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Young Artist Celebration: Part II

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Andrews University Symphony Orchestra

AUSO Conductor: Chris Wild

Professor of Conducting: Claudio Gonzalez

Manager & Assistant Conductor: Kristii Rasmussen

Graduate Students in Orchestral Conducting:

Nehemias Calsin, Kristii Rasmussen

Orchestra Support Staff:

Simon Luke Brown, Claudius Emilaire

The Andrews University Symphony Orchestra is a class supported by the Department of Music within the Andrews University College of Arts & Sciences.

Special thanks to the Howard Performing Arts Center staff

For hosting the AUSO class throughout the year!

*Young Artist
Celebration: Part II*

Featuring Pianist Nathaniel Cogen

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Chris Wild and Kristii Rasmussen

Howard Performing Arts Center
Saturday, March 13, 2021—8:00 pm

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PROGRAM

Allegro from Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat Major Ludwig van Beethoven
Nathaniel Cogen, piano

Polka from *The Golden Age*..... Dmitri Shostakovich, arr. Chris Wild

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Violin I

Jeremy Myung*+
Simon Brown+
James Corbett
Migena Wilcox*+
Daley Lin
Stephanie Guimaraes'
Dhara Marquez
Madi Jordan
Rhymiel Prudente

Violin II

Samantha Cardwell*
Franky Paypa
Irina Gagliu
Dongchan Kim
Sarah Wolf
Savanna Hayes
Kayla Brathwaite
Nikolaz Feliciano~
Wambui Karanja
Drusilla Apola

Viola

Daniel Cerna*
Claudius Emilaire
Sofia Oudri~
Joshua Katsuren
Kristii Rasmussen'

Cello

Jamison Moore*
Wesley Martin
Sion Kim
Chaehyun Kim
Bryan Toc
Kameron Feliciano

Bass

Bryan Toc*
Andrew Osano~
Don Parker

Flute & Piccolo

Betania Canas*
Aleksandra Kemble~

Oboe & English Horn

Timothy Henderson
Megan Case

Clarinet

Jason Marquez*
Shelly Rauser

Bassoon

Lisa Bubar*~
Renee Anderson~

French Horn

Erin Penrod*
Ryan Gooden~
Nehemias Calsin'
Madeline Kyncl~

Trumpet

Max Keller*~
Bruce Wright~

Trombone

Monika Ansinn'
Tyler Braithwaite
Christopher Rogers

Tuba

Alexandria Ansinn~

Timpani

Kelly Gabriel~

Percussion

Nathan Christensen*~
Chris Wild

Harp

Caralynn Chan

(Seating for Tchaikovsky)
Section Principal*
Concertmaster Rotation+
Graduate Student'
Community Member~

PROGRAM NOTES

Beethoven's **Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major** was premiered in 1811 with the Archduke Rudolf as the soloist at a palace in Vienna. As the last piano concerto Beethoven composed, it is possibly one of the most well-known of its kind. This work is sometimes known as the "Emperor" concerto, though Beethoven did not assign to it this title. While the origin of this moniker is unknown, it certainly describes the grand and ornate nature of the concerto. Written on the heels of Napoleon's attack on Vienna, Beethoven's city of residence, this work represents a troubling time in the composer's life. He found it difficult to compose under the personal and national traumas following the violence. Even so, Beethoven was able to produce this innovative concerto which portrays the soloist's virtuosity and passion.

Shostakovich's **Polka** is selected from his ballet titled *The Golden Age*. The ballet is a satire representing some of the rapid political transformations that Europe underwent in the 1920s. While the polka maintains typical rhythmic elements from the dance, Shostakovich employs some bold and pungent harmonies to portray stark contrasts between various characters. While several instrumentations exist, conductor Chris Wild has arranged this version to feature many of the AUSO's very talented musicians.

Tchaikovsky wrote his overture-fantasy, **Romeo and Juliet**, as a symphonic poem which was premiered in its final form in 1886. Highly inspired by Shakespeare, Tchaikovsky created his work to feature three major storylines from the author's popular work. In the introduction, a chorale like theme represents Friar Laurence. A foreshadowed sense of dread is given by low string sounds. The conflict between the Capulet and Montague clans is portrayed by the crash cymbals repeatedly representing sword fights accompanied by tense, erratic sounds from the orchestra. Finally, the famous love theme appears various times, though altered by the circumstances of the young couple. Each of these themes are expertly woven together by Tchaikovsky to share the heart of Shakespeare's tragic story.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTORS

Chris Wild's performances have been lauded as "insatiable" (New York Times), resulting from his enthusiastic pursuit of musical connections. He currently serves as Conductor of the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra and is co-founder and conductor of the music theatre troupe *Après L'Histoire*. As a cellist, he performs frequently with the Chicago-based Ensemble Dal Niente, described as a "superb contemporary-music collective" (New York Times) noted for its "bracing sonic adventures" (Chicago Tribune). Recent performance highlights include appearances at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion, and the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Mexico). As a guest conductor Chris has led subscription and education concerts with the Peninsula Music Festival, Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra & Chorus, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, and Camerata Antonio Soler (Spain), as well as rehearsals with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and South Bend Symphony Orchestra. Chris began his cello studies at the age of five in British Columbia, Canada, where he would later win first place in the strings category of the Canadian Music Competition. He moved stateside to attend the University of Michigan, where he studied with Erling Blöndal Bengtsson and Richard Aaron and won first place in the school's Concerto Competition. While at Michigan, he also developed interests in conducting and music education, recognizing their potential for engaging with new listeners. After establishing himself as a musician and educator based in Chicago, Chris returned to graduate school to complete a DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Northwestern University, studying with Victor Yampolsky. Since the Fall of 2018, he has enjoyed working with the talented students of Andrews University as Conductor of the university's Symphony Orchestra.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTORS CONTINUED

Kristii Rasmussen was born in Columbus, Wisconsin. As a small child, she decided she wanted to be a music teacher just like her parents. She began singing around the age of two, and piano instruction by age five. After spending time in Lansing, Michigan where her father was pursuing his doctoral degree, the family moved to College Place, Washington where she began formal violin lessons with Kathleen Spring, and soon joined the string orchestra at Rogers Elementary School. When she was about thirteen years old, she happened across her father's conductor's score for Mozart's 40th symphony and started trying to understand what she saw there. Some time later, while listening to the local classical radio station, she recognized the melody from the score and eagerly began to follow along. This opened a new realm of understanding for her, and she soon began reading through as many scores as she could find. She continued to play violin and viola through high school, and following a family move to Collegedale, Tennessee, pursued her bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis in violin first at Southern Adventist University and finally at Andrews University which she completed in 2009. Though Kristii began her teaching career prior to graduation as a private violin instructor and as the Strings and Handbell teacher at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School during the 2007-2008 school year, she began her full-time teaching career at Rogue Valley Adventist Academy in Medford, Oregon in 2009. In 2013 she accepted a call to work at Sandy Lake Academy in Bedford, Nova Scotia where she remained until the spring of 2019 after making the decision to return to Andrews University to pursue her master's degree in orchestral conducting. She currently studies conducting with Dr. Claudio Gonzalez, and serves as the graduate assistant for the AUSO. Upon completion of her degree in the spring of 2021, she plans to return to the field of education and continue teaching young people to love music, and to pursue their dreams with excellence for the glory of God.

ABOUT THE SOLOIST

Nathaniel Cogen began his piano studies at the age of five, where his musical comprehension increased at an accelerated pace. His studies intensified by age seven, where he studied at the Jewish Community Center Thurnauer School of Music in Tenafly, New Jersey, under the direction of the late Fran Honig. After moving to Maryland, Nathaniel continued his musical studies with Marjay Contour until the beginning of his high school career. In high school he was learning at a nearly collegiate level under the tutelage of Rose Ede Altman and Toni Hall. As his skills developed, he accompanied the Takoma Academy, Pine Forge Academy, and River Hill High School choirs during his years at each institution. This was a valuable skill he developed during his 7th and 8th grade years in middle school, where his accompanist role began.

As his musical knowledge expanded, he entered a music festival competition held at Princeton University, and became the 2011 Grand Prix winner. As a result, he then went on to perform at the Weill Recital Hall in the world-renowned Carnegie Hall. He also received a superior rating in a music festival at Temple University in 2010, enabling him to perform in the winner's recital. During his undergraduate years, he studied with Dr. Chi Yong Yun, coordinator of keyboard studies in the music department at Andrews University. While completing his BA in Music, Nathaniel became one of five winners in the 2015 Young Artist Competition. Upon returning to Andrews University to begin his graduate studies in 2019, Nathaniel became one of four winners of the 2020 Young Artist Competition. Nathaniel seeks to finish his MMus in Piano Performance at Andrews University in May 2021. As a musician, he indulges in other genres such as Gospel, Jazz, Pop, Hip-Hop, R&B, and Rap.