

Ensemble and Faculty Concert:

2022-02-23 – University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Élise DesChamps,
mezzo-soprano



Audio Playlist



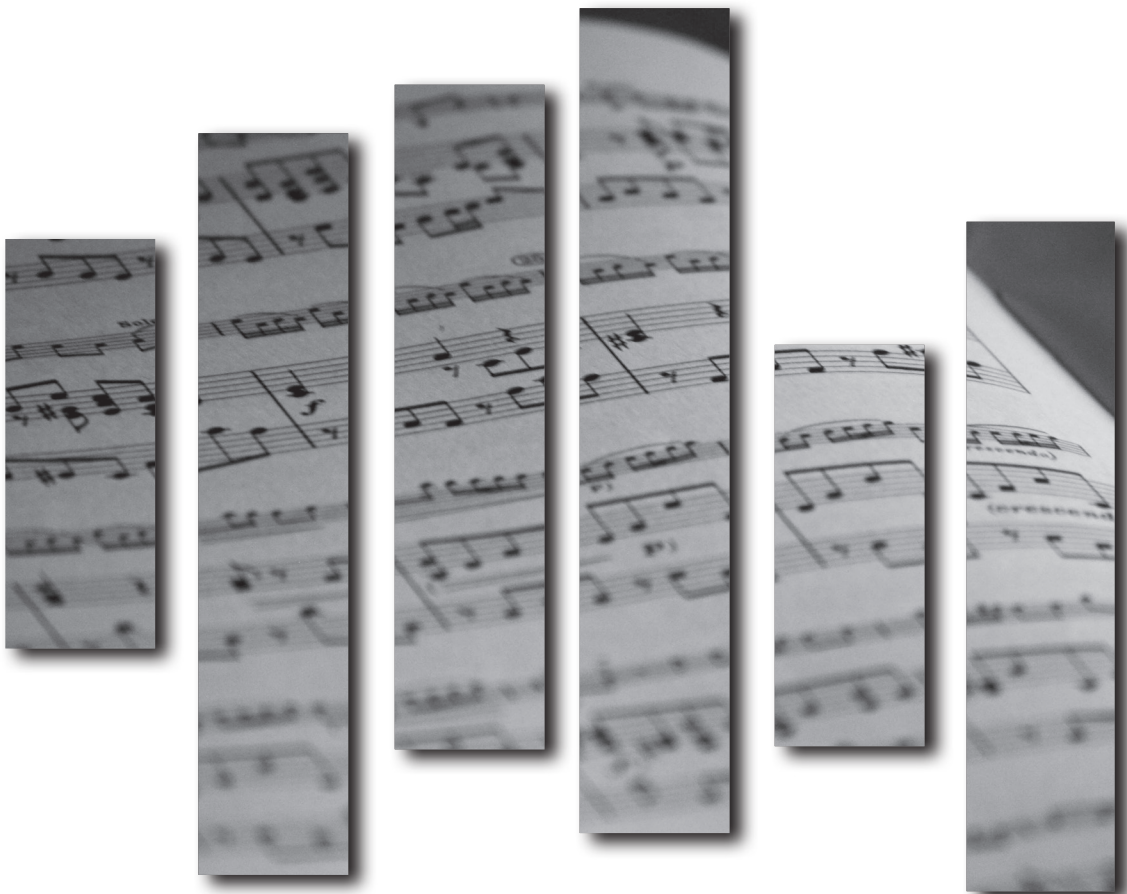
Video Playlist

Access to audio and video playlists restricted to current faculty, staff, and students.
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▼ Scroll to see Program PDF ▼

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School of Music



ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the

UI Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, director of orchestral studies

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the
UI Symphony Orchestra
Mélisse Brunet, director of orchestral studies

PROGRAM

Shéhérazade (1903)

*Asie
La flûte enchantée
L'indifférent*

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Élise DesChamps, mezzo-soprano

-INTERMISSION-

Scheherazade (1888)

*The Sea and Sinbad's Ship
The Kalandar Prince*

The Young Prince and The Young Princess

*Festival at Baghdad. The Sea. The Ship Breaks against a Cliff
Surmounted by a Bronze Horseman*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

BIOGRAPHIES

A native of Montréal, Canada, Mezzo-Soprano **Élise DesChamps** is praised for her dark, rich mezzo-soprano voice, and sensitive musicianship. She is also a highly sought-after teacher and master clinician who proudly serves on the faculty of the University of Iowa School of Music and as Artist-In-Residence at Bay View Music Festival.

An active freelance performer, Élise appeals to audiences and critics alike in opera, oratorio, and concert. She has been praised by Opera News for her “ability to handle coloratura effusions while bouncing with exhilaration about the stage.” Her latest Carmen was described as “rich, powerful, sensuous; the audience who observed her actions and heard her dark, rich mezzo-soprano voice admired her vocal and dramatic skills,” and her debut with Opera Columbus was celebrated as “vocal brilliance and radiant beauty; the warmth of her voice and the fragrance of her beauty lend themselves to her sprite-like believability.” Upcoming performances include Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, “Vashti” in The Machine Stops by John Lake (world premiere), recitals in Iowa, and concerts in Michigan.

DesChamps earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from The Ohio State University, where she studied with Dr. Scott McCoy. She received her Master of Music degree from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she studied with Virginia Zeani and Costanza Cuccaro. Élise is an alumnus of the Montréal Conservatory, where she completed Bachelor of Music degrees in cello and musicology.

Renee Santos is a sophomore at the University of Iowa majoring in violin performance. She began violin lessons at the age of six and currently studies with Dr. Scott Conklin. In 2021, Renee performed the Saint-Saens *Violin Concerto No. 3* with Orchestra Omaha after receiving first place in the Senior Division of the Orchestra Omaha Young Artist Competition Strings in 2020. In 2019, she won first place in the Senior Division of the University of South Dakota Young Artist Competition. Earlier in 2019, she performed as a soloist with the Cherokee Symphony. She

was selected as one of the featured performers for the Midwest Violin Caucus at University of Northern Iowa with the Interro String Quartet. In the summer of 2019, she was chosen to participate in the Hartt Community Division Chamber Music Accord with members of the Chiara Quartet and Cavani Quartet. Renee and her sister Nicole performed as a violin duo with the Cherokee Symphony in 2015 and 2017. Renee performed as a soloist with Orchestra Omaha in 2016. She has performed in masterclasses with Ari Isaacman-Beck of the Dali String Quartet, Liza Ferschtman, Pasha Sabouri, the Chiara String Quartet, Jinjoo Cho, and Annie Fullard of the Cavani String Quartet. Renee has been a member of the USD Chamber Orchestra and has substituted with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. She is currently a member of the Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Music Residency Program at the University of Iowa. Renee also plays piano, and studies with Dr. Réne Lecuona.

French conductor **Dr. Mélisse Brunet**, living in Iowa City, IA, is quickly gaining attention on both sides of that Atlantic as a “skilled and polished conductor with panache” (ClevelandClassical.com). She has just won the position of Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Iowa School of Music, conducting the orchestras in symphonic concerts, operas, and musical theater, as well as teaching orchestral conducting to master and doctorate students. She is the new Music Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, an orchestra made of freelance musicians from the NYC and Philadelphia areas. A protégée of Pierre Boulez, Dr. Brunet is one of the 14 finalists selected over 200 applicants for the second edition of the International Competition La Maestra in March 2022. She was one of the six conductors selected for the 2018 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, chosen for their “experience, talent, leadership potential, and commitment to a career in service to American orchestras.” She was one of the six women conductors chosen for the International Hart Institute for Women Conductors at the Dallas Opera in 2017, selected from over 161

applicants from 33 countries.

As a dynamic advocate of contemporary music, Brunet has collaborated with composers such as T.J. Cole, Steven Stucky, Michael Daugherty, Shulamit Ran, James Barry, and Jennifer Higdon, among others. In 2014 she was a selected conductor at the prestigious Cabrillo Festival for new music in California. As an opera and music-theatre conductor, Brunet has conducted *Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* at the Power Center in Ann Arbor; four staged performances of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*; and Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, and Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus* in Boone, NC.

A native of Paris, Brunet began her studies on the cello, and also learned to play the

trumpet, French horn and piano. She holds six diplomas from the Paris Conservatory (in analysis, harmony, counterpoint, renaissance counterpoint, orchestration, and a master's in orchestral conducting), and the Université la Sorbonne, as well as a professional studies diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a doctorate in conducting from the University of Michigan. Aside from Pierre Boulez, her mentors have included Kenneth Kiesler, Lawrence Loh, Carl Topilow, Zsolt Nagy, and Joel Smirnoff. She also took part in international workshops where she studied with Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier, David Stern, Peter Eötvös, and Jorge Mester. She studied French, English, German, and Italian lyric diction, and she speaks English, French, Italian, Chinese, and German.

Website: melissebrunet.com

University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, *director of orchestral studies*

VIOLIN 1

Renee Santos,
concertmaster
Sheng Ho Wang,
assistant concert-
master
Junhong Zhou
Oriana Ross
Sarah Harmon
Ryan Staub
Oliver Bostian
Rachel Li
Nikki Chen
Hannah Pinski
Caitlyn Valencia

VIOLIN 2

Ramel Price, *principal*
Larissa Myers, *assistant*
principal
Bairon Brandt
Olivia Young
Madeline McCourt
Riley Carey Fox
Kendra Thompson
Bailee Bean
Anna Scott
Amol Bhagavathi
Cecilia Shearon
Anastacia Braslavsky
Madison Sheriff
Anna Leahy

VIOLA

Fatima Gassama,
principal

Dominique Archambeau,
assistant principal
Marissa Beaty
Trevor Bitner
Daniela Rybarczyk
Wayne Joseph
Oliver Yoder
Trevor Jackson
Allie Schumacher
Johanna Kramer
Rebecca Vieker
Anna Moses
Alexander Lenaers

CELLO

Kimberly Hanks,
principal
Dean Wibe, *assistant*
principal
Natalie Krzeski
Oskar Kaut
Emily Airhart
Cece Brown
Madison Brady
Allyson Liu
Matti Brandenburg
Lydia Meikle
David Hitchman

BASS

Xiaowen Tang, *principal*
Natalia Terra, *assistant*
principal
Alexander Waters
Travell Wright
Paras Bassuk

FLUTE

Gregory Bardwell*
Caleb Estrada-Valentin
Tamila Freitas de
Souza†
Katie Woody

OBOE

Kate Caldwell
Lauren Carley
Amelia Johnson
Lisa Lutgen*†

CLARINET

Arianna Edvenson*†
Maxwell Seery

BASSOON

Elliott Beauchamp
Keegan Hockett*
Sara Remoy†

HORN

Anna Boes
Anna Cullinan
Delaney Hajek
Benjamin Makinst
Yi-Hsun Tang*
Yonghao Zhang

TRUMPET

Emma Cryer
Kevin Sells*

TROMBONE

Ryan Carter
Benjamin Hahnt
Lydia Rose*

TUBA

John Reyna*†

CELESTE

Ghadeer Abaido

HARP

Pam Weest-Carrasco
Laura Erickson

TIMPANI

Wil Voelker

PERCUSSION

Jilly Cooke
Michael Hill
Kraig Leahy
Hannah Oberhoffer
Benjamin Stone

*Indicates principal on
Rimsky Korsakov

†Indicates principal
on Ravel

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up to date listing of concerts and recitals, please visit arts.uiowa.edu.

All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated.

View livestreamed concerts at music.uiowa.edu/livestream.

FEBRUARY

2021

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|--------------|
| 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Three Reeds Duo | Concert Hall |
| 28 | 5:30 p.m. | Guest Artist Lecture: José Valentino Ruiz, <i>Arts Entrepreneurship</i> | Recital Hall |
| 28 | 7:30 p.m. | Guest Artist Recital: José Valentino Ruiz, <i>jazz flute</i> | Recital Hall |

MARCH

2021

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|-----------|-----------|--|--------------------|
| 01 | 7:30 p.m. | Guest Chamber Recital: Axiom Brass Quintet | Recital Hall |
| 02 | 7:30 p.m. | Johnson County Landmark | Concert Hall |
| 04 | 7:30 p.m. | Black Jazz Combo Concert | Recital Hall |
| 05 | 7:30 p.m. | Cello Dayz | Concert Hall |
| 06 | 1:30 p.m. | Piano Sundays at the Old Capitol | Old Capitol Museum |
| 06 | 7:30 p.m. | Latin Jazz Ensemble | Concert Hall |
| 07 | 7:30 p.m. | Jazz Repertory Ensemble | Concert Hall |
| 09 | 4:00 p.m. | Masterclass: Carol Jantsch, tuba | Recital Hall |
| 09 | 7:30 p.m. | Jupiter Quartet with Thomas Sauer, <i>piano</i> | Concert Hall |
| 09 | 7:30 p.m. | Gold Jazz Combo Concert | Recital Hall |
| 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Faculty Chamber Recital: Lanta Horn Duo | Recital Hall |
| 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Celebrating Beethoven: Complete 32 Sonatas UI Festival, Concert #7 | Concert Hall |

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