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Symphony Opens Season Tonight

A string concert that will span the years musically from the 18th to the 20th centuries will open the 19th season of the Anchorage Symphony tonight.

The concert will be held at Sydney Laurence Auditorium beginning at 8:15 p.m.

The program, featuring local musicians as soloists, will begin with Handel's deeply melodic "Concerto Grosso," and end

with a performance of contemporary composer Benjamin Britten's buoyantly light "Simple Symphony" for string orchestra.

PERFORMING Handel's work will be Ruth Hurst, and Lois Hansen on violin, with Arthur Braendel on the cello. Those musicians, with the addition of Eleanor Braendel on viola, will perform the balance of the program, including Sir Edward Elgar's "Introduction and Allegro for Strings" and "Psalm and Fugue for String Orchestra," by Alan Hovhaness.

Conductor Frank W. Pinkerton said yesterday that this will be the only concert of the season which will "make use of the string orchestra alone."

He said there "are something like 160 students" in public schools studying string instruments this year.

"**THIS SHOULD** be an instructive concert for those students," he said.

"It is our hope, also, to bring to the public through this performance a real appreciation for string music."

Pinkerton said the concert, as a whole, is "listenable."

IN CHARACTERIZING the music to be performed, he said that Elgar, widely known for his composition "Pomp and Circumstance," capitalizes in his music on melody "within a certain emotional context."

The music of Hovhaness, he said, has a certain "mystic quality." "His 'Psalm and Fugue' is a rather slow, pompous work, making use of widespread chords for a full bodied, organ like effect."

Many melodies written by Britten in his early youth, around 10 or 12, have been incorporated into "Simple Symphony" and the work reflects the buoyancy of youth, the conductor concluded.