Symphony No. 11, *The Year 1905*. The subtitle of the piece refers to the events of the Russian Revolution of 1905, which the symphony depicts. In 1955 the composer publicly announced that he was writing a symphony commemorating specifically the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," when Czarist troops massacred peasants in a peaceful protest before the Imperial Palace in January 1905, causing a reaction that became the Russian Revolution. The piece also has important ties to Houston—the Houston Symphony gave the U.S. premiere in 1957, and released the first-ever commercial recording shortly after.

Performing Shostakovich's dynamic Violin Concerto No. 1 is the incomparable Augustin Hadelich, recognized as one of the great violinists of our time. The concerto was composed by Shostakovich in 1947–48. He was still working on the piece at the time of the Zhdanov Doctrine, which was a Soviet cultural doctrine that effectively banned the work of artists who failed to comply with the government's wishes. The concerto could not be performed in the period following the composer's denunciation, but it was finally premiered in October 1955. The piece was well-received. Violinist and dedicatee of the concerto David Oistrakh remarked on the "depth of its artistic content" and describing the violin part as a "pithy 'Shakespearean' role."

Oistrakh characterized the first movement Nocturne as "a suppression of feelings," and the second movement Scherzo as "demonic." The Scherzo is also notable for an appearance by the DSCH motif—a motif representing Shostakovich himself that recurs in many of the composer's works.



I WANT TO SEE THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY!

Transportation will be by school bus and will depart Tompkins HS at 6:30pm for Jones Hall. Please eat dinner prior to arrival. We anticipate arriving back on campus by 10:30pm. **Tickets are limited to the first 50 people to sign up.**

Number of Tickets _____

Adult Tickets _____ at \$30 each = _____

Student Tickets _____ at \$25 each = _____

Student's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Emergency Number that Evening _____



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