LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA PRESENTS:

DON QUIXOTE
+ OTHER JOURNEYS

22 NOVEMBER 2019
VINAY PARAMESWARAN, GUEST CONDUCTOR
NICHOLAS FINCH, CELLO
ANNE CLYNE: NIGHT FERRY
RICHARD STRAUSS: DON QUIXOTE
Variation I
Don Quixote & Sancho Panza start their journeys. Don Quixote sees a windmill and mistakes it for an evil giant and attacks it.

Variation II
Don Quixote confronts the crying sheep, which appears to be a vast army.

Variation III
The squire (viola) and knight converse until the story is refocused on Don Quixote's visions of chivalry.

Variation IV
Don Quixote interrupts a religious procession of pilgrims to rescue a statue of the Virgin Mary who he believes is a maiden.

Variation V
Don Quixote in his rest, dreams of brave conquests to win the love of a maiden.

Variation VI
Don Quixote and Sancho Panza begin their quest for the lady Dulcina. Sancho in his fatigue of searching for the maiden, attempts and fails to trick Don Quixote into loving another.

Variation VII
The two adventurers each ride a toy horse blindfolded, which have them believe they're on an incredible journey of flight.

Variation VIII
The two journeymen embark on voyage onboard a magical vessel that sails in the open sea without incident until it suddenly capsizes.

Variation IX
Still hallucinating, Don Quixote mistakes two friars for evil spirits and frightens them away before they can convince him otherwise.

Variation X
In a bid to bring Don Quixote home, his neighbor impersonates the Knight of the White Moon to end his journey of false visions. In a duel he wins and demands Don Quixote return home.
Finale
Don Quixote, exhausted from his return journey and wounds from his recent defeat, descends into another slumber. Reflecting on his journey in his last conscious moments, he falls into a eternal sleep, never to wake again.

Do you know Don Quixote?
A fictional character set in the 17th century time period; Don Quixote is a middle-aged Spaniard from the country’s central region La Mancha. After reading and fantasizing about heroic adventures, Don Quixote sets off on a series of adventures. With an old used suit of armour, a makeshift knight helmet, and an old senior horse, Don Quixote declares himself a knight-errant. Completely lost in his illusions and hallucinations caused by his obsession of knighthood, Don Quixote sets off on a quest of heroism. Written by Richard Strauss, Don Quixote’s adventures are the source material in the tone poem of identical title.

The Writer
The story of Don Quixote was written by Miguel de Cervantes. He is considered the most famous writer in the history of Spanish literature. Coincidently, Cervantes was born 17 years before his English counterpart William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare of England and Miguel de Cervantes of Spain lived during the same period, and died the same calendar year of 1616. The pair who never met, are responsible for the most widely known contributions to Western literature.

Key Terms
Protagonist: the leading character in a story, novel, or other fictional text
Tone Poem: a piece of music for instruments that represents a particular story, image, or mood
Knight-errant: a knight traveling in search of adventures in which to exhibit chivalry, skill, heroisms, and generosity.

Fun Fact
Hidalgo Don Quixote’s real name: Alonso Quijano
Though the main character of El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha (the Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote or La Mancha) is called Don Quixote, the famous name is only adopted by the main character after he falls mad with heroic illusions.
“Night Ferry is music of voyages, from stormy darkness to enchanted worlds. It is music of the conjurer and setter of tides, the guide through the ‘ungovernable and dangerous’. Exploring a winding path between explosive turbulent chaoticism and chamber lyricism, this piece weaves many threads of ideas and imagery. These stem from Riccardo Muti’s suggestion that I look to composer Franz Schubert for inspiration as Night Ferry will be premiered with Entr’acte No. 3 from Rosamunde and his Symphony No. 9 (Great).”

“The title, Night Ferry, came from a passage in Seamus Heaney’s Elegy for Robert Lowell, an American poet who, like Schubert, suffered from manic depression:

“You were our Night Ferry
thudding in a big sea,
the whole craft ringing
with an armourer’s music
the course set wilfully across
the ungovernable and dangerous”

“More specifically, Schubert suffered from cyclothymia, a form of manic depression that is characterized by severe mood swings, ranging from agonizing depression to hypomania, a mild form of mania characterized by an elevated mood and often associated with lucid thoughts and heightened creativity. This illness sometimes manifests in rapid shifts between the two states and also in periods of mixed states whereby symptoms of both extremes are present. This illness shadowed Schubert throughout his adulthood, and it impacted and inspired his art dramatically. His friends report that in its most troublesome form, he suffered periods of “dark despair and violent anger.” Schubert asserted that whenever he wrote songs of love, he wrote songs of pain, and whenever he wrote songs of pain, he wrote songs of love. Extremes were an organic part of his make-up.” Anne Clyne