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# PETER AND THE WOLF

FEATURING ECHO'S 2024 YACC WINNER  
ARTURO GONZALEZ, CELLO  
PERFORMING DVORAK'S CELLO CONCERTO MVMT. 3

&

EMANUELEE "OUTSPOKEN" BEAN,  
PETER AND WOLF NARRATOR



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024  
7:30PM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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HOUSTON, TX 77079

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The Energy Corridor of Houston Orchestra (ECHO) brings the gift of music to Houston area residents. Founded in 2014, this orchestra is the backbone of the Energy Corridor that allows for enrichment of art and culture in the heart of the Energy Corridor District.

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*ECHO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization  
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Pablo Donatti\*\*  
Alan Austin  
Richard Baum  
Johnny Chang  
Vladimir Kotsiouruba  
Carly Galloway  
Eddy Marciano

## 2nd Violin

Janis Garcia\*\*  
Josine Corstens  
Sarah Garcia  
Catie Reid  
Shelby Shull  
Anastasia Sion  
Colette Taccolini  
Angie Villarreal  
Alan Ye

## Viola

Howard Williams\*\*  
Rebecca Smith Averill  
Sirenia Garcia  
Jonathan Griffin

## Cello

Jennifer Lin\*\*  
Roy Calzadillas  
Gregg Goodnight  
Paty Guzman  
Shanay Kapadia  
Kyle Mendel

## Bass

Marcelle Martin\*\*  
Rueben Garcia  
John Loving  
Andrew Adams-Whitehead

## Flute

Kim Clark\*\*  
Sarah McDonner

## Oboe

Brian Briones\*\*  
Javier Ortega

## Clarinet

Jennifer Daniels\*\*  
Joe Dombrowski

## Bassoon

Nathan Daniels\*\*

## French Horn

Craig Hubbard\*\*  
Andrew Lucas  
Mitchell Ramirez

## Trumpet

Randy Snyder\*\*  
Darren Rowan

## Trombone

Dilan Ilhan\*\*  
Larry Olson (Bass Trombone)  
Kenny Peake

## Tuba

Bill Brown\*\*

## Percussion

John Rice\*\*  
Grame Martin

*\*\*Principal Musician*

## ECHO Staff

**Michael Fahey, Conductor**  
**Charles Tittsworth, Associate Conductor**  
**Sarah McDonner, Executive Director**  
**Randy Snyder, Personnel Manager**  
**Sarah Garcia, Librarian**

***Thank you to St. John Vianney Catholic Church for allowing us to use their beautiful church for our 10th Season Fall and Spring concerts!***

# Program

Dance from “La Vida Breve”

Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

Peter and the Wolf, Op. 67

Sergei Prokofiev  
(1891-1953)

Emanuelee “Outspoken” Bean, Narrator

-Intermission-

Carmen Suite No. 1.

Georges Bizet  
(1838-1875)

*Prelude*

*Aragonaise*

Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B. 191.

Antonín Dvořák  
(1841-1904)

*Mvmt III*

Arturo Gonzalez, Cello

“Les Toréadors” from Carmen Suite No. 1

Georges Bizet  
(1838-1875)

# Program Notes

## **Dance from La Vida Breve (1905)**

**Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)**

Falla received his musical training in Spain and then moved to Paris to become part of the lively artistic scene including Ravel, Debussy and Stravinsky, whose music was to influence his later style.

La Vida Breve (The Brief Life) was Falla's first major composition, composed in Spain and revised before its first performance in Paris. It is the story of a young peasant who falls hopelessly in love with a man from a higher class and her tragic death. This brilliant dance is the most performed excerpt from the opera and demonstrates Falla's mastery of orchestration.

## **Peter and the Wolf for Orchestra and Narrator, Opus 65**

**Serge Prokofiev (1894-1953)**

As a student at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Prokofiev developed his compositional style as a combination of lyricism contrasted with spikey dissonance. As a graduate, Prokofiev saw the instability of pre-revolutionary Russia as limiting his future, so he traveled to the West in hopes of gaining international recognition. When sustained success eluded him, he returned to the Soviet Union, only to find himself under the dangerous eye of dictator Joseph Stalin. Ironically, they both died on the same day on 1953.

In spite of his worldliness, Prokofiev loved playing with his children and could himself be quite childlike. Peter and the Wolf introduces the instruments of the symphony orchestra in a way that is charming to both children and adults alike. Prokofiev himself conceived the story and wrote the narration to this, his most performed work. While it is a charming story of a child and his relation to animals, on a deeper level it is also about becoming a man and the triumph of good over evil.

## INTERMISSION

## **Carmen Suite #1 (1875)**

**George Bizet (1838-1875)**

As a precocious teen, Bizet realized he had an uncommon gift for melody, drawing him into the world of opera. He spent most of his creative life searching for the perfect libretto that could inspire his genius for the theatre, leaving several operas incomplete and unperformed. With Carmen, his final opera, he found the perfect story to inspire his considerable melodic and dramatic genius.

# Program Notes Cont'd

Prelude to Act 1- This short work is actually the heart of Bizet's great opera. It is known as the "fate motif" and appears at crucial points throughout the opera to indicate key points when fate intervenes. A startling tremolo in the upper strings announces that mysterious force, then cellos and winds state the unsettling motif, ending as abruptly as it began.

Prelude to Act 4, Aragonaise- This is Bizet's take on a traditional dance from Aragon, a land locked region in southeastern of Spain. The addition of tambourine and triangle add to the color of this energetic dance and pizzicato strings imitate guitars which typically accompany this dance.

## **Concerto in B Minor for Cello and Orchestra, op. 104 (1904)      Antonin Dvorák (1841-1904)** ***III. Finale: Allegro Moderato***

Dvorák spent two and a half years in the United States founding the National Conservatory of Music. His Cello Concerto in B Minor was written during his final year in the U.S. and was inspired by a performance of Victor Herbert's Cello Concerto No 2. Dvorák scored the concerto for full symphony orchestra including 3 trombones and tuba, solving potential balance problems by having the cello frequently play in its upper register, once thought to be the cello's weakest. Dvorák demonstrated to successive composers how the cello can powerfully enter the violin register with beauty and strength. This masterful concerto is considered the finest of all cello concertos.

The third movement begins with its principal theme, a stormy, very Slavic melody with the soloist involved in dialogue with the orchestra. The movement is constructed as a rondo, the first theme alternating with contrasting themes. Dvorák writes: "The Finale closes gradually diminuendo, like a sigh, with reminiscences of the first and second movements—the solo dies down . . . then swells again, and the last bars are taken up by the orchestra and the whole concludes in a stormy mood."

## **Les Toréadors from Carmen Suite #1 (1875)      George Bizet (1838-1875)**

More than any other opera, Carmen is filled with "hits." This aria is sung by the heroic toréador, the second of Carmen's love interests in this opera, a foolish decision that brings about Carmen's own demise.

### **Michael Fahey, Conductor**

Michael Fahey has been performing teaching and conducting in the Houston area since 1991. He has performed with the Theatre Under The Stars Orchestra, Houston Latin Philharmonic and many other orchestras and has conducted high school groups at Symphony Hall in Chicago as well Carnegie and Lincoln Center in New York. Mr. Fahey was the 2012 recipient of the Houston Symphony educator of the year award. Fahey is the founding conductor and music director of ECHOchestra. Recently retired from Stratford High School after 30 years as a music educator, Mr. Fahey is a member of the Artist Faculty at the Paganini School of Music in Katy, TX and has recently been appointed Interim Conductor for the Houston Youth String Orchestra for the Fall 2023 Semester. He enjoys living in the Energy Corridor with his wife Melanie and their two rambunctious canines.



### **Charles Tittsworth, Associate Conductor**

A graduate of the University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University, Charles Tittsworth has been a musician and music educator for 48 years. In addition to teaching all levels from elementary age to college, Mr. Tittsworth has conducted three community orchestras as well as several church choirs. He has also served as President of Texas Orchestra Directors Association and Orchestra Vice President of Texas Music Educators Association. His orchestras were twice selected All-State Honor Orchestra, and he was awarded Teacher of the Year for Lanier Middle School. This summer he was awarded Orchestra Director of the year by Texas Orchestra Directors Association.



### **Arturo Gonzalez, Cello**

Arturo (17) began his musical journey when he was 6 years old, where he played the violin for one year in the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of El Sistema in Caracas, Venezuela. Once in the U.S, he started learning the cello at the age of 11, mostly teaching himself until he got his first private teacher, Mrs. Wendy Smith Butler, in the 8th grade.

Arturo currently attends The Woodlands College Park High School, whose orchestra is directed by Emmanuel Peralta Coraza and Mary Kate Hom. Throughout his musical career, Arturo has had the wonderful opportunity of performing with the best musical ensembles in Houston and beyond. He has also had the great honor of serving as principal cellist of various orchestras, including the Woodlands Symphony, the Luzerne Music Center, the Houston Youth Symphony, the Virtuosi of Houston, and the TMEA All-State Philharmonia Orchestra. Arturo has always considered music to be a crucial part of his life, and for that reason he has dedicated so much of his time and energy towards providing a magnificent experience for himself and his various audiences. He regularly volunteers to perform at a nursing home, he has his own Instagram page dedicated to publishing his own arrangements of famous classical pieces for cello ensembles (@the.most.perfect.pitch), and he enthusiastically volunteers to tutor his peers.



### **Emanuelee Bean, Poet/ Narrator**

Emanuelee Bean, known as "Outspoken Bean," is a dynamic artist and mentor in poetry and performance. His pioneering spirit led him to become the first poet on Houston Ballet's main stage, solidifying his reputation as a trailblazer. He's collaborated with brands like Pabst Blue Ribbon and VICE, crafting national diversity campaigns. As Houston's Poet Laureate, he champions diverse voices and nurtures emerging talent. With a global presence, Bean's performances at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall cement his status as a distinguished performer on the global stage.





*Special Thanks to all of ECHO's Supporters and Donors for their dedication to igniting the spirit of music in West Houston!*

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BOARD MEMBER

# Diane Statham



1945 - 2024

**ECHO lost one of its esteemed board members this spring. Diane Statham, ECHO's Board Secretary and Fundraising Committee Member, passed away in March 2024. She will be missed as a dedicated Board member and friend to the orchestra! Diane was a very accomplished woman and sat on many boards and committees throughout Houston.**



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