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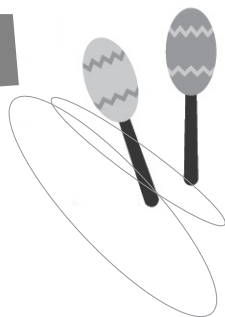
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**UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**



UR Symphony Orchestra
Alexander Kordzaia,
Conductor

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

7:30 p.m

Camp Concert Hall

Booker Hall of Music



music.richmond.edu



CONCERT SERIES Fall 2021-Spring 2022

PROGRAM

- Cantata No. 29, “Wir danken dir, Gott,
wir danken dir”
Sinfonia
- Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
- Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor, BWV 1067
I. Overture
- Bach
- Concerto in G Major for String Orchestra,
“Alla rustica,” RV 151
Presto
Adagio
Allego
- Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)
- Serenade for String Orchestra, op. 48
IV. Finale (Tema russo)
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

Johann Sebastian Bach. Cantata No. 29; Orchestral Suite No. 2

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer of the late Baroque period. He was born in Eisenach, to a family of musicians, and he worked primarily for Lutheran churches and wealthy patrons. He played the organ and the harpsichord, and much of his music is written for these instruments. During his lifetime, Bach's fame rested largely on his ability as a performer; his compositions, nearly forgotten after his death, gained iconic status in the 19th century. Bach's most famous works include the *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Goldberg Variations*, and the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. Bach had twenty children, several of whom went on to become composers themselves.

Bach's Cantata No. 29, “Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir,” was first performed in Leipzig in 1731 to commemorate the

inauguration of a new town council. Its opening movement, an orchestral sinfonia, is borrowed from his Violin Partita No. 3, BWV 1006.

Bach composed his Orchestral Suite No. 2 in 1738-39. The work is a collection of courtly dances, several of which are inspired by French music. The Overture is written in French style, with a slow opening and a fast, four-part fugue. Each subsequent movement of the suite has its own character and is representative of a different form of dance. While Bach wrote three other orchestral suites, the second is the only one to feature the flute.

Antonio Vivaldi. Concerto in G Major for String Orchestra, RV 151

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), an Italian composer of the late Baroque period, was also a Catholic priest. His Concerto in G Major for String Orchestra does not use a soloist. This is the composer's best known concerto after his famous *Four Seasons* violin concertos. Its nickname, "alla rustica" ("in rustic style"), may derive from the final movement's prominent use of the raised fourth scale degree, a trait found in Italian folk music.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Serenade for String Orchestra, op. 48

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was a Russian composer of the Romantic period. His Serenade for String Orchestra is an homage to the serenades of his favorite composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Its fourth and final movement is a virtuosic piece written in sonata form, with a short, slow introduction of the main theme, derived from Russian folk dance. The second theme is a beautiful melody first introduced in the cello section and later picked up by the first violins. The Finale ends with the main theme in a faster tempo, followed by multiple C-major chords.

-- Notes by Rilyn McKallip and Alexander Kordzaia

Continued ...

Alexander Kordzaia accepted the position of Music Director of the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra in 2007. He is the former Principal Guest Conductor of the Filarmonica Cartagena in Colombia, and former 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 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.

Continued ...

University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra
Alexander Kordzaia, Artistic Director and Conductor

1st Violins

Matthew Robinson, Concertmaster
Noah Robinson, Assistant Concertmaster
Mandy Zhou
Juan Mendez-Guzman
Lili Bastien
Hannah Lwin

2nd Violins

Craig Caudill, Principal
Sydney McFarlane
Catarina Acosta
Abrielle Mecray
Parisa Mershon

Viola

Ben Solomon, Principal
Keaton Muench, Assistant Principal
Greg Hughes

Cello

Brianna Cantrall, Principal
Ethan Rodgers-Gates, Assistant Principal
Nile Harris
Miah Wilson
Marisa Daugherty
Amy Jablonski

Bass

Billy Apostolou

Flute

Selena Deng

Orchestra Librarian and Conductor's Assistant

Ben Solomon

Special thanks to:

The University of Richmond Music Department
and its Chair, Dr. Andy McGraw

The Modlin Center for the Arts,
especially Sean Farrell, Patrick Kraehenbuehl,
and Chris O'Neil

Dr. Joanne Kong

Ms. Linda Smalley

Mandy Zhou

Dr. Linda Fairtile

Raymond Breakall, for harpsichord maintenance and tuning

Our graduating seniors and all our student musicians

We dedicate this performance to the Ukrainian people
and to peace in the world.

*The Department of Music kindly asks that the audience
remain seated after the performance
as we honor Mr. Kordzaia for his 15 years of service
as the conductor and director of the UR Symphony Orchestra.*



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