



Press Release: Texas Medical Center Orchestra Concert, Dream of America, November 3 and 9, 2019 (<https://tmcorchestra.org/>).

"I was dreaming to come to America. Yes, I was dreaming and my dream came true. It was so peaceful. It was so wonderful here. It was quiet. You were not afraid. The doors were open." Polish immigrant Helen Cohen, emigrated in 1920, age 20.

These words, taken from the Ellis Island Oral History Project, combine with contemporary composer Peter Boyer's original orchestral score in Ellis Island: The Dream of America. The Texas Medical Center Orchestra will perform the popular and relevant work at 5:00 PM, Sunday November 3 at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center, and again at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2019 at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Ellis Island celebrates the historic American immigrant experience by highlighting seven immigrants' stories, dramatically interpreted here by actors from Houston's Emery/Weiner School.

The concert opens with "Sea Hawk Overture" by Joseph Korngold, an Austrian-born Jewish composer and "Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky, a Russian composer, both of whom fled persecution in Europe to come to the United States. At the Miller Outdoor Theatre, artists from the Mitsi Dancing School will join TMCO as dancers to interpret Firebird Suite. The owners and most of the dancers in Mitsi Dancing School are immigrants themselves or were born to immigrants from Asia.

The Program:

Erich Korngold, Overture to the Sea Hawk
Igor Stravinsky, Firebird Suite
Peter Boyer, Ellis Island: The Dream of America

These concerts are generously underwritten by Texas Children's Hospital and supported by the City of Houston through the Miller Outdoor Theatre Advisory Board

At these concerts, TMCO will promote Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Amaanah Refugee Services and the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston.

The Miller Outdoor show goes on rain or shine. Admission to Miller Outdoor is free.