

# LOON LAKE LIVE

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



2019

### About the composer:

**Claude Debussy (1862-1918)** was an innovative Modern composer who, along with Maurice Ravel, basically defined the Impressionist style. He was a gifted young musician, studying at the Paris Conservatory from the age of 10. Although his instructors noted his talent and promise, they also lamented his insistence on turning away from compositional conventions of the late Romantic period. However, it was his stubborn pursuit of a new way of composing that ushered in Impressionism, Modernism, and a freer approach to composition altogether. He disliked having his style categorized and rejected the term 'Impressionist'. In his own words "We must agree that the beauty of a work of art will always remain a mystery ... we can never be absolutely sure 'how it's made'. We must at all costs preserve this magic which is peculiar to music and to which music, by its nature, is of all the arts the most receptive."

### About the piece:

**Syrinx** is a piece for solo flute composed in 1913. It was originally composed as incidental music for a play about the demigod Pan's flute. Syrinx holds a special place in the flute repertoire as it was the first significant piece written for solo flute in more than 150 years and opened the door to more solo flute composition by numerous 20th century composers. The music lends itself more to evoking images from the listener than any one specific melody, and draws us into a world of pure expression. This recording is from a performance in August of 2018 at Historic Saranac Lake Laboratory and features James Hall with a spoken introduction just prior to his performance. Listen carefully for the sounds of nature and life happening throughout this archived live audio recording as you watch images curated by Mel Aman.

### About the performer:

Flutist **James Hall** has enjoyed a varied and impressive career as an international soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, and teacher, having been invited to perform with musicians around the world.

As a concerto soloist, James has played with the Orquesta Nacional del Paraguay, Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Greeley Philharmonic, Orquesta Nacional de Panamá, Orquesta del Congreso Nacional del Paraguay, and the Southeast Kansas Symphony. James has received invitations to perform as a recitalist across North, Central, and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. He is half of Colorado based *duo970* with pianist Susie Maddocks, and the two tour the world performing flute and piano works from the baroque to the contemporary. James is also founder and artistic director for *The Chattanooga Sound Project*, and is the flutist for established ensembles including *Chimera*, *Last Train*, and *Wood&Metal*.

As an educator, Hall has been invited to give master classes at national conservatories and music schools throughout the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, South Africa, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Thailand, and Switzerland. Since 2009, he has been the professor of flute at the University of Northern Colorado where he has had the great fortune to work with many talented young musicians.

James is a performing artist for Burkart Flutes and performs exclusively on his handmade 10k gold Burkart Elite flute with platinum head joint.



2020