Reinhold Glière
Concerto for Horn and Orchestra in B flat major, op. 91
I. Allegro
II. Andante
III. Moderato - Allegro Vivace

Intermission

Emmanuel Chabrier
Larghetto for Horn and Orchestra

Jean-Michel Defaye
Alpha for Horn and Piano
**PROGRAMME NOTES**

**Glière** composed this horn concerto in 1951. It was premiered by Russian hornist Valery Polekh, who suggested Glière to write the concerto for horn. During that time, french horn was able to take on larger role as a solo instrument because it has valve to change the pitches. Before then, it was natural horn which is valveless instrument. So, the way to play is modifying the pitch by changing how they blew into or by adjusting the cranks of the instrument.

Glière's *Horn Concerto* has three movements. It starts out with the horn leading the theme, eventually passing it back and forth with the symphony. Each time this occurs the passages swell and become even fuller. The horn is depicting the inner-spirit of the dedicated individual and the beauty contained within. Oddly, Glière chose to write his concerto in an older classical style that encompasses only three movements. Eventually, at the end of the third movement, the orchestra showcases the virtuosity of the soloist, incorporating difficult technique and long cadence.

**Chabrier's Larghetto for horn and orchestra** was discovered after his death and often referred to as the French Horn equivalent of an operatic aria. Chabrier employs the instrument in particularly lyrical fashion. The work is so achingly expressive, in fact, one wonders whether Chabrier had some particular theme or event in mind. Rich, detailed orchestration supports the horn's melodic line. Near the end, the horn engages in dialogue with members of the ensemble, first with a cello, then a clarinet. These exchanges suggest the passage of sad words between loved ones; perhaps as he penned this work, one of his last, Chabrier was bidding adieu to his own life.

**Jean-Michel Defaye composed** Alpha in order to dedicated to Georges Barboteu, a professor at the National Conservatoire. Starting slowly with an exchange between the Horn and the Piano, this piece features a Cadenza section with a Horn solo followed by stimulating part on the rhythmic pattern. The final of the piece is to be played “Lento” which consists Cadenza on the horn along with piano. This piece has some really strong and expressive moments, quite dramatic from time to time, and was initially written for a Conservatoire contest. As a pianist, composer, producer and arranger, Jean-Michel Defaye mainly created pieces for brass and wind instruments. He won the Premier Second Grand Prix de Rome in 1958 and the Belgian Queen Elizabeth composition competition in 1959.