

Ensemble Concert:

2023-02-22 – University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra



Audio Playlist



Video Playlist

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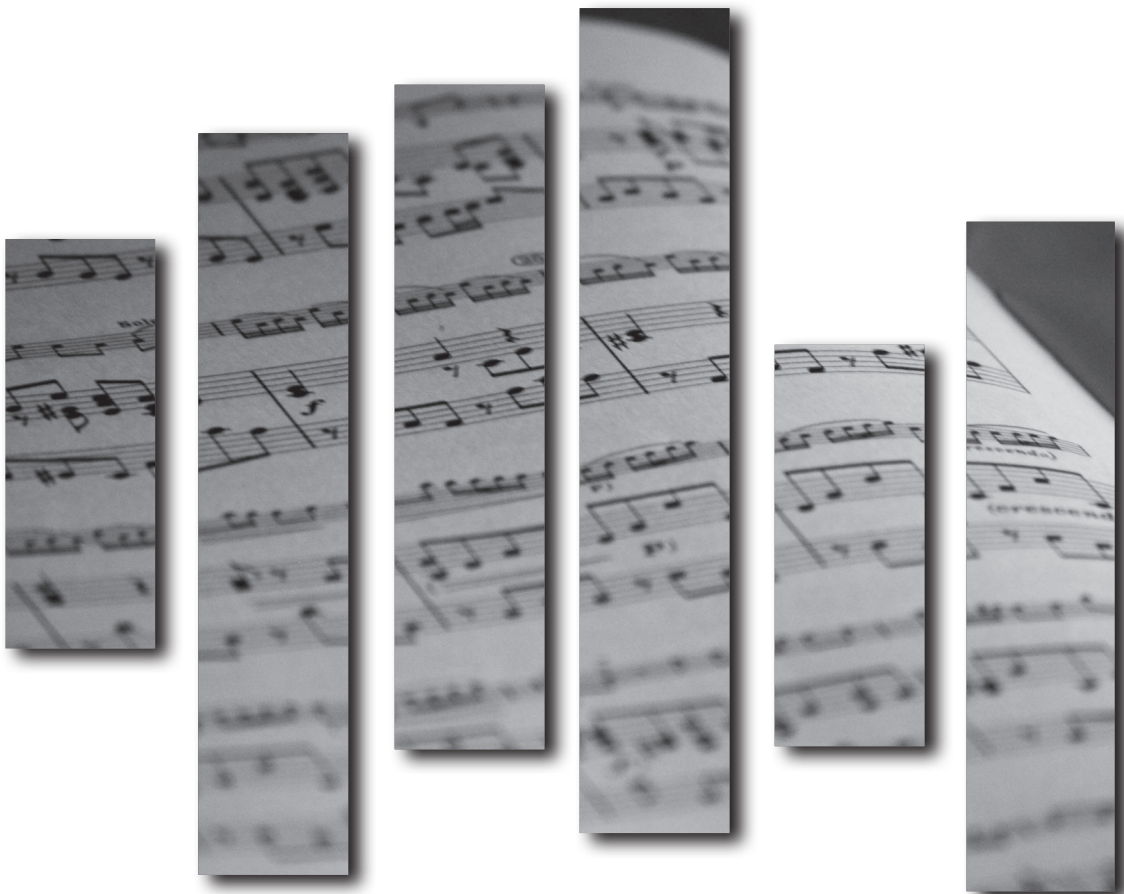


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IOWA

School of Music



ENSEMBLE CONCERT

UI Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, *director of orchestral studies*

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:30pm
Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mélisse Brunet, *director of orchestral studies*

PROGRAM

blue cathedral

Jennifer HIGDON
(b. 1962)

Variations on an Original Theme Op. 36, “Enigma” Edward ELGAR
Theme (Enigma: Andante) (1857–1934)
Variation I (L'istesso tempo) “C.A.E.”
Variation II (Allegro) “H.D.S-P.”
Variation III (Allegretto) “R.B.T.”
Variation IV (Allegro di molto) “W.M.B.”
Variation V (Moderato) “R.P.A.”
Variation VI (Andantino) “Ysobel”
Variation VII (Presto) “Troyte”
Variation VIII (Allegretto) “W.N.”
Variation IX (Adagio) “Nimrod”
Variation X (Intermezzo: Allegretto) “Dorabella”
Variation XI (Allegro di molto) “G.R.S.”
Variation XII (Andante) “B.G.N.”
Variation XIII (Romanza: Moderato) “ * * * “
Variation XIV (Finale: Allegro Presto) "E.D.U."

Alex Arellano, *graduate assistant and head librarian*
Megan Maddaleno, *graduate assistant and orchestra manager*
Daniel Zipin, *graduate assistant and attendance manager*
Madison Brady and John Reyna, *stage crew*
Anna Cullinan and Cecilia Shearon, *assistant librarian*

UIISO PERSONNEL

VIOLIN I

Ollie Bostian, concertmaster
Michael Klyce,
assistant concertmaster
Renee Santos
Ryan Staub
Hugo Kaut
Oriana Ross
Sarah Harmon
Rachel Li

VIOLIN II

Sugar Durante, principal
Alison Baldwin
Cecilia Shearon
Olivia Young
Julia Correia
Bailee Bean
Bair Brandt
Hannah Pinski
Luke Cuasay
Oz Braslavsky
Madison Sheriff

VIOLA

Allie Schumacher, principal
Daniela Rybarczyk
Oliver Yoder
Hanna Kramer
Wayne Joseph
Trevor Bitner
Alex Lenaers

CELLO

Ryan Doerr, principal
Natalie Krzeski
Hanna Rumora
Kim Hanks
Oskar Kaut
Celia Philips
Eli Wan
Madison Brady
Cece Brown
Dean Wibe
Allyson Liu
Calista Kopulos
David Hitchman
Olivia Palen

BASS

Natalia Terra, principal
Eamon Reed
Xiaowen Tang
Sam Greiner

FLUTE

Octavia Barbulescu,
piccolo
Kim Lybrand
Ryan MacDonald*
Katie Woody+

OBOE

Kate Caldwell
Mady Doucette, English Horn
Amelia Johnson*+

CLARINET

Jordan Flies+
Sara Sample
Tony Wang*

BASSOON

Keegan Hockett*,
contrabassoon
Carlos Lopez+
Emily Roberts

HORN

Anna Boes
Anna Cullinan
Delaney Hajek*
Ben Makins +

TRUMPET

Anna Kelly
Caylan Laundrie +
Kevin Sells *

TROMBONE

Jacob Clearman, bass trombone
Ben Copeland
Ty Waters **

TUBA

John Reyna*+

TIMPANI

McKenna Blenk

PERCUSSION

Gabriel Albertus
Zoe Dorr
Wil Voelker

PIANO/CELESTE

Jason Lee

ORGAN

Emily Busche

HARP

Pam Weest-Carrasco

* denotes principal on Higdon
+ denotes principal on Elgar

PROGRAM NOTES

Blue...like the sky. Where all possibilities soar. Cathedrals...a place of thought, growth, spiritual expression...serving as a symbolic doorway in to and out of this world. Blue represents all potential and the progression of journeys. Cathedrals represent a place of beginnings, endings, solitude, fellowship, contemplation, knowledge and growth. As I was writing this piece, I found myself imagining a journey through a glass cathedral in the sky. Because the walls would be transparent, I saw the image of clouds and blueness permeating from the outside of this church. In my mind's eye the listener would enter from the back of the sanctuary, floating along the corridor amongst giant crystal pillars, moving in a contemplative stance. The stained glass windows' figures would start moving with song, singing a heavenly music. The listener would float down the aisle, slowly moving upward at first and then progressing at a quicker pace, rising towards an immense ceiling which would open to the sky...as this journey progressed, the speed of the traveler would increase, rushing forward and upward. I wanted to create the sensation of contemplation and quiet peace at the beginning, moving towards the feeling of celebration and ecstatic expansion of the soul, all the while singing along with that heavenly music.

These were my thoughts when The Curtis Institute of Music commissioned me to write a work to commemorate its 75th anniversary. Curtis is a house of knowledge--a place to reach towards that beautiful expression of the soul which comes through music. I began writing this piece at a unique juncture in my life and found myself pondering the question of what makes a life. The recent loss of my younger brother, Andrew Blue, made me reflect on the amazing journeys that we all make in our lives, crossing paths with so many individuals singularly and collectively, learning and growing each step of the way. This piece represents the expression of the individual and the group...our inner travels and the places our souls carry us, the lessons we learn, and the growth we experience. In tribute to my brother, I feature solos for the clarinet (the instrument he played) and the flute (the instrument I play). Because I am the older sibling, it is the flute that appears first in this dialog. At the end of the work, the two instruments continue their dialogue, but it is the flute that drops out and the clarinet that continues on in the upward progressing journey.

This is a story that commemorates living and passing through places of knowledge and of sharing and of that song called life.

This work was commissioned and premiered in 2000 by the Curtis Institute of Music.

--Jennifer Higdon

BIOGRAPHIES

French conductor **Mélisse Brunet**, currently 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). In July 2022, she became the fifth Music Director of the Lexington Philharmonic, KY, and the first woman to hold the position, she is also in her third season as the Music Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, PA. In May 2021, she was named the first woman Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Iowa-School of Music where she is conducting the orchestras in symphonic concerts, operas, and musical theater, as well as teaching orchestral conducting to Master and Doctorate students. Under her guidance, two of her students have already won the Diversity Conducting Fellowship of the Buffalo Philharmonic, NY, and the position Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, WI.

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 

Performances that are being livestreamed are marked with 

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

FEBRUARY 2023

23	1:30pm	UI Lab Ensemble Concert	VOX 2400
24	1:30pm	Mark Laver, "Sands of Time: Improvisation, Aging, and Virtuosity"	VOX 2
24	7:30pm	Iowa Steel Band with Victor Provost, NSSBE Host Concert	Concert Hall
25	3:00pm	Northern Illinois University Steel Band NSSBE Concert	Concert Hall
25	7:30pm	Larnell Lewis with Joy Lapps-Lewis & Friends NSSBE Closing Concert 	Concert Hall
26	3:00pm	Key Change: Piano Revolutionaries Series, Concert #5 	Concert Hall
26	7:30pm	Faculty Recital: Wolfgang David, <i>violin</i> & David Gompper, <i>piano</i> 	Concert Hall

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