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The University of Richmond Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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The University of Richmond Orchestra

**Alexander Kordzaia
Conductor**



Wednesday, April 8, 200¹⁹

7:30 p.m.

**Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music**

THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ORCHESTRA

First Violin

Jessica Clough, Concertmaster
Natalia Sanders, Asst. Concertmaster
Kosh Kempter
Jordan Cates
Megan Abbott
Merry Gleeson
Joseph Denney
Emma Greenspon
Randy Allen

Second Violin

Rebecca Stanley, Principal
Meredith Tierney, Asst. to the Director
Sarah Wallace
Radhika Parekh
Caitlin Smith
Patricia Laverty
Eileen Downey

Viola

Nicholas Trevino, Principal
Hannah Goodman, Asst. Principal
Samella Koroma
Jordan Stewart
David Ray

Cello

Heather Stebbins, Principal
Azariah Baggott, Asst. Principal
Douglas Kellner
Daniel Schauder
Francis Church
Sheryl Smith

Bass

Samantha Lindsey, Principal
Daniel Smither
Andrew Wilhite

Flute

Katherine Toussaint, Assistant
Amanda Sellew

Oboe

Audrey Dignan, Principal
Mary Baumann, Asst. Principal

Clarinet

Michael Goldberg, Principal
Nancy Angelica, Asst. Principal

Bassoon

Arnold Wexler, Principal
Shary Adams

French Horn

Brian Fairtile, Principal
Claire Ligon
Dale Dean

Trumpet

Patrick King
Brian Henderson

Trombone

Samuel Goldman, Principal
Lauren Taylor, Asst. Principal
Dr. Thad Williamson

Tuba

Russell Wolz

Percussion

Mike Coleman
Dr. John Hubbard
Ari Corson

Timpani

Dr. John Hubbard

Harp

Elizabeth Khoury

Program

Traces (World Premiere)

Heather Stebbins
1987-

English Folk Songs

Seventeen Come Sunday

My Bonny Boy

A Brace of Folk Songs from Somerset

Ralph Vaughan Williams
1872-1958

Intermission

**Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
in E Minor, Op. 64**

Allegro molto appassionato

Andante

Allegro molto vivace

Felix Mendelssohn
1809-1847

Matthew Albert, *Violin*



Composers and Compositions

HEATHER STEBBINS is currently a senior at the University of Richmond where she is studying music theory and composition under Dr. Benjamin Broening. She is also interested in philosophy, mathematics, and cello performance and has studied cello with Pei Lu of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Jason McComb of the Richmond Symphony. She was a recipient of the IAWM Search for New Music 2007 Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Prize for her piece, *Confessions, Reactions*. She was also a recipient of the University's 2008 David C. Evans Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Creative Arts. Her music has been performed at the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival, the Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro New Music Festival.

On *Traces*, its world premiere at tonight's concert ~

After the passing of an event, remnants of its existence are always left behind. *Traces* is my musical response to this notion. This piece is dedicated to the memory of John, Tammy, Greg, and Ben Browning.

-Stebbins

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

The *English Folk Songs Suite* is actually a set of three tableaux formally titled *English Folk Songs*. The composer orchestrated them originally for military band. Gordon Jacobs, one of his most gifted students, undertook to transcribe the score for orchestra. His arrangement was first published in 1924, and that edition has become standard with the unqualified approval of Vaughan Williams.

The traditional tunes enlisted are in the order "Seventeen come Sunday" (subtitled March), "My Bonny Boy" (an Intermezzo in three-quarter time) and "A Brace of Folk Songs from Somerset" (again a March).

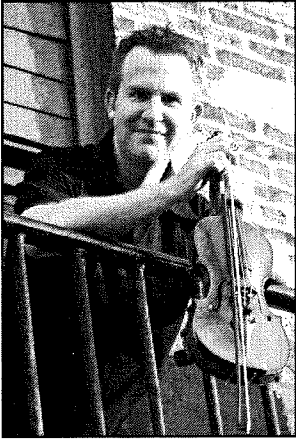
Program notes: Alexander Kordzaia, URO Director.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

Mendelssohn showed early musical promise as a pianist and a composer. His first 13 symphonies, for strings alone, are from the period 1821-1823. His orchestral output during this time included two violin concerti, a piano concerto and a concerto for two pianos. Before 1823 he also wrote chamber pieces, piano solos, vocal works and choruses. His mature output is prodigious, culminating with the Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, in 1844. Among other duties, Mendelssohn became conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig in 1835. He reintroduced works of earlier composers, such as Bach, to 19th century audiences. In 1838 he told Ferdinand David, violinist and assistant conductor of the Gewandhaus, that he would write a violin concerto for him. It was, however, six years before Mendelssohn completed the work. David premiered the concerto on March 13, 1845, in Leipzig. It is among the most important and well-regarded of violin concerti.

Program notes: Therese Wagenknecht, Art and Music Department,
Richmond Public Library.





MATT ALBERT was born and raised in Winchester, Virginia. He is a founding member of eighth blackbird, with whom he has received numerous awards, including first prizes at the Naumburg, Concert Artists Guild, Coleman, and Fischhoff Competitions. With the other members of eighth blackbird he holds concurrent Ensemble-in-Residence positions at the University of Richmond and the University of Chicago. He has recorded with the ensemble for Cedille Records, with their most recent disc, *strange imaginary*

animals, receiving the 2008 Grammy for Best Chamber Music Performance.

Beyond eighth blackbird, he has performed with Meredith Monk, with Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, and as an onstage violinist for Evanston Light Opera Works. He is a member of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, where he currently holds the principal second violin chair under Maestra Marin Alsop. His principal teachers include Kenneth Sarch, Gregory Fulkerson, Kurt Sassmannshaus, and Almita Vamos. Matt holds degrees from Oberlin College and Conservatory, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Northwestern University School of Music.



*The University of Richmond Orchestra would like to thank
Dr. Gene Anderson, Barbara Melton, Linda Fairtile, and
The Department of Music, for their support and assistance,
and members of eighth blackbird
for their work with members of the Orchestra.*

About the Conductor



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; and the Charlotte Civic Orchestra, Charlotte, North Carolina, and the University of Richmond Orchestra.

Of Note

About 60 University of Richmond students, members of Orchestra, Women's Chorale and Schola Cantorum, traveled over spring break, March 6-15, 2009, on an extensive concert tour of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Performances included such locations as St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, Church of the Transfiguration in Bratislava, and Matthias Church in Budapest.

FALL 2008 – SPRING 2009
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FREE EVENTS
Camp Concert Hall, unless otherwise noted

Fall 2008

Family Weekend Concert

Fri, Sept 19 – 7:30p

“Music and Torture”

Suzanne G. Cusick,
musicologist

Sun, Oct 5 – 3p

Brian Jones & Friends

Sun, Oct 5 – 7:30p

Duo-Piano Recital

Richard Becker, piano
Doris Wylee-Becker, piano
Sun, Oct 26 – 3p

**Schola Cantorum and
University Women’s Chorale**

Sun, Nov 2 – 3p

Third Practice Electro

Acoustic Music Festival

Fri, Nov 7-
Sat, Nov 8

David Esleck Trio

Thurs, Nov 13 – 7:30p
Perkinson Recital Hall

University Wind Ensemble

Sun, Nov 16 – 7:30p

**University Jazz Ensemble and
Jazz Combo**

Mon, Nov 24 – 7:30p

University Chamber

Music Ensembles

Mon, Dec 1 – 7:30p

University Orchestra

Wed, Dec 3 – 7:30p

Global Music Ensemble

Thurs, Dec 4 – 7:30p

Annual Christmas

Candlelight Service

Sun, Dec 7 – 5 & 8p
Cannon Memorial Chapel

Spring 2009

Schubert’s *Winterreise*

James Weaver, baritone
Joanne Kong, piano
Mon, Jan 19 – 7:30p

“Music in Times of Civil Unrest”

Richmond Symphony
Schola Cantorum
James River Singers
Fri, Jan 30 – 7:30p

Richard Becker, *piano*

Sun, Feb 1 – 3p

**“The Magnanimity of
President Abraham Lincoln”**

William Lee Miller,
speaker
University Orchestra
Thurs, Feb 12 – 7:30p

Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

Fri, Feb 20 – 7:30p

“Scintillating Centenarians”

Mon, Feb 23 – 7:30p

“Madrigals of Love & War”

Mon, Mar 16 – 7:30p

University Wind Ensemble

Sat, Apr 4 – 7:30p

Schola Cantorum and

University Women’s Chorale

Sun, Apr 5 – 3p

University Jazz and

Brazilian Combo

Mon, Apr 6 – 7:30p

University Orchestra

Wed, Apr 8 – 7:30p

University Chamber

Music Ensembles

Thurs, Apr 9 – 7:30p

**University Jazz Ensemble and
Jazz Combo**

Mon, Apr 13 – 7:30p

World Music Concert

Sun, Apr 19 – 3p
Jenkins Greek Theater