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For its second concert this season, the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra celebrated Penticton's 100th birthday at the Vernon Performing Arts Centre Sunday night. You might say the candles on the cake were in the form of three accomplished and still growing young Pentictonite musicians flown in from around the continent, one local composer, two soloists, and the Musaic choir. The good luck candle? That was Mozart.

It was a heart-warming homecoming party launched with the world-premier of Penticton composer Ernst Schneider's *Celebration and Reflection*. The piece had beautiful nostalgic moments along with pleasant native and oriental accents, along with hints of deer running in the wild. There is a rare intimacy and privilege in being present with the composer while his piece is being played by his, and our own symphony orchestra. It evoked the tender aspect of celebration.

Native Pentictonite Steven Philcox caught Mozart's celebratory playfulness in his *Piano Concerto in G, No. 17*. Currently a conductor with the Canadian Opera Company, and a piano accompanist, his playing was sensitive, delicate and strong. Playing each key as if it was a note he was singing, he evoked the lightness of play as he engaged the symphony with his colourful interpretations.

Singing a variety of Mozart's arias from *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, Jenavieve Moore and John David Jasper, were bright, sweet and joyful. They both began their singing careers in Penticton and are now studying in Toronto and New York respectively.

With the voices of the Musaic Vocal Ensemble from Summerland chiming to Mozart's *Regina Coeli in C Major: Queen of Heaven be Joyful, alleluia*, the festivities of the evening were brought to a close. There was a jubilation in the sound of this ensemble as they accompanied their symphony. Soloists Tom Klassen, the director of Musaic, mezzo-soprano Leslie Turner from Kelowna along with Moore and Jasper formed a noble quartet in the closing notes to this centennial. Even the violins sung 'alleluia.'

Penticton sure has had its say in its 100th year. It might be a good idea to pay attention to the music and musicians coming out of this place, or its mountains just may, well, crumble.