11-29-2017

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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The Department of Music Presents in Concert

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Alexander Kordzaia, artistic director and conductor

Duncan Trawick, baritone
Catherine Edwards, cello

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Camp Concert Hall
PROGRAM

*Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1, op. 46  
Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

Morning Mood  
The Death of Åse  
Anitra's Dance  
In the Hall of the Mountain King

*Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*  
Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

Chanson romanesque  
Chanson épique  
Chanson à boire

Duncan Trawick, baritone  
Winner of the 2016 Concerto Competition

Concerto in A Minor for Cello and Orchestra, op. 129  
Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

I. *Nicht zu schnell*

Catherine Edwards, cello  
Winner of the 2016 Concerto Competition

*Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.*
Edvard Grieg. *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1

The Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg was commissioned to write incidental music for Henrik Ibsen’s play *Peer Gynt* in 1874. Later, the composer arranged his music into two orchestral suites. Since its premiere, Grieg’s music has enjoyed worldwide popularity and a prominent place in the symphonic repertoire. A perfect example of program music, each movement vividly paints pictures from the play with music full of lyricism, revealing beautiful melodic lines in the first three movements and a powerful, masterfully orchestrated final movement.

-- Alexander Kordzaia

Maurice Ravel, *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*

*Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*, Maurice Ravel’s final composition, is based on the famous story of Don Quixote, a Spanish nobleman whose obsessive reading of chivalric romances leads to the loss of his sanity. These three songs depict Don Quixote’s expressions of love to an unaware neighboring farm girl whom he has arbitrarily renamed Dulcinea del Toboso.

-- Duncan Trawick

“Chanson romanesque” (“Romantic Song”)

If you were to tell me that the earth, in its endless turning, offends you, I would quickly send Sancho Panza: You would see it fixed and silent.

If you were to tell me that you’re bored by too many flowery stars in the sky, I would tear the heavens apart, erase the night in one fell swoop.

Continued...
If you were to tell me that space,
now empty, doesn't please you,
God-knight, the spear in my hand,
I would sow stars in the passing breeze.

But if you were to say that my blood
is more mine than yours, my lady,
I would grow pale under the reproach
and I would die, blessing you.
O Dulcinea.

"Chanson épique" ("Epic Song")

Good St. Michael who gives me leisure
to see my lady and to hear her,
good St. Michael who deigns to choose me
to be pleasing to her and to protect her,
good St. Michael, will you please descend
with St. George before the alter
of the Madonna in the blue mantel.

May a ray from heaven bless my sword
and his equal in purity
and his equal in piety
as in modesty and chastity:
My lady,
(Oh great St. George and St. Michael)
the angel who guards my watching,
my sweet lady is like
you, Madonna in the blue mantel!
Amen.

"Chanson à boire" ("Drinking Song")

Hay of the bastard, illustrious lady,
who, for losing me in your sweet eyes,
says that love and old wine
place my heart and soul in mourning!
I drink
to joy!
Joy is the only goal
which I pursue...when I've drunk!

Hay of the jealous, dark-haired mistress,
who complains, who weeps and makes promises,
always being the pale lover,
watering down his drunkenness!

I drink
to joy!
Joy is the only goal
which I pursue...when I've drunk!

-- Paul Morand, tr. Éditions Durand

Robert Schumann, Concerto in A Minor for Cello and Orchestra, op. 129

As summer drew to a close in 1850, the Schumann family left Dresden for Düsseldorf, where Robert had accepted an offer to serve as “municipal music director.” The new post seemed to help restore the composer’s confidence and focus, and within a short time he produced a number of fine works including his Symphony No. 3 (“Rhenish”) and his Cello Concerto in A Minor, op. 129. Posterity is grateful for those works, but sadly Schumann’s mental health soon worsened. By 1853 he was distraught to the point of resigning. In February of the following year, in fact, he attempted to drown himself in the Rhine. A week later he was committed to the asylum in Endenich, dying there some two years later, a skeletal specter of his former self. The few months of relative happiness he had experienced upon his arrival in Düsseldorf in 1850 allowed him to compose his cello concerto rapidly and without undue stress.

-- Catherine Edwards

Continued ...
The Performers

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
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.

Continued ...
Duncan Trawick is a 21-year-old baritone from North Wilkesboro, NC. Branching from a foundation in choral music, he began his formal study of vocal performance in the University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school program. While there, he performed in the chorus of his first opera, Jacques Offenbach’s Les Contes d’Hoffmann. Since his arrival in Richmond, Trawick has participated in musical life at the University of Richmond in numerous ways, singing in ensembles like Schola Cantorum and the Richmond Octaves, preparing and performing recitals, and contributing to special events such as the UR Schubertiade and the UR Opera Scenes Workshop. Prior to appearing with the UR Symphony Orchestra, Trawick’s most recent performance was in the male chorus of Charlottesville Opera’s production of Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi.

Catherine Edwards is a senior planning on completing a double major in Leadership Studies and PPEL (Politics, Philosophy, Economics, and Law), with a concentration in Politics, and a minor in Music. Over the course of her career at the University of Richmond she has been lucky enough to participate in the featured Young Artist Ensemble for the 2015 European Chamber Institute, perform as principal cellist in the University Orchestra, and be accepted to study cello abroad in Copenhagen at the Royal Danish Academy of Music.
University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

1st Violin:  
Lillian Hughes, concertmaster  
Hannah Sullivan, assistant concertmaster  
Daniel Yoo  
Melisa Gu  
Mary Lee  
Brian Sun  
Karen Titus*  
Lani Wisner*  
Anna Saakian*  
Dhilan Kamani*

2nd Violin:  
Ellie Owen, principal  
Makayla Clemmer*  
Julia Sraka  
William Hunt*  
Abigail Schofield  
Randy Allen*  
Aaron Ellerbrock*  
Carolyn Thurber*  
Eileen Downey**  
Lauren Campbell*

Viola:  
Sara Cloonan, principal  
Katie Baker*  
Beatrix Klein-Rapp*  
Kitty Moyer*  
John Bander*  
Teresa Conti*

* Community Musician  
** University of Richmond Faculty/Staff  
*** University of Richmond Alumni

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cello</td>
<td>Catherine Edwards, principal</td>
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<td>John Cavaliere</td>
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<td>Michael Knowles*</td>
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<td>Bass</td>
<td>Michael Stumpf, principal*</td>
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<td>Rachel Lantz</td>
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<td>Donna Kunde*, flute/piccolo</td>
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<td>Oboe</td>
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<td>Benedict Roemer</td>
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<td>Sam Cunde*, oboe/English horn</td>
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<td>Jane Song, assistant principal</td>
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<td>Eric Chang, principal</td>
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<td>Gretchen Georgas* principal</td>
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<td>Merry Beth Hall*</td>
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<td>Dale Dean*</td>
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<td>Beth Miksovic*</td>
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Trumpet: Thomas McCarty*, principal
Timothy Park
Theresa Getsie*

Trombone: Rebecca Buffington**, principal
Ross Wright*
David Davis*
Matt Chaffin*

Tuba: Russ Wolz*

Harp: Azalea Ginete
Caroline Fernandez

Timpani: John Hubbard**

Percussion: Korry Woessner*

Librarian and Assistant to the Conductor: Elise Favia
Community Musicians’ Personnel Manager: Gretchen Georgas*

* Community Musician
** University of Richmond Faculty/Staff
*** University of Richmond Alumni
FALL 2017 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES
LAST EVENTS OF THE SEASON
FREE! No Ticket Required

Global Sounds
Andy McGraw, director
Sunday, December 3, 2017 | 5:00 pm
North Court Choir Room & Perkinson Recital Hall

UR Chamber Ensembles
Monday, December 4, 2017 | 7:30 pm
Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music

UR Jazz and Contemporary Combos
Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | 7:30 pm
Perkinson Recital Hall
North Court

44th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 10, 2017 | 5 pm & 8 pm
Cannon Memorial Chapel