

11-30-2016

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Free Music Concert Series

The Department of Music
Presents in Concert

University of Richmond
Symphony Orchestra

Alexander Kordzaia, *artistic director
and conductor*

Grace Chang, *piano*
Victoria Provost, *soprano*

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Camp Concert Hall,
Booker Hall of Music



MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU

PROGRAM

Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, K. 492 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756 – 1791)

Concerto in A minor for Piano and Orchestra, op. 54 Robert Schumann
I. *Allegro affettuoso* (1810 – 1856)

Grace Chang, *piano*

2016 University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition Winner

INTERMISSION

“Ah! Je veux vivre” Charles Gounod
from *Roméo and Juliette* (1818 – 1893)

Je veux vivre
Dans le rêve qui m'énivra
Ce jour encor!
Douce flamme,
Je te garde dans mon âme
Comme un trésor!

I want to live
In the dream that exhilarates me
This day again!
Sweet flame,
I guard you in my soul
Like a treasure!

Cette ivresse de jeunesse
Ne dure hélas, qu'un jour!
Puis vient l'heure
Où l'on pleure,
Le cœur cède à l'amour,
Et le bonheur fuit sans retour!

This rapture of youthfulness
Doesn't last, alas, but a day,
Then comes the hour
At which one cries,
The heart surrenders to love
And happiness flees without returning!

Je veux vivre
Dans ce rêve qui m'énivra
Longtemps encor!
Douce flamme,
Je te garde dans mon âme
Comme un trésor!

I want to live
In this dream that exhilarates me
Forever!
Sweet flame,
I guard you in my soul
Like a treasure!

Loin de l'hiver morose,
Laisse-moi sommeiller,
Et respirer la rose,
Avant de l'effeuiller.

Far from a morose winter
Let me slumber
And breathe in the rose
Before it withers

Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.

Douce flame,
Reste dans mon âme
Comme un doux trésor
Longtemps encor!

Sweet flame,
Stay in my soul
Like a sweet treasure
Forever!

— Jules Barbier

tr. Robert Glaubitz and Victoria Provost

Victoria Provost, *soprano*

2016 University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition Winner

Finlandia, op. 26, no. 7

Jean Sibelius
(1865 – 1957)

PROGRAM NOTES

Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*

This overture, one of the most famous in all of orchestral literature, introduces Mozart's brilliant *opera buffa* (comic opera) in which Figaro and Susanna, in the service of the philandering Count Almaviva, seek to become married. While the opera and the original play by Pierre Beaumarchais highlight the tensions between the classes, it also touches upon the humor and poignancy of romantic entanglements. The newspaper *Wiener Realzeitung* reviewed a performance of the opera in July of 1786, noting that "it contains so many beauties, and such a wealth of ideas, as can be drawn only from the source of innate genius." Rather than foreshadowing principal themes and arias typical of opera composition in the late Classical era, this overture, just under five minutes, contains independent musical material in shortened, sonata form, creating an atmosphere of bustling excitement and anticipation.

— Notes by Dr. Joanne Kong

Piano Concerto in A Minor, op. 54

Perhaps one of the greatest love stories of all time, Robert Schumann's love for Clara Wieck inspired the writing of his Piano Concerto in A minor in 1841. After having to legally battle Clara's father's disapproval of their marriage, the couple finally married eleven years after their first meeting. Schumann struggled to finish composing the concerto for many years, because refusing to give in to a form that suppressed either the soloist or the orchestra. He finally decided to compose in a fantasy style where neither the orchestra nor the soloist is accompanying the other; a symphony-like first movement integrates the two parties throughout the work. The first few lines introduce the concerto with a

Continued...

powerful opening of the piano followed by a lyrical melody played by the oboe. Schumann added second and third movements to complete the concerto in 1845, and Clara Schumann premiered the work in December of 1845.

— Notes by Grace Chang

“Ah! Je veux vivre”

Charles Gounod spent a great deal of time to fully discover his artistic talents and finally emerged as one of the major opera composers in Paris. He won the *Prix de Rome* from the Paris Conservatory, through which he discovered religion and devoted much of his time to sacred compositions and religious music in France. *Roméo et Juliette* is a five-act opera based on William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* and was first performed at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris in 1867. In Act 1, Juliette sings her captivating waltz, “Ah! Je veux vivre,” in the Capulets’ ballroom after her nurse praises Paris, the man her father wants her to marry.

— Notes by Victoria Provost

Finlandia

Finlandia is a famous tone poem composed by Jean Sibelius in 1899 and revised in 1900. Well-known for its energetic, rousing music, the work was premiered in 1900 and has been seen as a covert response against the Russian Empire, which annexed Finland in 1809. Finnish nationalism had grown in the late 19th century, and repeated performances of the work adopted different titles to avoid Russian censorship, including *Happy Feelings at the Awakening of Finnish Spring* and *A Scandinavian Choral March*. One of the most notable moments in the tone poem is a hymn-like section known as the *Finlandia Hymn*. The melody has often been cited as originating from traditional Finnish folk music, but was in fact composed entirely by Sibelius; in later years, the composer reworked the music both as a separate orchestral piece and as a work for solo piano.

— Notes by Dr. Joanne Kong

BIOGRAPHIES

ALEXANDER KORDZAIA

Alexander Kordzaia accepted the position of Music Director of the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra in 2007. In 2012 he was appointed to two positions in Cartagena, Colombia: Principal Guest Conductor of the Filarmónica Cartagena, and Artistic Director of the Festival of Orchestras and Youth. Under his



leadership, nine students from the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra participated in the 2013 festival.

A conductor and pianist, Maestro Kordzaia is a native of Tbilisi, the Republic of Georgia. Born into a musical family, he demonstrated great musical ability at an early age. At the age of seven, he began serious study of the piano and composition in Georgia's premiere music school. By the age of 12, he was performing as a soloist with orchestras and was considered a child prodigy as a composer. Soon it was evident to his teachers that he also had talent and a desire for conducting. By the time Kordzaia graduated from the Tbilisi Conservatory of Music, he was appointed as the Music Director and Conductor of the Georgia State Cappella and assistant conductor at the Tbilisi Opera House, the two most prestigious musical ensembles in the nation. Kordzaia led both of these groups on triumphant tours of the former U.S.S.R.

He came to the United States in 1991 to further his studies in New York at the Mannes College of Music and the Juilliard School of Music. Since his arrival in the United States, Kordzaia has performed as pianist and conducted orchestras to critical acclaim. He has conducted Cincinnati Symphony musicians at the American Harp Society National Conference, the Cincinnati Symphonietta, Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, the Okanogan Symphony in Spokane, Washington, the Charlotte Civic Orchestra, Central Regional Orchestra of Virginia (2009 and 2012), South Central Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra, and the 2012 All-State Virginia Orchestra. He appeared as an opera conductor with CPCC Opera Company in Charlotte, North Carolina, and served as Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra from 1999-2001, Music Director of the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra from 2001-2003, Music Director of the Charlotte Civic Orchestra from 2003-2006, and Conductor Emeritus of the Charlotte Civic Orchestra from 2006-2007.

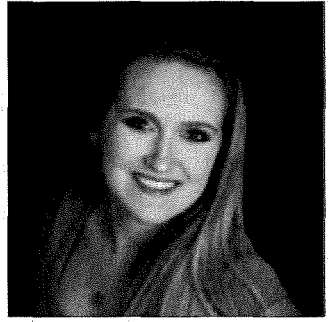
Kordzaia has organized numerous international tours with the American Youth Harp Ensemble, as co-director and guest conductor. The critically-acclaimed ensemble has travelled to the Netherlands, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and the Czech Republic. He has led them in performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and the White House.

An active chamber musician, Kordzaia has recently performed in Washington, D.C.; Maryland; New York; Vienna, Austria; and Cartagena, Colombia. He is an active teacher/educator and classical music advocate throughout the mid-Atlantic states, and is frequently invited as an adjudicator, music coach, and master class clinician in schools and with youth music organizations throughout the country. He also has continued to be a frequent guest conductor and pianist in the United States, France, Austria, Eastern Europe, South America, Georgia, and Russia.

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VICTORIA PROVOST

Victoria Provost is a senior from Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and double majors in music and French at the University of Richmond. She is the music director of Choeur du Roi, an *a cappella* group on campus, and she sings in Schola Cantorum. This past summer she attended the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, where she had the privilege of working with wonderful teachers and coaches and singing for a masterclass taught by Barbara Bonney. She currently studies with Dr. Jennifer Cable and plans to give her senior recital in the Spring of 2017, with works by Amy Beach, Henri Duparc, Hugo Wolf, Felix Mendelssohn, George Frederic Handel, and more. Victoria would like to thank her teacher, Dr. Jennifer Cable; her coach Dr. Joanne Kong; and her parents for their unwavering support.



GRACE CHANG

When Grace arrived from Southern California as a freshman, she had stopped playing the piano for a few years. It took her only a few weeks during her first semester to realize that she could not stay away from music performance. As a senior majoring in business administration with a plan to go into management consulting after graduation, playing the piano has often been an outlet for her in her three years at the University of Richmond. Grace also studied the violin alongside the piano since the age of 5 and has performed with youth orchestras at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Alice Tully Hall, and Walt Disney Concert Hall.



Grace would like to especially thank her teacher Richard Becker; her parents; Roza Yoder; Dr. Joanne Kong; and a University of Richmond alumnus and fellow musician, Cristina Meehan, for their support in pursuing her passion. Grace plans to live in New York City after graduation where she will continue to play and share her love of classical music.

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Daniel Yoo, Concertmaster
Lillian Hughes, Concertmaster
Hannah Sullivan
Micah Hunter-Chang
Darah Rathi
Michael Robinson
Grace Leng
Madeleine Burke
Melisa Gu
Rebecca Robinson*
Emily Bradford
Dhilan Kamani

2nd Violin

Ellie Owen, Principal
Robert Costanzo
Anna Saakian*
Makayla Clemmer*
Jennifer Kuo
Annabelle Pham
Jonathan Lingerfelt*
Randy Allen*
Carolyn Thurber*
Ashley Magnuson*
Eileen Downey**
Lauren Campbell*

Viola

Sara Cloonan, Principal
Down Goodal*
Nicole D'Onofrio
John Bander
Beatrice Klein-Rapp
Teresa Conti
Jeckei Kim

Cello

John Cavaliere, Principal
Nadia Neman
Brenda Lim
Teresa Do

Marilyn Kern*
Sidney Whitlock*
Yesai Saakian*
Douglas Kellner*
Michael Knowles*

Bass

Michael Stumpf, Principal*
Jake McHugh*

Flute

Marie Fernandez, Principal
Kehinde Jegede
Rachel Lantz, Flute/ Piccolo

Oboe

Elise Favia, Oboe/English Horn, Principal
Benedict Roemer

Clarinet

Michael Goldberg, Principal *
Jane Song, Assistant Principal
Doug Hurt*
Sam Frazier, Bass Clarinet*

Bassoon

Eric Chang, Principal
Arnold Wexler, Principal*
Tom Baise, Contrabassoon*

French Horn

Ryan Smout, Principal***
Gretchen Georgas*
Jenn Myers*
Dale Dean*

Trumpet

Thomas McCarty, Principal*
Randy Abernathy*
Timothy Park
Bill Torres*

Continued...

Trombone

Rebecca Buffington, Principal***

Ross Wright*

Matt Chaffin*

Tuba

Russ Wolz*

Harp

Azalea Ginete

Timpani

John Hubbard**

Percussion

James Fong

Alexander Ginsberg

Librarian

Erin Vidlak

Assistant to the Conductor

John Seo

* Community Musician

** University of Richmond faculty

*** University of Richmond alumnus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Eighth Blackbird, University of Richmond's Ensemble-in-Residence

Dr. Joanne Kong, Director of Accompaniment and Coordinator of Chamber Ensembles, Department of Music

Dr. Jeffrey Riehl, Associate Professor of Music and Chairman, Department of Music

Dr. Jennifer Cable, Professor of Music

Mr. Richard Becker, Associate Professor of Music

Dr. Linda Fairtile, Head, Parsons Music Library

Linda Smalley, Administrative Coordinator, Department of Music

Ray Breakall, Piano Technician, Department of Music

Sean Farrell, Production Manager, Modlin Center for the Arts

Robert Richards, Assistant Production Manager, Modlin Center for the Arts

Patrick Kraehenbuehl, Assistant Production Manager, Modlin Center for the Arts

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