



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University Symphony Orchestra

Gary Lewis, conductor

Cynthia Katsarelis, conductor

with

Jonathan Morris, piano

7:30 pm, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017
Macky Auditorium

Be engaged. Be inspired. Be here.

Be Boulder.

Program

Tiny Boléro

Carter Pann
(b. 1972)

World premiere performance

En Saga

Jean Sibelius
(1865–1957)

Cynthia Katsarelis, conductor

Intermission

Piano Concerto No. 3

Andante - Allegro
Tema con variazioni
Allegro, ma non troppo

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891–1953)

Jonathan Morris, piano
Winner, Graduate Division of Honors Competition

Program Notes

Tiny Boléro

Carter Pann

Tiny Boléro (2017) was written after visiting a “treetop” bistro at Big Sur, California with my wife after driving the entire day up from L.A. The restaurant is called “Nepenthe,” named after an ancient Greek elixir fabled to relieve one from any and all sorrows. This spot on the cliff made such an impression on me (in my exhausted state) that I immediately began humming the opening minimal hook in what is now this piece. The work came to shine a bright light upon the snare drum tattoo in Ravel’s ubiquitous *Boléro* as an homage to the great work. Mine is a completely different work, however the perfume of Ravel’s piece lingers throughout. *Tiny Boléro* was written as a gift to conductor Alastair Willis.

—Note by Carter Pann

Piano Concerto No. 3

Sergei Prokofiev

Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953) was a renowned pianist and composer by the time he graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 1911. His music, which in his day was described as grotesque, features angular melodies, unconventional modulations, strangely shifting tonalities, and driving rhythmic motion. Prokofiev supported the Russian Revolution and considered himself a Soviet through and through, but in 1918, frustrated by political strictures on artistic expression, he left the Soviet Union with no plans to return. He lived first in America, where his music was not well received, then Paris, where he was called an Igor Stravinsky imitator. He returned to the Soviet Union in 1933 and his popularity skyrocketed. He was granted his first Stalin Prize in 1942 for his Piano Sonata No. 7 (“Stalingrad”), and numerous other honors and awards followed until 1948 when Prokofiev was denounced as a “decadent formalist” and forced by The Party to issue a formal apology. He promised to take a new direction toward melody,

simplicity, polyphony and folk idioms; when he was considered “rehabilitated,” he was again allowed to have music performed publicly. He won a second Stalin Prize in 1951, and died in 1953.

Prokofiev’s compositions include concertos, symphonies, movie scores, operas, tone poems and ballets. He began his cosmopolitan *Third Piano Concerto* in 1911 in St. Petersburg, worked on it while on tour across America and completed it while vacationing in France. The concerto—premiered in Chicago in 1921 with the composer at the piano—is edgy, haunting and incredibly difficult; the composer admitted to being nervous and practicing three hours a day in the weeks leading up to the premiere. Though reviews of the premiere were mixed, Prokofiev’s remarkable *Third Concerto* has since become a staple of the repertoire and is widely recognized as one of the best twentieth-century piano concertos in the canon.

—Note by Silas Nathaniel Huff

En Saga

Jean Sibelius

Jean Sibelius (1865–1957) was a Finnish nationalist who brought Scandinavian music to the world’s attention, and whose extraordinary originality and sensitivity towards form assured him a prominent place in the history of western music. Sibelius went to the University of Helsinki with aspirations of being a lawyer, but quickly abandoned jurisprudence for his true passion: music. He traveled to Berlin and Vienna for further study and became enamored with the music of Brahms, Wagner and Richard Strauss, and developed a taste for high society and financial extravagance. Sibelius’ output includes seven symphonies, a violin concerto, incidental music, chamber music and tone poems, and he enjoyed immense fame and respect in his homeland. In 1897, the Finnish senate awarded him a lifelong pension in recognition of his genius. Thus, Sibelius could concentrate on musical composition without financial distractions—he wrote his greatest works

in a government-purchased cottage just outside of Helsinki.

Sibelius would ultimately be known as a staunch nationalist, but his tone poem *En Saga* was his first purely orchestral work and one of the earliest displays of what would come later in his career. Written in 1892 when the composer was only 26 years old, the piece features morose and lingering folk-like melodies laid upon fleeting string arpeggios, sparsely-orchestrated passages that invoke images

of the frigid north and darkly noble brass chords that pulse beneath a plaintive clarinet solo. The title, which means “Fairy Tale” in Swedish, does not draw inspiration from any particular story. Sibelius said, “*En saga* is an expression of a state of mind. I had undergone a number of painful experiences at the time and in no other work have I revealed myself so completely. It is for this reason that I find all literary explanations unreasonable.”

Biographies

Jonathan Morris

Jonathan Morris is currently completing a doctorate degree in piano performance at CU Boulder, studying with Dr. Andrew Cooperstock. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London as a student of Ronan O’Hora. Jonathan has played in many notable venues, including Wigmore Hall, Abbey Road Studios, the Bishopsgate Institute and the National Concert Hall in Ireland, among others. He will be participating in the 2018 Dublin International Piano Competition in May, and has been invited to play in the inaugural Beckett Chamber Music Series in Ireland later in the year.

Personnel

Graduate Assistant Conductors

Silas Huff, Cynthia Katsarelis and Johannes Krohn

Violin

Seth Bixler
Maggie Brady
Jessica Chen
Sarah Elert
Ben Ehrmantraut
Mary Evans
Ida Findiku
Jonathan Galle
Grace Harper
Megan Healy
Robbie Herbst
Lindsey Hoak
Marisa Ishikawa
Ryan Jacobsen +
Lindsie Katz
Paul Kim
Jenna Kramer
Lea Mattson
Michael Miller
Kristen Olson
Ava Pacheco
Autumn Pepper
Elizabeth Potter
Natalie Smith
Kendalia Spencer
Kashmira Tata
Sophia Thaut
Karen Van Acker*
Stephanie Yu

Viola

Jonathan Asbury
Benjamin Barron
Javier Chacon
Abigail Dreher
Joey Fischer
Jordan Holloway
Andrew Keeve
Dragana Loncar
Breana McCullough
Erin Napier
Conrad Sclar*
Alice Sprinkle
Allyson Stibbards
Sophia Wonneberger

Cello

Roberto Arundale*
Chas Barnard
Ernie Carbajal
Eliot Johnson
Nicholas Johnson
Dylan Howard
Elisabeth Murphy
Gabriel Ramos
Christine Sears
Haley Slaugh

Double Bass

Brett Armstrong*
Dante Ascarranz
Eleanor Dunlap
Jesse Fischer
Conner Hollingsworth
Alex King
Christopher Norwood
Sélyne Tibbetts-Pagán
Jordan Walters

Flute

Joshua Hall
Kathryn Hendrickson
Melissa Merkel
Margaret Sloyer
Brice Smith
Júlio Zabaleta

Oboe

Hannah Harm
Andrew Iannuccillo
Heather Macdonald
Michael Ochoa
Kristin Weber

Clarinet

William Bond
Maggie Greenwood
Annaka Hogelin
Ellen Kennedy
David Leech
Daniel Mills
Emily Wangler
Rachel Wood

Bassoon

Matthew Cullen
Gyungsun Im
Austen Jankowski
John Kempzell
Jay Million
Kristina Nelson
Daniel Nester

Horn

Josh East
Jason Friedman
Megan Hurley
Noelle Limbird
Chandler Spoon
Clark Stewart

Trumpet

Melinda Ho
Brandon Norton
Ryan Spencer
Andrew DePree

Trombone

Megan Dudek
Evan Johnson
Joshua McCann
Aaron Zalkind

Tuba

Patrick Young

Percussion

Taylor Edwards
Julian Kley
Alberto Ortega
Ryan Pride

Harp

Jenna Allen

+ Concertmaster

* Principal

Holiday Festival

Dec 8–10

Macky Auditorium

Tickets start at \$20—more info at cupresents.org

Boulder's most beloved December tradition gathers together CU's most remarkable student and faculty talent for an unforgettable concert that's fun for the whole family. Delight in the twinkling lights, seasonal greenery and festive atmosphere of Macky Auditorium as student choirs, bands and orchestras perform holiday favorites and new surprises.



CU PERFORMING ARTS
music

Upcoming Events at the College of Music

Concert Band & Campus Orchestra

7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11

Grusin Music Hall

Concert Jazz & Jazz Ensemble II

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15

Macky Auditorium

Fall Commencement

11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21

Grusin Music Hall

Spring Festival of Choirs

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver

Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8

Macky Auditorium

Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band

7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23

Macky Auditorium

Anderson Competition Finals

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14

Grusin Music Hall

Honors Competition

12 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25

Grusin Music Hall

Learn more at colorado.edu/music

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