University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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2019-2020

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Alexander Kordzaia, Music Director and Conductor

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

7:30 p.m

Camp Concert Hall

music.richmond.edu
PROGRAM

Concerto in E-flat Major for Harp and Orchestra, op. 74
1. Allegro moderato
Azalea Ginete, harp
Winner of the 2019 Concerto Competition

Overture to *L’italiana in Algeri*

Spanish Dance No. 1 from *La vida breve*

Please silence all electronic devices before the performance begins.
Recording of any kind and photography are strictly prohibited.
**PROGRAM NOTES**

**Reinhold Glière** (1875-1956) lived during Russia’s transition from a monarchy to communist USSR. Despite the political change, he managed to prosper professionally because of his colorful nationalist Russian style, classical form, and romantic aspiration that fit the new regime. In 1938, Glière composed the Harp Concerto in E-flat Major for the harpist Ksenia Erdeli (1878-1971). He consulted her about the practicality and technique of the harp, writing so frequently that he offered to name her a joint composer on the work — an honor she declined. Scored for a small orchestra, the Harp Concerto can easily be performed by a chamber orchestra, which enhances its charm and intimacy. Stylistically, it is reminiscent of both Viennese classical style and Russian romantic nationalism.

-- Azalea Ginete

**Gioachino Rossini** (1792-1868), an Italian composer, is the author of many very popular operas, songs, and chamber works. His best known compositions include *The Barber of Seville* and the *William Tell Overture*.

The overture to the opera *L’italiana in Algeri* (“The Italian Girl in Algiers”) has a prominent place in the repertoire of many symphony orchestras. At the age of twenty-one, Rossini was already a master orchestrator with a talent for composing beautiful melodic lines, which makes his music immediately recognizable. Notable characteristics of this overture include its pizzicato opening bars and sudden loud burst of sound, reminding us of the “Surprise Symphony” by Haydn.

The overture, in the key of C major, is orchestrated for strings, woodwinds, two horns, two trumpets, and timpani. The University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra will be performing the work with an added percussion part, written for suspended cymbals and
bass drum, which was later added for German performances by the composer and conductor Maximilian Leidesdorff. This version of the overture is often performed by European orchestras, as well as here in the United States.

Manuel de Falla (1876 – 1946), a Spanish composer, is known for his orchestral pieces, operas, stage works, and zarzuelas (Spanish folk dramas with music). “Spanish Dance No. 1” is from his opera La vida breve (“Life Is Short”), a lyric drama. The opera itself is not often performed, but musical selections drawn from it are very popular. Many versions of the opera’s Spanish dances have been arranged by other composers, for both solo instruments and chamber ensembles. This orchestral version is by Falla himself; it is frequently performed and is considered the unofficial anthem of Spain. Manuel de Falla is truly a master orchestrator who uses a large orchestra, plus auxiliary instruments, to achieve a full and beautiful sound.

-- Alexander Kordzaia
The Performers

Azalea Ginete is a senior at the University of Richmond studying biochemistry and molecular biology and music. She started her music career on the piano at age four, and four years later took up the harp. Originally from Duluth, Minnesota, Azalea studied under Janell Lemire and participated in the Lake Superior Suzuki Talent Education Program (LS-STEP), where, in 2007, she was given the opportunity to travel to Spain with other Suzuki harpists. There, she played with several orchestras in Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, and Segovia. In 2016, Azalea began studying under Anastasia Jellison at the University of Richmond and has been an active member of the music department ever since. This past summer, she traveled to Vienna, Austria, to study music performance and Vienna’s musical history. After graduation, Azalea plans to apply to medical school; she also hopes to continue her harp studies. She would like to thank her harp teachers, parents, and close friends who have supported and believed in her throughout this journey.

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, Mr. 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 Mr. 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. Mr. Kordzaia led both of these groups on triumphant tours of the former USSR.

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, Mr. 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.
Mr. 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, Mr. Kordzaia has recently performed 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, 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.
University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

**Violin I**
Mandy Zhou, concertmaster
Micah Hunter-Chang, assistant concertmaster
Ju Hye Kim
Donovan Williams
Lily Bastian
Juan Mendez-Guzman
Sophia Jackson
Brook Siever
Karen Titus*
Lani Wisner*
John Turner*
Randy Allen*

**Violin II**
Lindsay White, principal
Amanda Perez
Casey Tsai
Nori Stone
Adam Birce*
Ria Valenzi*
Eden Kim
Bryanna Montford
Eileen Downey**
Lauren Campbell*
Mark Arceo-Hamill*

**Viola**
Mimi Laws, principal
Lowell Schipper
Jimbo Howard
Katie Baker*
Donald Moyer*
Kitty Moyer*
Ben Solomon
John Bander*
Jorrin Song
Keaton Muench

**Cello**
Brianna Cantrall, principal
Colette Creamer
Nile Harris
Marisa Dougherty
Sidney Whitlock*
Merilyn Kern*
Hannah Sjovold*
Jerry Lin

**Bass**
Michael Stumpf, principal*
Isabelle McNulty*
Severin McNulty*
John Creger

**Flute**
Rilyn McKallip, principal
Tomi Jegede, piccolo***
Jasmin Rabiera
Oboe
Bryant Keeling, principal
Felix Minami
Lisa Bilski, English horn*

Clarinet
Michael Goldberg, principal*
Jane Song, principal
Doug Hurt, bass clarinet*

Bassoon
Arnold Wexler, principal*
Anthony Isenhour, principal

Horn
Gretchen Georgas, principal*
Michael Hartsough*
Dana McNulty*

Trumpet
Allison Walters, principal
Thomas McCarty, principal*

Trombone
John Carrol, principal*
Tommy Na, principal
Timon Caletka

Tuba
Russ Wals*

Timpani
John Hubbard**

Percussion
Jonathan Gandara, principal
Steve Barton**

Harp
Azalea Ginete, principal
Aelan Snyder*

Celeste
Jasmine Pitt

Librarian and Conductor’s Assistant
Azalea Ginete

Community Musicians’ Coordinator
Gretchen Georgas*

* Community Musician
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Sean Farrell, Nick Mobley, and Patrick Kraehenbuehl for Camp Concert Hall stage, lighting, and sound system assistance.

All community musicians who help to make this music possible for our students.

And a special acknowledgment to Anastasia Jellison, Department of Music harp instructor, who played a pivotal role in helping Ms. Ginete prepare for her harp performance in tonight’s concert.