



EMILY SAVES THE ORCHESTRA

PROGRAM INFORMATION

(September 2019 – please destroy all previous versions)

The following text must be included in the concert program:

Platypus Theatre's
Emily Saves the Orchestra

Written and Directed by Peter Duschenes
Designed by Cathy Stubington
Originally produced by Michael Duschenes

Performed by
Danielle Desormeaux, Peter Duschenes and Amelia Griffin

Stage Manager:
Wendy Rockburn

(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on the Platypus website at <http://www.platypustheatre.com>)

Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you! Leave a comment at platypustheatre.com or follow us on Twitter or YouTube.

REPERTOIRE

Includes excerpts from:

Tchaikovsky	"Trepak" from The Nutcracker
Beethoven	Symphony No. 9 ("Ode to Joy")
Duschenes, Mario	Organized Chaos
Kabalevsky	Comedians Gallop
Khatchaturian	Sabre Dance
Grieg	"Morning" from Peer Gynt Suite No.1
Duschenes, Mario	Game of Harmony
Dukas	"Fanfare" from La Péri
Rossini	The William Tell Overture
Pachelbel	Canon in D
Dvorak	Slavonic Dance No. 1, op. 46
Beethoven	Symphony No. 6 ("Storm" & "Shepherd's Song")

BIOGRAPHIES

N.B: Photographs of the actors and Stage Manager must be included. High-resolution photographs of the artists are available on the Platypus website at: platypustheatre.com

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members have been introduced to classical music through Platypus Theatre. After more than 650 performances with more than 75 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as one of North America's premiere music education theatre companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize with the characters while learning musical concepts, styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most cherished productions *How the Gimquat Found her Song* was produced for TV and went on to win several awards including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus premiered its eighth original production, *Presto, Mambo!*, in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions include *Emily Saves the Orchestra*, *Rhythm in your Rubbish*, *Bach to the Future*, *Charlotte and the Music-Maker*, *Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night*, and *Peter and the Wolf*.

Biographies continue on next page...

Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director and Writer

Thousands of young classical music fans have Peter to thank for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than half a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include - among others - all eight Platypus productions, the television adaptation of *How the Gimquat Found Her Song* which won Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival in 2008. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.

Danielle Desormeaux - Actor

Danielle is one of the more adaptable creatures in the Platypus Theatre touring company. You can see her as the Gimquat in *How the Gimquat Found Her Song*, as Corky in *Bach to the Future*, as Emily in *Emily Saves the Orchestra* and as a hobo in *Rhythm in Your Rubbish*, a production she helped create. She is a highly-accomplished actor who has worked extensively in theatre, in film, and also as several animated characters on TV. She is also an experienced improviser and clown, and has written and created a number of critically-acclaimed works. Danielle has been a part of the Platypus touring company for 17 years but will never forget "the first time I heard a live orchestra playing on stage with me it literally took my breath away. I couldn't believe how powerful the sound was. Then I thought: Wow! Best job ever!"

Amelia Griffin – Dancer

Amelia is one of the more graceful platypuses in the puddle, although she plays one of the most fearsome characters: THE MONSTER Cacopholus, (and Timpy and Melody) in *Emily Saves the Orchestra*. Amelia also performs, choreographs, and is a rehearsal director in professional productions across North America and the UK. She is an independent Ashtanga Yoga instructor and Movement Therapist and as an avid supporter of inclusion, she is enjoying being Artistic Assistant for integrated dance company Propeller Dance. When she isn't dancing and prancing she loves to frolic and swim in the mountains, rivers, and lakes in Canada.

Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager

Want to know who and what goes where and when and how? Wendy's the one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, most recently in the far reaches of Mongolia. Wendy has also been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the Gimquat still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!