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University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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University of Richmond DEPARTMENT of

MUSIC

**FREE CONCERT
SERIES**

SPRING 2019

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Alexander Kordzaia, conductor

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music



music.richmond.edu

PROGRAM

Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*,
K. 492

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Lullaby and Finale
from *The Firebird Suite* (1919 version)

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

INTERMISSION

Concerto for Harp and Percussion
(world premiere)

Chris Marshall
(b. 1981)

Claire Jones, harp
Chris Marshall, percussion

The guest artists are represented in the USA
by GreenSpring International Artist Management

*Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.
Recording of any kind and photography are strictly prohibited.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro* (“The Marriage of Figaro”)

This overture, one of the most famous in all 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, they also touch upon the humor and poignancy of romantic entanglements. The newspaper *Wiener Realzeitung* reviewed a performance of the opera in July 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 long, contains independent musical material in shortened sonata form, creating an atmosphere of bustling excitement and anticipation.

-- Alexander Kordzaia

Lullaby and Finale from *The Firebird Suite*

The origin of *The Firebird* was a ballet production for impresario Serge Diaghilev’s revolutionary Ballets Russes, premiered in Paris in 1910, with choreography by Michael Fokine. In future years Stravinsky wrote three different concert versions of the work; tonight’s performance is of the second, and most popular suite arrangement, written in 1919. The suite draws upon less than half of the material of the ballet score, yet it exemplifies dazzling orchestration and influences of Russian folk tunes, undoubtedly inspired by Rimsky-Korsakov, Stravinsky’s only teacher. Instrumental coloring evokes the story based on a Russian folk tale where good triumphs over evil through the beautiful and magical Firebird: the opening bassoon melody of the lullaby represents a moment when the evil character Kastchei has been lulled to sleep, and the famous horn solo in the finale represents the death of evil, giving rise to a glorious climax culminating in the celebration and wedding of Prince Ivan and his beloved princess.

-- Alexander Kordzaia and Joanne Kong

Continued ...

Concerto for Harp and Percussion

I have always been passionate about composing for harp and percussion. The combination of these wonderfully unique instruments gives a composer such a colorful palette to work with, and although they often are seen at the back of the orchestra, this evening they will be placed at the front of the stage. Composers have used these instruments for centuries to add delicate textures and harmonies within their music, and they often add a touch of real elegance and poise within orchestrations of a modern classical ensemble. They help transport us to distant lands and create worlds beyond the realm of our imagination.

The Harp and Percussion Concerto was composed in 2018, in order to fully showcase these instruments by demonstrating certain sounds and techniques they are famous for, but also I have attempted to push the boundaries, by writing music that will challenge the player beyond what the instrument is stereotypically known for. Written in three movements (fast, slow, fast) the Concerto takes us on an exciting journey through a number of different styles. It's primal in places whilst other sections have deep rooted West African influences. The work is all tied together by romantic melodies and rich harmonies that I hope the listener will enjoy.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to Maestro Alexander Kordzaia and the University of Richmond for the invitation, and for the commission of composing the Concerto, rehearsing the orchestra, and for hosting Claire and myself in this wonderful performance opportunity. Many thanks to Mrs. Lynnelle Ediger-Kordzaia and everyone at Greenspring Artist Management for their ongoing support. A special acknowledgment and sincere gratitude must also go to Arnold H. Wexler, MD, and Suzanne Ruch Jenkins, V.M.D., for making this work possible. Your vision and support are a shining example to our art.

-- Chris Marshall

THE PERFORMERS

Britain's best-selling classical harpist, **Claire Jones** was born in Wales. Following her appointment as Official Harpist to



Photo by John Oakley

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales (2007-11), she became a household name for her esteemed performance at the Royal Wedding for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Solo career highlights include solo and concerto appearances with the world's top orchestras and artists such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Ballet Orchestra, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir James

Galway, Maestro Valery Gergiev, Joshua Bell, Renée Fleming, Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Bryn Terfel, and Alfie Boe, to name only a few. She has performed prestigious recitals at Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall (London), Capitol Hill (USA), City Hall (Hong Kong), International Harp Festival (Brazil), and at the Millennium Stadium for an audience of 75,000.

Claire is no stranger to the classical charts, with her albums *Girl With The Golden Harp*, *Journey*, *Highgrove Suite*, and *This Love* reaching top positions. She is a firm favorite on Classic FM playlists, and her albums have been released worldwide.

Claire has a first class BMus (hons) degree from The Royal College of Music and studied as an MA (Scholar) at the Royal Academy of Music, London. In 2016 she was awarded an honorary Associateship from the Royal Academy of Music London for her significant contribution to her profession, and is an international ambassador for jewelry company Clogau.

Chris Marshall, from Cardiff, Wales, has performed extensively as a percussionist specializing in world music. He has appeared and recorded with many prestigious orchestras and



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artists, and has performed on numerous productions in London's West End.

Chris balances his performance schedule with his flourishing career as a composer and arranger. His growing portfolio of compositions includes the music for *Heartstrings* (number one download on iTunes), which was recorded for Classic FM/Decca in 2012 and was featured on Claire Jones's album *Girl with the Golden Harp*. Chris has composed *Bluestone* and arranged many tracks on Claire's chart topping album *Journey*. In addition, Chris has composed music for TV advertisements, including a track for Clogau, shown internationally, and for "Fisherman's Friend," currently shown in the USA. He is working on the next TV ad for Clogau, to be released later in the year.

In 2017 Chris was commissioned to arrange and conduct a new album with the Portuguese singing sensation Yolanda Soares, with whom he has performed recently at the Tivoli Theatre Lisbon and Coliseum in Porto. 2018 saw the premiere of his work, *Homecoming*, written to commemorate the centenary anniversary of World War I. It was a commission by the Welsh Proms and was performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Chris's career highlights as a percussionist include appearing with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, English National Ballet, London Mozart Players, The Royal Shakespeare Company, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Chris has also worked on many productions in London's West End, and international touring shows in the UK and China, which include *We Will Rock You*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Zorro*, *Carousel*, *West Side Story*, *Evita*, *Love Beyond*, *Big*, and *Elf the Musical*.

Alexander Kordzaia accepted the position of Music Director of the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra in 2007. Formerly Principal Guest Conductor of the Filarmonica Cartagena in Colombia, he is currently Artistic Director of The Festival of the Orchestras in Cartagena.

A conductor and pianist,



Mr. Kordzaia is a native of Tbilisi, 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 Mr. Kordzaia also had great talent and desire for conducting. By the time he graduated from the Tbilisi Conservatory of Music, he 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, both in New York City. Since his arrival in the U.S., Mr. Kordzaia has performed and conducted orchestras to critical acclaim. Recent engagements have included the Colombia, Cartagena Festival of The Orchestras; performances with the American Youth Harp Ensemble at New York's Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, as well as at the White House; the Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra; with 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 in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra; the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra; the Virginia Central Regional Orchestra (2009 and 2012); the South Central Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra; and the 2012 All-State Virginia Orchestra.

Mr. Kordzaia appeared as an opera conductor with CPCC Opera Company in Charlotte, North Carolina. He also 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. As a guest conductor, Mr. Kordzaia traveled

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with the American Youth Harp Ensemble to many European countries, including the Netherlands, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and the Czech Republic.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Kordzaia has recently given concerts in Washington, DC; Maryland; New York; Vienna, Austria; and Cartagena, Colombia. He is an active teacher/educator and classical music advocate throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. He is frequently invited as an adjudicator and music coach, and to give masterclasses in schools and with youth music organizations throughout the U.S. Mr. Kordzaia has also continued to be a frequent guest conductor and pianist in the U.S., France, Austria, Eastern Europe, South America, Georgia and Russia.

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

1st Violins

Lillian Hughes, concertmaster
Mathew Robinson, assistant
concertmaster
Mandy Zhou
Ju Hye Kim
Donovan Williams
Makayla Clemmer*
Dhilan Kamani*
Michael Robinson
Karen Titus*
Lani Wisner*
John Turner*
Randy Allen*

2nd Violins

Lindsay White, principal
Adam Birce*
Brooke Siever
Amanda Perez
William Hunt*
Abigail Schofield
Ananya Shah*
John Seo***
Eileen Downey**
Lauren Campbell*
Mark Arceo-Hamill*
Kate Sjovold*

Viola

Mimi Laws, principal
Lowell Schipper
Katie Baker*
Hannah VanHuss
Kitty Moyer*
John Bander*
Nicole D'Onofrio
Jorin Song
Keaton Muench

Cello

John Cavaliere, principal
Colette Creamer
Nile Harris
Marisa Dougherty
Sidney Whitlock*
Meryl Kern*
Hannah Sjovold*
Molly Kreider

Bass

Michael Stumpf[†], principal
Isabelle McNulty*
Ben Perkins*

Flute

Rachel Lantz, principal
Chloe Lubin-Kirchner***
Donna Kunde

Oboe

Bryant Keeling, Oboe/English
Horn, principal
Benedict Roemer
Sam Cunde*, Oboe/English Horn

Clarinet

Michael Goldberg *, principal
Doug Hurt*, bass clarinet

Bassoon

Arnold Wexler*, principal
Anthony Isenhour
Tom Baise*

Horn

Gretchen Georgas*, principal
Michael Hartsough*
Roxanne Williams*
Dana McNulty*

Trumpet

Thomas McCarty*, principal
Allison Walters
Jack Price*

Trombone

John Carroll*
Ross Wright*
Matt Chaffin*

Tuba

Russ Wolz*

Timpani

John Hubbard**

Percussion

Jonathan Gandara
Cory Woesner*

Harps

Azalea Ginete
Caroline Fernandez

Conductor's assistant

Azalea Ginete

Librarian

Azalea Ginete

**Community musicians'
coordinator/personal manager**

Gretchen Georgas*

* Community Musician

** UR Faculty/Staff

*** UR Alumni

Continued ...

This performance was made possible by the support of the Music Department's Free Music concert series, and by generous donations from Arnold H. Wexler, MD, and Suzanne Ruch Jenkins, V.M.D., to support the guest artists and the new music commission.

Special guest appearance by the American Youth Harp Ensemble, directed by Lynnelle Ediger.

Special thanks to:

Dr. Linda Fairtile, Parsons Music Library

Dr. Joanne Kong, Department of Music

Linda Smalley, Department of Music

Raymond Breakall, Department of Music

Dr. Jeffrey Riehl, Chair, Department of Music

Deborah Sommers, Jon Gunter, and Chris O'Neil,
Modlin Center

Eighth Blackbird, the University of Richmond's

ensemble-in-residence, for coaching orchestra students

Sean Farrell and his crew -- Nick, Rob, and Patrick --
for helping with the stage, lights, and logistics

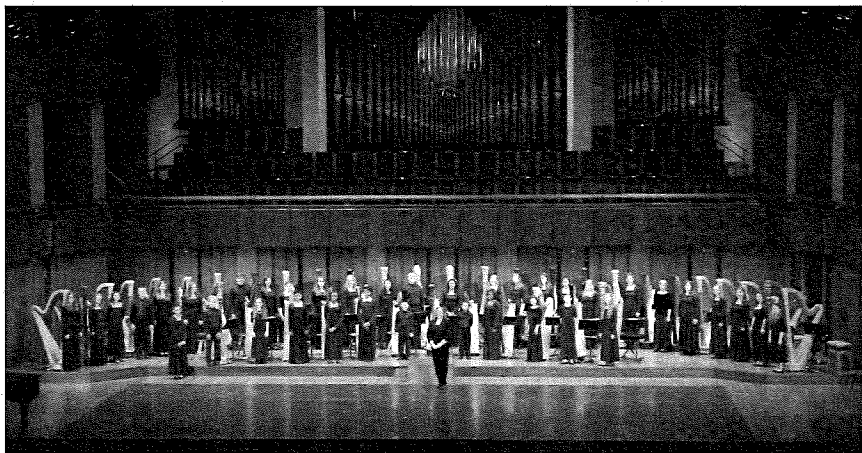
All the community musicians who help to make this music possible for UR students!

And congratulations to all graduating UR seniors and their parents!

The **American Youth Harp Ensemble** will be performing in the lobby of the Booker Hall of Music prior to this evening's UR Symphony Orchestra concert. This ensemble, founded by director Lynnelle Ediger, continues to dazzle audiences around the world as America's premier youth harp ensemble. They are well known for their musical sophistication, rich sound, emotional power, and imaginative programming of repertoire. The American Youth Harp Ensemble (AYHE) has brought world-class music to enthusiastic audiences in the U.S. and abroad through hundreds of performances, recordings, television, and radio features, most recently on CNN, NBC, PBS, and NPR affiliate stations. The AYHE made its international debut performing in the Maastricht Music Festival (Netherlands).



Lynnelle Ediger, director



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