

February 12, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have had the pleasure to recently work with Micah Levy on the preparation and performance of his work *The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had a Little Lamb*. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra performed the Texas premiere of this work during its 2014 Winter Youth Concert series, and it was an unqualified success. Following are just a few of the responses we received from enthusiastic parents and educators:

*I've been to several DSO Youth Concert Events with my children over the past five years and they've all been wonderful. I think this was the most musically cohesive event I've been to. And Micah's story truly captured the children's attention. My daughter's teacher was thrilled ... and I received positive comments from the parent chaperones as well. Our students were four and five year olds and the music was perfect for their age!*

*We really enjoyed this program overall! It was a wonderful way to show how one familiar melody can have so many adaptations.*

*Overall, this was absolutely wonderful, age appropriate and very engaging for my 1st and 2nd graders!*

*The kids all shouted, "Thank you for taking us!" on the way home. They enjoyed it fully. Thank you for a great experience.*

In addition to positive reviews from our youngest concert-goers, the professional musicians in the orchestra also appreciated how well the piece was written, and how cleverly it was put together. Levy has a true gift for orchestration and tackled the substantial challenge of arranging a simple children's tune into a work that deserves a permanent place in the repertoire.

Levy's talents as a narrator were also in full display during his engagement with the Dallas Symphony. His colorful delivery kept this demanding age group riveted and engaged throughout the full 26 minutes of the piece.

Despite its long title, *The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had a Little Lamb* helps to fill a large hole that currently exists in contemporary orchestral programming for the very young. Many of the choices available to orchestras are either uninteresting to the intended age group, artistically unsatisfying, or of little to no music education value. Levy hits the mark on all three counts. I would highly recommend this piece for strong consideration by my colleagues in the field.

Best regards,



Jamie Allen  
Director of Education

May 2, 2016

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To whom it may concern,

The Utah Symphony recently had the pleasure of performing Micah Levy's *The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had a Little Lamb*, with the composer himself narrating, in our family concert series. His work was featured in three performances in March 2016, one in nearby Ogden at the Browning Center and two in Salt Lake City in Abravanel Hall.

Micah was a superb guest artist. To start with, he was quick to respond to all communications, and he was delighted with every aspect of the project and with all arrangements that were made for him. Most of all, he gave superb performances: he narrated his story blended with orchestral music, and he also created teaching moments that led into his composition (about voices in the orchestra, and the idea of theme and variations). His presentation was dynamic and given from memory, making it easy for him to connect directly with audience members of all ages. He spoke in a way appropriate for a family audience, and opened up doors of listening to classical music for all those who attended.

Additionally, Micah generously offered his time for our use in outreach programming. Our Education Department connected him with an amazing junior high band and orchestra teacher. They learned Micah's piece "Kinetic," and were excited to have him visit the school to coach them on his piece, as well as answer questions about the life of a composer. How many junior high band classes ever get to meet the composer of one of their selections?

Micah spoke about the composing life and his purpose for being in Utah to university music composition students at nearby Brigham Young University, and also visited a Sistema-based after school music program at an elementary school in downtown Salt Lake City. He addressed mainly his "Probably Untrue Story" but also played composition games with the students, and prepared them for the concert experience (Utah Symphony provided tickets for the students and their parents).

We were pleased with all of Micah's outreach work, and will long remember his generosity before and during his stay. I was also grateful that he paid attention to our website presentation and promotion of the concert, so every detail offered to the public was accurate and compelling.

Just a few weeks ago, Utah Symphony closed its series of family concerts for the season with a Beethoven program. I was not surprised when an adult who had brought her family to Micah's concert sought me out to tell me how much she and her children had enjoyed that concert and had learned so much. It was a perfect education concert experience!



Paula Fowler  
Director of Education & Community Outreach

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May 16, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasure of conducting Micah Levy's "The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had A Little Lamb" with the San Diego Symphony several times in January and April of this year.

I would rank Mr. Levy's composition right up there with "Peter And The Wolf" and "Tubby The Tuba", two mainstays of the symphonic repertoire for kids. In fact, I found that "The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had A Little Lamb" was more effective with the kids than my recent concert of "Peter And The Wolf" with San Diego Symphony.

In my twenty-seven years as staff conductor with the San Diego Symphony I have conducted many pieces for narrator and orchestra in educational concerts, but this work stands out. Clearly, this work is wonderful, because it is both educational and extremely engaging for the kids. In a recent concert, the kids started out, as is common in educational concerts, pretty noisy. However, by the end of the first third of the performance, the kids were quiet and captivated.

Just to add icing to the cake, many members of the orchestra came to me after our performances and remarked how wonderful the piece was, that it was well written, had solid educational aspects and was very entertaining for them!

I highly recommend "The Probably Untrue Story of Mary (who) Had A Little Lamb" to you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Garbutt  
Staff Conductor, San Diego Symphony

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