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# News Release

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## **WRR's Christopher Hackett to narrate children's performances of FWSO's *Shakespeare in Music***

WRR's Christopher Hackett, host of *The Morning Show*, will narrate the two children's concerts of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's *Shakespeare in Music*. The concerts will be 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 2 at the Bass Performance Hall. Actor Michael York will narrate the evening performances on March 3-5 with Miguel Hart-Bedoya conducting.

Shakespeare's beloved works have inspired composers for more than four centuries. This unique concert experience captures the passion, the intrigue and the tragedy that have enticed generation after generation.

*Shakespeare in Music* includes works by Dvorák, Elgar, Liszt and Tchaikovsky.

Often considered Dvorák's finest overture, *Othello* finds man at tragic odds with the harmony of nature. Shakespeare's stormy drama comes to musical life under Dvorák's genius. A rising motive in dotted rhythm portrays the lover's embrace in silent ecstasy; string tremolos suggest Othello's raging jealousy; a plaintive flute solo speaks of Desdemona's innocence, minutes before she dies.

Elgar had long admired Shakespeare's plays and, when approached to write a piece for the 1913 Leeds Festival, chose to compose a symphonic portrayal of Falstaff. While Falstaff is often seen as a figure of fun, Elgar sought to produce a work that would give greater insight into Shakespeare's beloved character. The work held a special place in his affections - he told a reporter he enjoyed writing it more than any other piece.

Liszt's sinister portrayal of the Danish royal family in *Hamlet* is a truly original and radical masterpiece. Composed in the 1850s, Liszt's symphonic poem portrays the various psychological mood swings that plague Hamlet throughout Shakespeare's intense play.

The concert ends with music written for the greatest love story of all time, *Romeo and Juliet*. While Tchaikovsky did not attempt to follow the events as they occurred in the play, he illustrated beautifully in music the solemnity of Friar Laurence, the vivid depiction of street brawls between the feuding Montagues and Capulets, and of course the tragic romance of the star-crossed lovers.