



# Danny Elfman's Violin Concerto

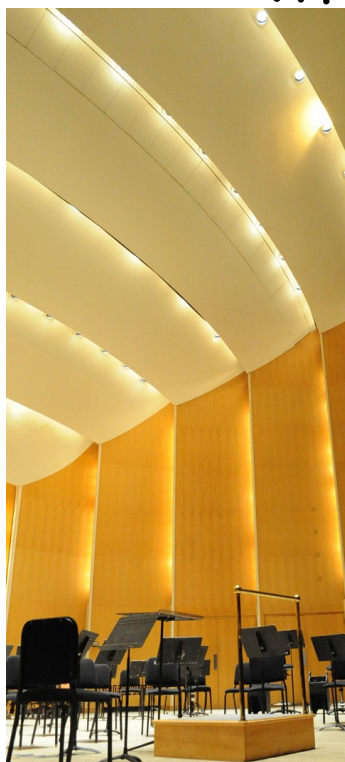
Friday, October 18

10:30am

Today's concert focuses not only on the renowned concert music of Danny Elfman, but on a style of music that doesn't tell a complete narrative. Rather, today's selections paint a picture of a feeling, or an emotion, or a mysterious landscape, by only using the power of music. Read on to find out more!

## Danny Elfman, American Composer (1953- )

Danny Elfman is an American composer most well known for his film music. He has composed music for film and TV such as *The Simpsons*, *Men in Black*, and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. and has worked with pioneering directors such as Tim Burton, Sam Raimi, Guillermo del Toro and Ang Lee. In 2004, Elfman began writing for the concert hall, such as *Serenada Schizophrenia* (2005), *Rabbit and Rogue* (2008), and *Eleven Eleven* (2017).



### REPERTOIRE

- **ELFMAN**  
Concerto: "Eleven Eleven"
- **STRAUSS**  
*Death and Transfiguration*,  
*Dance of the Seven Veils* from  
*Salome*



Danny Elfman working with longtime creative collaborator and director, Tim Burton, on *Alice in Wonderland* (2010).

## **Concerto for Violin & Orchestra: “Eleven Eleven”**

composed in 2017, duration is 15 minutes

This **concerto**, or larger-scale piece for an orchestra and a solo instrument, is approximately 40 minutes in duration and is divided into four movements. It features lyrical melodies inspired by early 20<sup>th</sup> century music, as well as more modern rhythms and harmonies. The title comes from the measure count, which happens to be exactly 1,111 measures long. The piece was written in collaboration with violinist Sandy Cameron.



*The Royal Scottish National Orchestra with violin soloist Sandy Cameron performing the violin concerto.*

Elfman’s concerto has a **symmetrical form** within the movements. This means that, while the movements do continue using thematic material from one movement to the next, there is also a direct mirrored relationship between the first and last movements, as well as with the two middle movements. Be sure to see if you can hear this form!

### **Sandy Cameron, violin soloist**

Sandy Cameron started playing professional violin in the Netherlands by the time she was 12 years old. Since then, she has traveled the world and performed in such places as Russia, Australia, South Korea, Tokyo, London and Germany.

While performing with Cirque de Soleil in Los Angeles, she met composer Danny Elfman, and collaborated with him on several projects, including Elfman’s “Eleven Eleven” concerto.



*The world premiere of the violin concerto in Prague, Czech Republic*

## Richard Strauss, German Composer (1797-1828)



Though a prominent music director and conductor, the 20<sup>th</sup> century composer Richard Strauss is primarily remembered as a composer. During his career, he composed hundreds of orchestral and chamber works, 16 operas, and 10 **tone poems**, or a one movement piece that depicts a specific poetic subject. His most well known tone poem, *Also sprach Zarathustra*, can be heard in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and his operas are some of the most performed from his time.

### ***Tod und Verklärung (Death and Transfiguration)***

Duration 30 minutes

Premiered in 1890 when he was only 26, this tone poem is roughly 30 minutes in duration. The composer intended the music to depict the death of an artist, as he lies in his deathbed, remembering his youth. Unlike most tone poems, the poem with the same name was written after the music, as Strauss commissioned his poet friend Alexander Ritter.

1. Largo
2. Allegro molto agitato
3. Meno mosso, ma sempre alla breve
4. Moderato

### ***Dance of the Seven Veils from "Salome"***

Duration 10 minutes

*Salome* is Strauss' third opera, completed in 1905, based on a play by Oscar Wilde, and tells the story of a princess, Salome, and her numerous lovers. At the time, the opera was quite infamous, as Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils was deemed too seductive by the opera-going public. After its American premiere, it was banned for almost 30 years. Today, it's one of Strauss' most famous operas.

The music for the dance itself is designed to sound flirty, exciting, and slightly menacing, just like the character of Salome herself. While listening to this piece, imagine what the dance could possibly look like.



*Dance of Salome*. Armand Point, 1898



JoAnn Falletta, Conductor

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## Explore and Learn:

The pieces performed today might not tell an entire story all on their own, but rather suggest a mood, or what a specific moment in time feels like. **What moods and feelings did the music suggest to you? Did you feel as if the music was similar or different to what the composers intended? Why?**