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## REVIEW CSO up to challenge of Mozart

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Zoom

Violinist Jae Cosmos Lee, Cape Symphony concertmaster and director of the orchestra's chamber ensemble Nth Degree, performed as a soloist in the "Mozart, at Last!" program this weekend. Dan Cutrona

By Keith Powers  
Contributing writer

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HYANNIS – There are worse ways to spend an afternoon than listening to Mozart. Distinct in his elegant style, layered with witty ideas, and nearly always engaging the entire ensemble with continuous interplay, Mozart’s music both pleases and challenges.



Zoom

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### In Concert

What: Cape Symphony Orchestra  
When: Sunday afternoon  
Where: Barnstable High School Center for the

Orchestra dedicated this afternoon entirely to Mozart, and a performance by Barnstable High School was clear evidence of the orchestra's real.

As a chance to showcase its talents, especially those of violinist Jae Cosmos Lee, who not only performed the Violin Concerto, but also played a piece from his repertoire.

It is not unheard of – violinist Sophie Mutter soloed and conducted all five Mozart concertos with the Boston Symphony Orchestra just a few seasons ago.

But it is a test of attention and preparation. Lee and his colleagues performed beautifully,

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standing onstage for better sight-lines, with Lee swaying and nodding direction to the ensemble, using his bow as a baton when possible.

The concerto itself – nicknamed “Turkish” because of a melody in the last movement – began in the opening movement with an ensemble section that is both frisky and majestic. A surprising cadenza interrupts, with a much different, stately mood. Lee took an extraordinary dramatic pause before launching into the double-stopped section, elevating the mystery of the music.

The middle movement also lingers, with Lee playing deliciously over dense counterpoint from his colleagues. The cadenza in this movement was short, almost minimalistic.

The finale repeats its stately minuet opening no less than five times, interspersing it with more cadenza-like solo sections, as well as the “Turkish” melody – an ungainly sounding section, with short repetitions, rapid crescendos and the lower strings striking with the wood side of the bow (col legno).

Maestro Jung-Ho Pak then rejoined the ensemble for the overture to “The Magic Flute.” It’s a compelling overture – not the standard type that give tastes of thematic bits that will occur in the complete opera, but instead an integrated unit. Pak deftly directed this overture, a simple, energetic fugue treatment of a single theme..

After intermission, Pak programmed Mozart’s “Jupiter” symphony, pointing out insightfully in his remarks before beginning that Mozart was probably the only composer to master both large-scale genres: opera and symphony.

The orchestra sounded as engaged and taut as it has all season. Pak conducted with firm, understated command. The muted second movement sounded like a well-rehearsed chorus instead of a stage full of disparate instruments. The third movement shone, its off-kilter dance sections interrupted with a martial sounding trio, punctuated alertly by horn bursts.

And the finale, a five-voice fugue, had its intense complexity directly rendered by Pak. When a conductor successfully leads an orchestra, that’s a musical success. When the conducting allows the audience to more fully understand the workings of the score, that’s a performance success.

Pak clearly gave entrances to the multiple voices of the fugue, building its layers with a cogency that made the finale stay accessible and never overwhelming.

Before the program began, Pak paid tribute to Royston Nash, conductor laureate of the symphony, who passed away on April 4.

The Cape Symphony Orchestra closes its subscription season on May 7 and 8 with Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Tickets and information: [www.capesymphony.org](http://www.capesymphony.org) or 508-362-1111.

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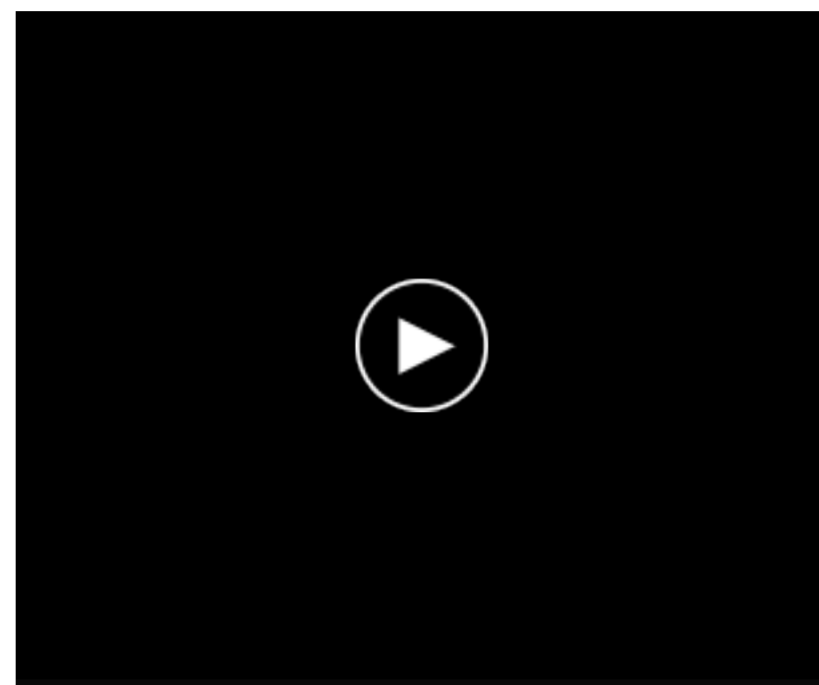
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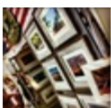


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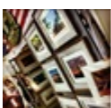


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	<b>Call for Vendors: Art in the Village Fine Arts and Crafts Festivals</b>				12:00 am	
	Barnstable Village Stage					
	<b>Call to Artists: All Cape Cod</b>				12:00 am	
	Cape Cod Art Association					
	<b>Gleason Family YMCA Armed Forces Day 5k Road Race</b>				All Day	
	Gleason Family YMCA					
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