

4-9-2008

University Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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MXX080409P

The University of Richmond
Department of Music
Presents



University Orchestra
Alexander Kordzaia, Music Director
David Niethamer, Clarinet

Wednesday, April 9, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Booker Hall of Music
Camp Concert Hall





University of Richmond Orchestra

Program

Clarinet Concerto no. 1 in C minor, Op.26

Louis Spohr
(1784-1859)

Adagio, Allegro

Adagio

Rondo, Vivace

David Niethamer, Clarinet

Symphony no. 1 in C major, Op.21

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Adagio molto

Andante cantabile con moto

Menuetto Allegro molto e vivace

Adagio

About Today's Program

German-born composer **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827) composed his *Symphony No. 1* in C Major (Op. 21) during the years 1799-1800. The premiere of the piece took place at the Vienna Hofburg Theatre in April 1800. Beethoven drew upon the Classical tradition of the great composers affiliated with Vienna, primarily Mozart and Haydn, in his earliest symphony. These similarities between Beethoven's symphony and the style of his immediate predecessors do not outweigh the new ideas that Beethoven experimented with in the piece. The opening chord of the first movement, for example, is not in the key one would expect. Beethoven also made greater use of wind instruments than was traditional, which expanded his compositional palette and thus enhanced the instrumental color of the work. The fast-paced and rigorous third movement, *Menuetto*, also stands out amongst the traditionally light third movement minuets. The *Symphony No. 1* was the first large-scale work published by Beethoven.

Louis Spohr (1784-1859) established himself as a virtuoso violinist, composer, conductor, and pioneer of Romanticism. Due to his skill, much of his music was written for violin; however, he also is known for his four highly important clarinet concerti. Spohr met the established clarinetist Johann Simon Hermstedt in 1808. Over the course of two years, Spohr composed eight major pieces for the performer. He began with the *Clarinet Concerto No. 1* in C Minor (Op. 26), which is still seen as one of the showcases of the instrument. Some of the passagework was nearly unplayable, but rather than asking Spohr to modify his composition, Hermstedt adapted and expanded the instrument, aiding in the evolution of the modern-day clarinet. The piece consists of three movements; an impressive *Adagio-Allegro*, followed by a melodious *Adagio*, and finally a lively *Vivace*.

University of Richmond Orchestra 2007-2008
Alexander Kordzaia, Conductor

First Violin

Jessica Clough, Concertmaster
Natalia Sanders, Assistant Concertmaster
Louise Ball
Jamie Shoaf
Kosh Kempter
Randy Allen
James O'Brien

Second Violin

Caitlin Morin, Principal
Meredith Tierney, Assistant to the Conductor
Sarah Wallace
Megan Abbott
Charlene Morris
Radhika Parekh
Megan Venable
Eileen Downey

Viola

Jacqueline Morin, Principal
Jesse Larsen, Assistant Principal
Michael Baggott
David Ray

Cello

Heather Stebbins, Principal
Joshua Doherty, Assistant Principal
Doug Kellner
Azaryah Baggott
Francis Church

Bass

Samantha Lindsey, Principal
Daniel Smither

Flute

Kathleen Winters, Principal
Catherine Lofland

Oboe

Audrey Dignan, Principal
Laina Martin

Clarinet

Lisa Sullivan, Principal
Anne Jenkins

Bassoon

Rosanna Nunan, Principal
Tom Baise

French Horn

Roxanne O'Brien, Principal
Brian Fairtile

Trumpet

Patrick King, Principal
Alex Samawicz

Timpani

Ari Corson

Piano

Carolyn Barnett

Program notes by Heather Stebbins

University Orchestra members would like to express their appreciation to eighth blackbird for working with the orchestra.



Alexander Kordzaia accepted the position of Music Director of the University of Richmond Orchestra in 2007. A conductor and pianist, he is a native of Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Born into a musical family, Mr. Kordzaia 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 Mr. Kordzaia also had great talent and desire for

conducting. By the time he graduated from the Tbilisi Conservatory of Music, Mr. Kordzaia was 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. Mr. 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 at the Mannes College of Music and the Juilliard School of Music, both in New York City. Since his arrival in the U.S., Mr. Kordzaia has performed and conducted orchestras to critical acclaim. His recent engagements have included conducting the Cincinnati Symphony musicians for the American Harp Society National Conference; the Cincinnati Symphonietta; the Okanogan Symphony in Spokane, Washington; a European tour with the American Youth Harp Ensemble; the Charlotte Civic Orchestra, Charlotte, North Carolina, and most recently, the University of Richmond Orchestra.

Kordzaia appeared as an opera conductor with CPCC Opera Company, Charlotte, North Carolina. He also served as Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra (1999-2001), Music Director of the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra (2001-2003), Music Director of Charlotte Civic Orchestra (2003-2006) and Conductor Emeritus of Charlotte Civic Orchestra (2006-2007).

An active chamber musician, Mr. Kordzaia's recent concerts have been in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and New York. He is an active teacher/educator and classical music advocate throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. Kordzaia is frequently invited to adjudicate, coach, and to give master classes in schools and with youth music organizations throughout the U.S. He has also continued to be a frequent guest conductor and pianist in the U.S., France, Eastern Europe, Georgia and Russia.

David Niethamer began his conducting career at Lebanon Valley College, where he conducted a run of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and was student conductor of the college orchestra. Niethamer was appointed Principal Clarinetist of the Richmond Symphony in 1979. He appeared thirteen times as soloist with the orchestra during his 23-year tenure.



In addition to his orchestral career, Niethamer has maintained a busy schedule of chamber music, recitals and teaching. He has performed at the Albemarle Festival with the Monticello Trio and the Brentano Quartet, with the Kandinsky Trio, the Composers Quartet, and the Lenox String Quartet. From 1982 until 1992, Niethamer was the Clarinetist and Artistic Director of the Roxbury Chamber Players. He was Artistic Director of the Richmond Chamber Players' "Interlude" series from 1994 through 1997.

An interest in the work of living composers has led to collaborations with Karel Husa, Gunther Schuller, and Ned Rorem. In Virginia, Niethamer has worked closely with Allan Blank, Judith Shatin, and Joel Suben. Niethamer's recordings are on the Opus One, MMC, and Elan labels.

In 2002, after 23 years at the "other end of the baton", Niethamer became the conductor of the University of Richmond Wind Ensemble. He continues to perform as a clarinetist with the National Gallery Orchestra in Washington D.C., the Virginia Symphony, and Richmond Chamber Players.

Fall 2007—Spring 2008
Department of Music Free Events
Camp Concert Hall, unless otherwise noted

Anne Guthmiller, *soprano*
Dmitri Shteinberg, *piano*
Sunday, September 16—3p

Geoffrey Haydon, *piano*
Wednesday, September 19—7:30p

Family Weekend Concert
Friday, September 28—7:30p

Paul Hanson, *piano*
Sunday, September 30—3:00p

David Esleck Trio
Wednesday, October 3—7:30p

Balinese Wayang Kulit (Shadow Theater)
Gusti Putu Sudarta, *Puppeteer*
Sunday, October 7—3:00p
Cousins Studio Theater (Modlin)

Third Practice
Electroacoustic Music Festival
Friday, October 19 through
Saturday, October 20

Duo Piano Recital
Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*
Richard Becker, *piano*
Sunday, November 4—3:00p

University Choir and Schola Cantorum
Sunday, November 11—3:00p

University Wind Ensemble
Sunday, November 18—7:30p

UR Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo
Monday, November 19—7:30p

Bruce Stevens, *organ*
Monday, November 26—7:30p
Cannon Memorial Chapel

Barry Salwen, *piano*
Wednesday, November 28—7:30p

Cuba Documentary Premiere and UR Jazz
Combo: "Cuba: Rhythm in Motion"
Friday, November 30—7:30p

University Chamber Music
Ensembles—
Monday, December 3—7:30p
University Orchestra
Wednesday, December 5—7:30p

University Balinese Gamelan & Dance
Thursday, December 6—7:30p

Annual Christmas Candlelight Concert
Sunday, December 9: 5 & 8:00p
Cannon Memorial Chapel



Spring 2008

Jeffrey Riehl, *tenor*
Kenneth Merrill, *piano*
Assisted by Jennifer Cable, *soprano*
Monday, January 14—7:30p

Richard Becker, *piano*
Sunday, February 3—3:00p

An Evening of Music by Béla Bartók
Matt Albert, *violin*
Matthew Duvall, *percussion*
Jennifer Cable, *soprano*
Paul Hanson, *piano*
Joanne Kong, *piano*
Ray Breakall, *percussion*
Monday, February 4—7:30p

Jeremy McEntire, *flute*
Sunday, February 24—3:00p

eighth blackbird
"The Only Moving Thing"
Wednesday, March 26—7:30p

Jazz and Brazilian Combo Concert
Wednesday, April 2—7:30p

University Choir & Schola Cantorum
Sunday, April 6—3:00p

University Balinese Gamelan and
Dance
Monday, April 7—7:30p

University Orchestra
Wednesday, April 9—7:30p

UR Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo
Monday, April 14—7:30p

University Wind Ensemble
Wednesday, April 16—7:30p

University Chamber Music Ensembles
Monday, April 21—7:30p