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### University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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**FALL  
MUSIC  
CONCERTS**

**FALL  
2015**

The Department of Music  
Presents in Concert

**University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra**

Alexander Kordzaia, director  
Solomon Quinn, pianist

Thursday, December 3, 2015  
7:30 PM

Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

**MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU**

## PROGRAM

Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770 – 1827)

I. Adagio molto – Allegro con brio

II. Andante cantabile con moto

III. Menuetto: Allegro molto e vivace

IV. Adagio – Allegro molto e vivace

Piano Concerto No. 2 in c minor, Op. 18

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873 – 1943)

I. Moderato

Solomon Quinn, piano

Winner, 2015 University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21**

German-born composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) composed his Symphony No. 1 in C Major during the years of 1799-1800, with the premiere of the piece taking place at the Vienna Hofburg Theatre in April of 1800. In this work, Beethoven drew upon the Classical tradition of the great composers affiliated with Vienna, primarily Mozart and Haydn. The similarities between Beethoven's symphony and the style of his immediate predecessors do not outweigh the new ideas that Beethoven experimented with in this work. The opening chord of the first movement, for example, does not open with the expected tonic key, but a dominant chord resolving to the subdominant. Beethoven also made greater use of wind instruments than was traditional, expanding his compositional palette and thus enhancing the instrumental color of the work. The fast-paced and rigorous third movement also stands out in contrast to the traditionally lighter third-movement minuets of earlier symphonies. This symphony was the first large-scale work published by Beethoven.

-- Notes by Alexander Kordzaia

## **Piano Concerto No. 2 in c minor, Op. 18**

Sergei Rachmaninoff was born on April 1st, 1873 in Russia and died on March 28th, 1943 in California. Rachmaninoff is one of the most prominent composers of the Romantic era, as well as one of the finest pianists of his generation. As a composer, Rachmaninoff was influenced mostly by Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, using many of their concepts of orchestration, melodic emphasis, and expressiveness.

Prior to composing his second piano concerto, Rachmaninoff suffered from depression and a general lack of self-confidence. This was in large part due to the public's negative response to his first symphony, premiered in 1897. After writing a work that was so poorly received by his contemporaries, Rachmaninoff had no desire to continue composing. However, he sought help from Dr. Nicolai Dahl, a psychologist with a specialty in hypnosis. An avid musician himself, Dr. Dahl was able to restore Rachmaninoff's passion for composition, and soon after, Rachmaninoff wrote his second piano concerto. The work premiered in 1901, with Rachmaninoff as the soloist and his cousin, Alexander Siloti, conducting. The concerto was an instant success and is still among the most popular works in the piano repertoire.

The first movement of the concerto begins in dramatic fashion with a series of chords in crescendo, each followed by a bell-like low F. After this short introduction comes the first theme in which the strings have the melody. The piano does not have a true solo until the second, more lyrical theme in E-flat Major. The development incorporates ideas from the themes and transitions in the exposition, as well as introducing some new melodic and rhythmic material. The first theme is repeated in the recapitulation, with the piano now playing a march to go along with it. The movement concludes with an exciting accelerando and crescendo to a fortissimo three- chord cadence in C-Minor.

--Notes by Solomon Quinn

*Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.*

## Biographies

### ALEXANDER KORDZAIA

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.

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 conducted orchestras to critical acclaim. Recent engagements have included the 2012 Cartagena Festival of the Orchestras in Columbia, a Carnegie Hall performance with the American Youth Harp Ensemble, performances 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, North Carolina,



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the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra, the 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, 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.

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.

An active chamber musician, recent concerts have been in Washington, D.C., Maryland, New York, Vienna, Austria, and Cartagena, Colombia. Kordzaia 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.

## **SOLOMON QUINN**

Nineteen-year-old Solomon Quinn has shown dedication and commitment to the piano since age 5. He began his musical studies under the guidance of Dr. Natela Mchedlishvili, who remained his piano teacher through high school in the Young Artists Honors Program at the Kaufman Music Center. Currently a Richmond Scholar, Solomon is continuing his piano and chamber music studies with Professor Richard Becker and Dr. Joanne Kong.



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In the summer of 2015 Solomon was invited to perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 14 in E-flat Major with the Cremona Academy Chamber Orchestra and was selected to participate in the Aspen Music Festival, studying with Ann Schein. The First Prize winner at the Cremona International Piano Competition in two different age categories in 2013 and 2014, Solomon also won the Concerto Competition of the Young Artists Program in 2011.

A resident of New York City, Solomon performed in 2013 in the 30th Annual Young Artists Concert at Alice Tully Hall and in 2012 in the American Fine Arts Festival at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall; he has performed frequently in the Merkin, Steinway and Ann Goodman Recital Halls. In 2013 he was one of the gifted young pianists chosen to participate in an all-Liszt concert organized by the American Liszt Society, celebrating the NY/NJ Chapter's 20th Anniversary Season at Yamaha's YASI Piano Salon.

Solomon's repertoire includes a variety of works and styles. Some of his favorite composers are Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Chopin and Prokofiev; he has also enjoyed performing contemporary compositions by Richard Danielpour, Ben Yarmolinsky, György Ligeti, and Ned Rorem. In 2014 he was the pianist for the world premiere of Brian Petuch's "If You See Something, Say Something," commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony and Chamber Program.

A sophomore at UR, Solomon's non-musical interests include mathematics, physics and economics.

## PERFORMERS

### **1st Violin:**

Daniel Yoo, Concertmaster  
Dagny Barone, Assistant Concertmaster  
Hannah Sullivan  
Rebecca Robinson  
Darah Rathi  
Michael Robinson  
Lillian Hughes  
Shiv Toolsidass  
James Noel\*  
Grace Leng

### **2nd Violin:**

John Seo, Principal,  
Khaela Sanchez, Assistant  
Principal  
Anna Saakian\*  
Brighton Payne\*  
Jonathan Lingerfelt\*  
Randy Allen\*  
Eileen Downey\*\*  
Eric Campbell\*  
Lauren Campbell\*  
*continued...*

**Viola:**

Sara Cloonan, Principal  
Alicia Jiggetts  
Nicole D'Onofrio  
Bobby Kania\*

**Cello:**

Catherine Edwards, Principal  
Isabella Gómez Torres  
Andrew Jordan\*  
John Cavaliere  
Marilyn Kern\*  
Sidney Whitlock\*  
Douglas Kellner\*  
Michael Knowles\*

**Bass:**

Michael Stumpf, Principal\*  
Jake McHugh\*  
Charles Gordner

**Flute:**

Marie Fernandez, Principal  
Kehinde Jegede  
Chloe Lubin-Kirchner  
Rachel Lantz

**Oboe:**

Erin Vidlak, Principal  
Elise Favia, English Horn  
Benedict Romer

**Clarinet:**

Michael Goldberg, Principal \*  
Doug Hurt\*  
Sam Frazier, Bass Clarinet\*

**Bassoon:**

Arnold Wexler, Principal\*  
Conor Lemmon, Principal  
Tom Baise, Contra Bassoon\*

**French horn:**

Ryan Smout, Principal\*\*\*  
Gretchen Georgas\*  
Jenn Myers\*  
Dale Dean \*

**Trumpet:**

Thomas McCarty, Principal\*  
Randy Abernathy\*  
Bill Torres\*

**Trombone:**

Rebecca Buffington, Principal\*\*\*  
Ross Wright\*  
Matt Chafin\*

**Tuba:** Russ Wolz\***Timpani:**

John Hubbard\*\*

**Percussion:**

James Fong

**Librarian:**

Erin Vidlak

**Assistant to the conductor:**

John Seo

\* Community Musician

\*\* University of Richmond professor

\*\*\* University of Richmond alumnus



The University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra extends  
a special thanks to the following:

The university student musicians

The university faculty and local community musicians

The university ensemble-in-residence, eighth blackbird

The Modlin Center for the Arts/Camp Concert Hall operations  
and stage crew, including Sean Farrell, Rob Richards and Patrick  
Kraehenbuehl

Dr. Joanne Kong, Director of Accompaniment,  
UR Department of Music

Linda Smalley, Administrative Coordinator,  
UR Department of Music



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