

Ensemble Concert:

2022-03-23 – University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra



Audio Playlist



Video Playlist

Access to audio and video playlists restricted to current faculty, staff, and students.
If you have questions, please contact the Rita Benton Music Library at mus-lib@uiowa.edu.



Scroll to see Program PDF



IOWA

School of Music



ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the

UI Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, director of orchestral studies

Wednesday, March 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

Concerto per Trombone e Orchestra (1966)

Allegro giusto
Lento, ben ritmato
Allegro Moderato

Nino Rota
(1911–1979)

Benjamin Hahn, *trombone*
Fernanda Lastra, *conductor*

-INTERMISSION-

**Cyber Bird Concerto
for Saxophone and Orchestra (1994)**

Bird in Colors
Bird in Grief
Bird in the Wind

Takashi Yoshimatsu (b. 1953)

Jichen Zhang, *saxophone*
Meng Liu, *piano*
Benjamin Stone, *percussion*
Mélisse Brunet, *conductor*

BIOGRAPHIES

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, and 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 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 Masters 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.

A graduate of Western Michigan University (WMU) with degrees in Trombone Performance and Electrical Engineering, **Ben Hahn** is in his second year of his Master’s degree and serves as the trombone studio teaching assistant. In his senior year, Ben was a winner of the 2020 WMU Concerto Competition. Outside of WMU’s School of Music, Ben was also recognized multiple times in the International Trombone Association’s prestigious Larry Wiehe Tenor Trombone Competition. Ben was named first alternate (4th place) in both 2018 and 2020 and was named second alternate (5th place) in 2019. In his first year at the University of Iowa, Ben was named a finalist for the competition and competed in Columbus, GA. Outside of school, Ben has played in multiple ensembles including the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra, the Durward Ensemble, and the Kalamazoo Civic Pit Orchestra. He has performed at Western Michigan’s Summer Music Camp as a soloist and attended the DC Trombone Workshop in 2021.

Fernanda Lastra was born in Mar del Plata, Argentina. She is a passionate and creative conductor with an energetic personality which characterizes her artistic and leadership style.

In 2022, Fernanda is appointed Conductor Diversity Fellow at the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, a two-year fellowship position as part of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra’s commitment to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion within the orchestral field. Fernanda

will serve as a member of the BPO's artistic team and the BPO's Diversity Council.

In 2021, Fernanda was selected as a conducting fellow for the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music led by Mtro. Cristian Măcelaru. In 2019, she was a finalist for the Assistant Conductor position at the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, and in 2018 was awarded First Prize for the conducting competition held by the Opera de Bauge, France.

Fernanda currently serves as Director of Orchestras at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where she leads the symphony and chamber orchestras. She also serves as Assistant Conductor for the University of Iowa symphony orchestra.

Fernanda holds two bachelor's degrees from La Plata University in orchestral and choral conducting, and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Penn State University. Fernanda is currently completing doctoral studies in orchestral conducting at The University of Iowa under the mentorship of Dr. Mélisse Brunet, Dr. William LaRue Jones, Prof. David Becker.

Meng Liu, a second-year DMA student majoring in piano performance at the University of Iowa under the guidance of Dr. Uriel Tsachor. Liu graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she received her master's degree and the Renmin University of China for her bachelor's degree. Liu has participated in masterclasses with Marios Papadopoulos, Einar Steen-Nøkleberg, Phillip Kavin, etc. She also attended the 15th "Young Pianists Play Liszt" recital in San Francisco in 2018, and "Microtonal Music" Recital in SFCM in 2019. Her former teachers are Mr. Corey McVicar and Ms. Yuchun Kang.

Ben Stone is an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. In his time at the University, Ben has had the opportunity to perform with various ensembles such as the Symphony Band, Center for New Music, Percussion Chamber Ensemble, and Steel Band, as well as ensemble competitions at the Percussive

Arts Society International Convention in 2017 and 2021. Ben has also had several of his steel band arrangements performed by the University of Iowa Steel Bands. In the coming years, Ben plans to combine his passion for music and skills with technology to explore new avenues of musical creativity.

Jichen Zhang, born in 1994. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Iowa, major in classical saxophone performance. He finished his master's degree at Truman State University where he was a member of Graduate Teaching/Research Assistantship. Zhang graduated from Yantai University where he received his bachelor's degree. Zhang is the soprano player and founding member of the Paeon Saxophone Quartet which received tremendous success performing in Shandong Provincial Capital Grand Theatre, China. He is also Bastet Saxophone Artist in China and an overseas reporter for the SaxChina publication. In 2018, He won the Gold Medal Concerto Competition at Truman State University. On World Animal Day (Oct 4th, 2018), Zhang released his first saxophone album which is dedicated and benefited to stray animal care. On April 6, 2019, he won first place in the 16th Southern Illinois Young Artist Competition. In 2021, he won the school-wide concerto competition at University of Iowa. In 2022, he was selected as top five prize-winning finalists at the 50th Annual William C. Byrd Young Artist Competition.

University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, *director of orchestral studies*

VIOLIN 1

Sheng Ho Wang,
concertmaster
Renee Santos,
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
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

Caleb Estrada-Valentin*
Tamila Freitas de Souza
Joshua Stinet
Katie Woody

OBOE

Lauren Carley
Lisa Lutgen*†

CLARINET

Arianna Edvenson*†
Jordan Flies
Maxwell Seery

BASSOON

Elliott Beauchamp
Carlos Lopez*

HORN

Anna Cullinan
Delaney Hajek*†
Benjamin Makins

TRUMPET

Emma Cryer
Drew Duncan
Kevin Sells*

TROMBONE

Ryan Carter
Kara Metzger
Lydia Roset

TIMPANI

Wil Voelker

PERCUSSION

Jilly Cooke

*Indicates principal
on Rota

†Indicates principal
on Yoshimatsu

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.

MARCH			2021
25	7:30 p.m.	Kantorei	Concert Hall
26	7:30 p.m.	Faculty and Guest Artist Recital: Hannah Holman and Réne Lecuona	Concert Hall
27	3:00 p.m.	Faculty Recital: Anthony Arnone, cello - Bach Cello Suites Concert 1 (Suites I, II, IV)	Organ Hall
27	3:00 p.m.	University Choir	Concert Hall
28	7:00 p.m.	Grant Wood Fellow Talk – <i>A session exploring Contemporary Regionalism in Musical Contexts</i> with Josh Henderson	Online
29	7:30 p.m.	Masterclass: Corey Sansalo, trombone	Recital Hall
29	7:30 p.m.	Avita Duo and Friends	Concert Hall
30	7:30 p.m.	JACK Quartet II	Concert Hall
APRIL			2021
02	7:30 p.m.	Guest Trio: Sarah Hetrick, <i>saxophone</i> ; Kenken Gorder, <i>trumpet</i> ; Will Yager, <i>double bass</i>	Concert Hall
03	1:30 p.m.	Piano Sundays at the Old Capitol	Old Capitol Museum
03	7:30 p.m.	Composers Workshop III	Concert Hall
04	7:30 p.m.	Guest Artist Recital: Margaret Butler, <i>oboe and English horn</i>	Recital Hall
04	7:30 p.m.	Grant Woods Fellow Performance: Josh Henderson & Friends	Stark Opera Studio

IOWA

School of Music