

Broomfield Symphony Orchestra  
David Brussel, Music Direct  
Buster Keaton Silent Films with Musical Guest Rodney Sauer  
Saturday, April 18 2023, 7:30 pm  
Broomfield Auditorium

**March from *Jeux d'enfants (Children's Games)*, Op. 22** **Georges Bizet (1838-1875)**

***One Week (1920)*, written and directed by Buster Keaton and Edward F. Cline**

**Impromptu and Galop from *Jeux d'enfants (Children's Games)*, Op. 22** **Georges Bizet**

#### INTERMISSION

***Sherlock Jr. (1924)*, written by Clyde Bruckman, Jean Havez, and Joseph A. Mitchell, directed by Buster Keaton**

In 1871, **Bizet** composed a set of twelve picturesque miniatures ("**Children's Games**") for two pianos. He later orchestrated five of these pieces; they were first performed in 1880, five years after the composer's death.

The two-reel silent film ***One Week*** was probably intended as parody of the 1919 educational film *Home Made*, produced by the Ford Motor Company to promote prefabricated housing. Buster Keaton and Sybil Seely star as a newlywed couple who receive a build-it-yourself wooden house as a wedding gift. According to the instructions, construction can be completed in seven days; a number of farcical complications lead to unexpected results.

In ***Sherlock Jr.*** Buster Keaton plays a hapless theater projectionist and janitor who dreams of being a famous detective, in the manner of the movie heroes he idolizes. Through a series of ridiculous subterfuges, he contrives to win and re-win the affection of The Girl, played by Kathryn McGuire. Most of the film's second half is an extended dream sequence during which Buster appears to walk directly onto the screen of the film he is projecting. Keaton's inventive cinematic sleight-of-hand was received with mixed reviews by audiences and critics upon its release in 1924. It is now regarded as one of the greatest films of the Silent Era, and in 1991 it was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

**Rodney Sauer**, pianist and score compiler, is an avid student of silent film music, in particular the vast repertory of "photoplay music" published between 1915 and 1930. These fully orchestrated scene-setting pieces were designed for cinema music directors to accompany the silent films presented at their theaters. Mr. Sauer is based in Louisville, Colorado, and has performed around the country from the Brooklyn Academy of Music to the Egyptian Theater on Hollywood Boulevard, both as a solo artist and with his chamber quintet, the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra. Using the collections at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Rodney has scored over 150 silent films. He has also located and

donated historic music collections to the CU Music Library, most recently almost 400,000 pages of music from the Grauman Theatre Music Collection.

**Broomfield Symphony Music Director** David Brussel has been with the BSO since 2009. He currently serves as Music Director at Scott United Methodist Church in Denver's Park Hill, and has directed productions by a number of local orchestral, choral, theatrical and operatic ensembles. David played horn with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra from 1982 to 2018, and is an active freelance performer on horn and piano in the Denver area. He holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and Northwestern University, and has taught at the University of Georgia, Metropolitan State University, and Colorado State University. His published works include two sets of art songs and opera aria transcriptions for horn and piano, and a book of truly arcane musical trivia. You can hear him on piano at a number of venues in the Denver area, including the Mercury Café.

**Broomfield Symphony Concertmaster** Sarah Delevoryas is a violinist with over 35 years' experience as a teacher and orchestral performer. She joined the Broomfield Symphony as Concertmaster in 2015. She has served as Concertmaster of the Flatirons Symphony Orchestra and Livermore (CA) Symphony, and has played with the Boulder Philharmonic, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Fremont Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony and Reno Philharmonic. She holds a music degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz.