

Austin Youth Orchestra Symphony Concert
Sunday March 8, 2020, 2:30 pm
Austin High School

The AYO March 8th concert celebrates the marvels of the natural beauty of our planet. It opens with “An Outdoor Overture” composed for the New York High School of Performing Arts by Aaron Copland.

Next the splendor of the American west is interpreted by Ferde Grofe’s playful “On the Trail” from the Grand Canyon Suite. You will have no problem imagining yourself on one of those trail donkeys.

To close the symphony’s part of the concert, world renowned conductor Larry Livingston guest conducts the AYO Symphony in movements one and four of Ottorino Respighi’s Pines of Rome.

Composed in 1924, *Pini di Roma* is the second in Respighi’s trilogy of tone poems inspired by different aspects of the city of Rome and its history.

I: *The Pines of the Villa Borghese* (a country estate with enormous grounds belonging to one of Rome’s most notable Renaissance families): Children playing in what are now public gardens, they mimic marching soldiers and battles, twittering and shrieking like swallows, then they swarm away and the scene changes abruptly to...

IV: *The Pines of the Appian Way* (one of the great Roman roads leading south from the city): “Misty dawn on the Appian Way. The tragic country is guarded by the solitary pines. Indistinctly, incessantly, the rhythm of innumerable steps...visions of past glories: trumpets blare, and the army of the Consul advances brilliantly...in the rising sun...mounting in triumph the Capitoline Hill.” The English horn gets center stage in this movement – that is until the rest of the brass crash onto the scene.

The concert also includes performances by the Philharmonic and Sinfonietta orchestras. Their music includes a Rossini overture, the Light Calvary Overture, and the Nimrod variation by Elgar.

Guest Conductor Larry Livingston

Larry Livingston (a frequent conductor of Texas All State groups and featured conducting clinician at this years TMEA convention) is a continuation of guest conductors for AYO, like Michael Morgan last year for the Copland “Lincoln Portrait” on the Draylen Mason concert.

Mr. Livingston served as Vice President and Music Director of the **New England Conservatory of Music** in Boston, where he was also Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra and, subsequently, became Dean of the Shepherd School of Music and Elma Schneider Professor at **Rice University in Houston**. From 1986 until 2002, Mr. Livingston was Dean of the **USC Flora L. Thornton School of Music** during which time he secured the School’s naming gift from Flora Thornton, raised more than 100 million dollars, and where he is now Chair of the Conducting Department.