

CU ★ PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



College of Music

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Campus Orchestra and Concert Band

Jacob Kaminski, orchestra graduate conductor

Elias Gillespie, wind band graduate conductor

Branden Steinmetz, conductor

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023

Macky Auditorium

Program

CAMPUS ORCHESTRA

Slavonic Dance No. 8 in G minor, Op. 46

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Waltz of the Stars

Alexander LaMotte (b. 2003)

Symphony No. 9 “From the New World,” Op. 95

Antonín Dvořák

IV. Allegro con Fuoco

— Intermission —

CONCERT BAND

Kaddish

Francis McBeth (1933-2012)

Shalom

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

As The World Waits

Mat Campbell (b. 1992)

Resplendent Light

Tyler S. Grant (b. 1995)

Program notes

Slavonic Dance No. 8 in G minor, Op. 46

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Slavonic Dances by composer Antonín Dvořák are a series of 16 compositions originally written for piano and later scored for full orchestra. Upon orchestrating these dances, Dvořák published them as two sets of eight dances each, Op. 46 and Op. 72. It is rumored that Dvořák drew upon inspiration from Johannes Brahms' *Hungarian Dances* when writing and orchestrating the piece. The main difference however is that Brahms' *Hungarian Dances* are composed of pre-existing Hungarian folk melodies, whereas all of Dvořák's music is entirely his own, merely generating a snapshot of dance-like music from the Eastern part of Europe.

The 16 total dances cover a range of styles and keys, all emulating Eastern European dance styles (Polkas, Dumkas and Kolos to name a few). The dance being performed tonight, No. 8 in G minor from Op. 46, is a furiously quick dance that is constantly mixing minor and major sonorities. This fast, stormy music is juxtaposed against a more pastoral middle section played by the flutes; a musical alternation between stormy and pastoral permeates the movement. As the final pastoral section slowly winds down, the stormy music returns one last time, however this time in a major key to triumphantly close to the movement.

—Program note by Jacob Kaminski

Waltz of the Stars

Alexander LaMotte (b. 2003)

Waltz of the Stars is an orchestral work by student composer, Alexander LaMotte, composed in the year 2020. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was isolated away into their homes, leaving us yearning for a time of escape and a sense of normalcy. Thus, many had to resort to finding hobbies, both new and existing, to occupy themselves around the house. For LaMotte, this allowed ample time to compose and create, allowing for an outlet to imagine and depict worlds outside of this quiet, indoor reality. In this piece, LaMotte paints the image of an elegant gathering within a grand mansion, filled

with flourishing ballroom dances, champagne bubbles and friendly laughter echoing throughout the halls, similar to that of the timeless novel *The Great Gatsby*. The piece emulates extravagance, while also depicting a sense of intimacy, perhaps of two young lovers gazing out into the endless starry skies. LaMotte blends the traditional waltz and its dancing rhythms with delicate orchestrations, conveying this magnificent setting. *Waltz of the Stars* will whisk you away into a world of romance and rejuvenation, allowing you a chance to imagine your own world of wonder.

—Program note by Alex LaMotte

Kaddish

Francis McBeth (1933-2012)

Kaddish (rhymes with Schottische) is an ancient Jewish doxological prayer for the dead. It is said by the bereaved each morning and evening for eleven months, then on the anniversary of the death thereafter. To it is ascribed the power of redeeming the departed soul from any suffering and the efficacy of invalidating an evil decree.

The composition was written as a memorial to J. Clifton Williams, noted composer and former teacher of McBeth at the University of Texas.

This work is a combination of all emotions that surround the death of a friend—cries, shouts, resignation and sorrow—but the work should end as an alleluia, an affirmation of life. The “heartbeat” that runs throughout the piece in the percussion is a rhythmic quote from Williams’ *Caccia and Chorale*.

—Program note by Francis McBeth

Shalom

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Originally composed as a choral prayer for peace and wholeness during the events of 2020, *Shalom* alternates between sections of very simple melody floating over gentle accompaniment with polyphonic refrains featuring whispers of the word “peace.” No matter how complex the texture gets, it always returns to a single unison note, picturing the meaning of shalom—not merely a surface level peace, but wholeness in every aspect of one’s being (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually) and in all our relationships with each other.

—Program note by Dan Forrest

As The World Waits

Mat Campbell (b. 1992)

As the World Waits is a response to 2020. Not only does it depict my own experience in this significant year, but it also serves as a call to action to help one another overcome adversity in the darkest of times. Musically speaking, there is one developing motive throughout the piece, and it is treated differently in every section. The listener requires patience to listen to the same theme over and over, but it represents the patience required to simply keep going when it feels like there's no hope left. I didn't write this piece to depict the anguish of our collective experience. Instead, I wrote this piece to call on all of us to carry the weight of the world when others can't.

—Program note by Mat Campbell

Resplendent Light

Tyler S. Grant (b. 1995)

“More often than not, the circumstances of life seem to happen when we least expect; at least, that's the way it felt upon the genesis of *Resplendent Light*. Commissioned by a school in Concord, Massachusetts, it was suggested to me to use Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* as a source of inspiration for this serene and introspective work. Anyone who has read *Walden* knows that one of the prominent overarching tones is 'reflection.' I had just sketched the first few melodic ideas for the work when I received the horrific news that my grandfather had passed away after a long battle with heart disease. While we knew that his health condition was declining we were unaware just how fast the disease would compromise his stability. Upon the death of a loved one, one can't help but become immersed in self-reflection—reflecting on my own life, my heritage and the lives of those around me. Much like the way Thoreau chose to distance himself from the rest of the world in order to reflect, I spent several weeks blocking out the noise of our perpetually loud world to focus on these reflective thoughts.”

—Program note by Tyler S. Grant

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink and can be clicked or tapped for more information.

Branden Steinmetz, conductor

Elias Gillespie, conductor

Elias Gillespie, a Kansas native, is currently pursuing a master's degree in wind conducting at the University of Colorado Boulder where he studies with Don McKinney. Prior to his studies at Colorado, Gillespie taught in Lincoln, Nebraska for five years where he served as director of bands at Lincoln Northeast High School. During this time, he was the recipient of the 2022 Nebraska Young Music Educator of the Year award which is given to one person annually in recognition of outstanding promise in music education in the state of Nebraska. Gillespie received a Bachelor of Music Education in 2018 from Kansas State University. At Kansas State, he was heavily involved in university ensembles and community music making, and served in multiple leadership roles. Gillespie served as president of the Epsilon Pi chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi (National Honorary Band Service Fraternity) and studied conducting with Frank Tracz and trumpet with Gary Mortenson and Rebecca Walenz.

Jacob Kaminski, conductor

Jacob Kaminski is a graduate assistant from Cleveland, Ohio studying with director of orchestras Gary Lewis. As an active young conductor, he has participated in workshops such as the Midwest Clinic Robert Reynolds Conducting Institute, led by H. Robert Reynolds and Craig Kirchoff, and the University of Missouri Kansas City Score Study Symposium, led by Kevin Noe. Prior to his enrollment at CU Boulder, Kaminski earned a Bachelor of Music in double bass performance from Baldwin Wallace University, where he served as orchestra manager and assistant conductor under Soo Han and David Becker. As an active double bassist, Kaminski was the winner of the 2021 Baldwin Wallace Lauria Concerto Competition, in which he gave a performance of the Vanhal Double Bass Concerto with the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra. Kaminski also instructs private students on double bass and electric bass, and as a freelance musician, enjoys playing in jazz combo and rock settings.

Alex LaMotte, composer

Alexander (Alex) LaMotte is originally from the suburbs of Denver, Colorado and has composed since 2013, when his middle school orchestra director introduced him to the idea. Ever since, LaMotte has written numerous works for various instrumentations, including chamber works, works for string orchestra, as well as full symphonic orchestra works. LaMotte studied composition at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami before pursuing a bachelor's degree in atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. His works have been performed at numerous venues across the United States, as well as internationally. Venues include the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) Conference, the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Conference, King Center at Metropolitan State University, Maurice Gusman Concert Hall at the University of Miami, and Macky Auditorium at the University of Colorado Boulder.

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Violin

Lli Alejos
Alex Baker
Eva Basa
Rebecca Blum
Lindsey Busch
Argudit Chauhan
Alan Chen
Alex Doner
Becky Donoho
Jael Falcon
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Ji Hwan Park
Zane Perry
Ashllie Polvogt
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Shellene Redhorse
Alana Saliba

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Tali Schley
Blaire Schulze
Timothy Shih
Caitlyn Staudenmier
Caleb Todd
Geneva Todd
Joshua Tice
Adam Transue
Alyssa Wells-Lewis
Principal second violin
Aiden Wiser

Viola

James Boynton
Paige Daniels
Rachael Fritchie
Maryam Hadi
Logan Indge
Principal
Tristan Johnston
Forest Kline
Alex LaMotte
Alex Lentz
Amanda Louthian
Ella Marshall
Jack Miller
Ignacia Naus
Josh Pitman
Katerina Sharman
Nicholas Torres
Olivia Tourtlotte
Margaret Voss
Avery Wagner

Jack Wills
Lucia Witikko

Cello

Johnny Bashford
Lucia Claudia
Liam Corder
Calvin Ewing
Avi Flores
Jice Franklin
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Fiana Li
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Laney Rehkopf
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Kyle Steinsvaag
James Stewart
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Raelan Torres
Yi-Shiuan Tung
Sara Wallen
Donovan Webster
Nadika Weiss

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Ava Yu
Alex Zyles

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Philip Austin
Justin Hein
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Keiran McGee
Stefan Rosenboom

Flute

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