

2026 Festival Orchestra Concert Notes

MOZART SYMPHONY NO. 35 & *THE DROP THAT CONTAINED THE SEA*
Sunday, February 22, 2026



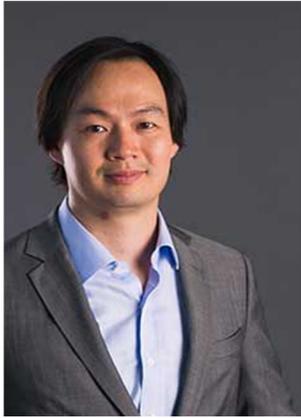
Symphony No. 35 in D Major, K385, “Haffner”
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Born: January 27, 1756
Died: December 5, 1791
Composed: 1782

Symphony No. 35 began its life as a 3 movement serenade commissioned by the Haffner family in 1782 for the occasion of the ennoblement of Sigmund Haffner the Younger. Haffner’s father (the Elder) as Mayor of Salzburg, had helped the Mozart family with their early tours of Europe, so it was natural that the family requested music from Mozart for this occasion. Although he was very busy at the time, when Mozart’s father, Leopold, requested the music in the summer of 1782, he obliged and sent it to his father section by section.

At the end of that year, Mozart decided to present a concert and asked his father to send the scores back to him. He made a number of alterations to the movements and created what we now know as the Haffner Symphony. It was originally performed in this new state on March 23, 1783, with the first three movements performed first, followed by several other works - including 2 arias, 2 piano concertos, and an improvised fugue “because the Emperor was present” - with the finale of the Symphony ending the program.

The performance was well received and the Haffner would become known as one of 3 symphonies - along with the “Linz”, No. 36, and the “Prauge”, No. 38 - characterized as transcending all his former symphonic works.

Program Notes by Naomi G. Martinez-Goldstick



The Drop That Contained the Sea

Christopher Tin

Born: May 21, 1976

Composed: 2014

From composer, Christopher Tin:

The title of *The Drop That Contained the Sea* comes from a Sufi concept: in the same way that every drop of water contains the essence of the sea, inside every human is the essence of all of humanity. In keeping with this idea, I've introduced a water theme in the prelude, and woven subtle variations throughout the album. It contains all seven notes of a major scale—four descending and three ascending—mirroring the flow of water through our world, and representing the vast ocean of melodic possibility contained within a single scale.

Water is one of the most powerful forces in the world. It creates life and brings about death, and it has the power to shape the face of the earth. Water means different things to different cultures, and I wanted to explore this in *The Drop That Contained the Sea*. Each piece is inspired by water in a different form, arranged in the order that water flows through the world: melting snow, mountain streams, rivers, the ocean, and so forth. And like *Calling All Dawns*, the end of the album flows back into the beginning, reflecting the endless nature of the water cycle.

Each of the 10 pieces is also sung in a different language, exploring a different vocal tradition: Bulgarian women's choirs, Mongolian throat singing, and Portuguese fado, to name just a few.

Listen to Resident Artist Josh Condon's interview with composer Christopher Tin on our YouTube channel under "Artist Interviews". [youtube.com/@ArizonaMusicfest](https://www.youtube.com/@ArizonaMusicfest)