FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA presents

One-Dog Canoe

The 18th original commission from FRIENDS celebrating our 40th season of Kinder Konzerts!

Original Score by Daniel Nass
Book by Mary Casanova

40 YEARS OF KINDER KONZERTS
INTRODUCING CHILDREN TO ORCHESTRAL MUSIC SINCE 1979
Program Goals
· Celebrate a milestone anniversary of Kinder Konzerts in Orchestra Hall for children of all ages, but geared to preschoolers
· The year culminates with a Premiere performance on September 28, 2019
· Select a children’s book to be featured at the Premiere
· Undertake a search and commission a composer to put the story to music
· Invite a broad cross section of the community to the Premiere
· Enhance FRIENDS visibility
· Include the Orchestra musicians and staff in a significant and meaningful ways.

Program Details
A year in the making for committees to:
· Review and select 3 children’s books (composer to make the final choice)
· Place a call for composer (18 responded), review scores and resumes
· Select a composer – Daniel Nass
· Select a book – One-Dog Canoe by Mary Casanova
· Plan and put on the September 28, 2019 Premiere performance at Orchestra Hall
· Plan pre and post concert experiences and activities related to One-Dog Canoe.
· Work closely with Minnesota Orchestra staff to ensure a successful Premiere.

Additional Background and Facts
· Each year over 6,000 preschoolers and adults attend one of 36 morning Kinder Konzerts scheduled throughout the school year.
· The book One-Dog Canoe is a children’s favorite; the commission took a “deep dive” into the sounds of the North Woods.
· 563 tickets were purchased (includes comps)
· 12 volunteers were deeply involved during the entire process, many more at the Premiere
· Later in the season, One-Dog Canoe was recorded professionally by Minnesota Public Radio (MPR).

Pre and Post Activities Included:
· Children learning about water safety and climbing into a giant canoe
· A “make and take” station for assembling headbands of the animals featured in the story
· A North Woods mural
· A North Woods story station
· Opportunity to “play” an instrument and an instrument parts department
· Musician baseball-style “trading” cards
· Post-concert the author, composer and musicians were available in the lobby to sign books or “trading” cards.

Minnesota Orchestra Involvement
· Participated in the composer search team
· Ticketing went through the Orchestra ticketing office (including giving FRIENDS 100 comp tickets)
· Vice President of Marketing wrote and put out press releases
· Premiere was featured in the Orchestra’s Showcase monthly magazine
· Eight Minnesota Orchestra musicians performed with service from stage and sound crew and ushers