DUPAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Newcomers Concert Notes
Echoes of East and West
February 8 at 7:30 pm

Mitya Nilov, marimba (Guest Artist)

Born in Minsk, Belarus, he was accepted at age seven to the Special Music School at the Saint Petersburg State Conservatoire in Russia. One of the most dynamic percussionists of his generation, Nilov is a winner of the 2018 Concert Artists Guild International Competition.

"Nilov blew us away … played with passion and intensity." Hartford Courant

Keiko Abe – *Prism Rhapsody*

The composer started playing the xylophone in elementary school in Tokyo, Japan. At the age of 13, she won a contest and began playing professionally on live radio. In 1963 the Yamaha Corporation chose her to assist in the design of their new marimba, and her compositions have become standards in the marimba repertoire. In 1993 she became the first woman to be inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame.

Gustav Holst - *Japanese Suite*

Holst wrote his *Japanese Suite* in 1915 at the request of a Japanese dancer named Michio Ito, who was appearing at the London Coliseum and wanted to dance to a work derived from traditional Japanese tunes. Holst didn't know any Japanese tunes, though, so Ito had to whistle several for him.

Claude Debussy - *Prelude to 'The Afternoon of a Faun'*

Born in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, in 1862, he started studying piano at the age of 7. At 10 he was sent to the Conservatory in Paris. After failing two piano tests, he began to study composition. Today, he is considered one of the most influential composers of the Impressionist Era.

Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 5 in C minor

Born in Bonn, Germany, in 1770, his talent was recognized at an early age. By 1778 he was studying piano, organ, and viola, and in 1787 travelled to Vienna in hopes of studying composition with Mozart. Beethoven started to lose his hearing in his 20's and was mostly deaf by the time he wrote his Fifth Symphony in 1808. Its four-note opening motif appears frequently in popular culture, from disco to films and television.