

## Ensemble Concert:

2023-12-05 – Campus Symphony Orchestra



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# IOWA

School of Music



## ENSEMBLE CONCERT

### **Campus Symphony Orchestra**

Samuel Chen, *director*

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:30pm  
Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

# CAMPUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Samuel Chen, *director*

## PROGRAM

Spark!

Jacob SHAY  
(b. 2000)

The Hebrides, Op. 26

Felix MENDELSSOHN  
(1809-1847)

Symphony No. 8 “Unfinished,” D.759  
I. Allegro moderato

Franz SCHUBERT  
(1797-1828)

Symphony No. 2 in A minor  
II. Andante

Alice Mary SMITH  
(1839-1884)

Finlandia, Op. 26

Jean SIBELIUS  
(1865-1957)

Luis E. Infante Hernandez, *orchestra librarian*  
Xiaowen Tang, *graduate assistant*

# PERSONNEL

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## VIOLIN I

Ethan Kardin  
Meiying Kuo  
Oscar Cruz  
Ella Knickerbocker  
Regan Applegarth  
Asya Lengel  
Vincent Ruiz  
Avery Watkins  
John Charlson  
Samantha Pothitakis

## VIOLIN II

Lara Zeng  
Brianna McNichol  
Ava Blalark  
Regan Smith  
Isabel Nehf  
Elena Abouassaly  
Lauren Abbott  
Andrea Koehler  
Amy Anil  
Bradley Beberniss  
Tyler Draayer  
Verna Snodgrass  
Nathalie Angel  
Luis E. Infante Hernandez

## VIOLA

Emily Jansen  
Ana Yam  
Josie Norris  
Grace Ritter  
Richard Phan  
Eddy Salgado  
Antonio Galisteo  
Benjamin Peterson  
Emma Okey  
Finley McVay  
Sanjay Chepuri  
Julia Kryca

## CELLO

Miranda Victor  
Emilia Thedens  
Abigail Stamler  
Lucinda Janssen  
Tara Joiner  
Tyler Morgan  
Jenna Lundtvedt  
Charlotte Hagen  
Anna Current  
Jennifer Pochyly  
Sean Hagan

## BASS

Kristen Schlawin  
Drew Smaellie  
Anja Rumping

## FLUTE

Lilian Montilla  
Julie Brachmann

## OBOE

Lauren Palkovic  
Felisha Jones

## CLARINET

Emma Hussin  
Lucy Graham

## BASSOON

Julia Schneider  
Keegan Hockett

## HORN

Kanrry Kang  
Alex Lester  
Randall Aitchison  
Anna Cullinan

## TRUMPET

Anna Kelly  
Joanna Leston

## TROMBONE

Brady Gell  
Xiaoyu Liu  
Elijah Redington

## TUBA

Matt Sleep

## TIMPANI

McKenna Blenk

# PROGRAM NOTES & BIOGRAPHIES

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**Jacob Shay's** *Spark!* was commissioned by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra in Appleton, Wisconsin. *Spark!* was inspired by music from cinema and video games such as E.T., Pokémon, and The Legend of Zelda, and incorporates some of those musical features and themes. *Spark!* is a grand, sweeping, and soaring piece, as if introducing a magnificent film.

**Felix Mendelssohn's** *The Hebrides* was inspired by his excursion in 1829 to the island of Staffa, a Scottish island in the British Isles, where he visited a sea cave known as "Fingal's Cave." Upon arrival, he was inspired to write down the melody he thought of while taking in the view of the island. In a letter to his sister Fanny, he dedicated the opening melody to her, expressing how he was deeply moved by the crashing waves and force of the sea. Contrary to overtures of the time, this overture was written as a standalone work, rather than an introduction to an operatic or theatrical work. *The Hebrides* underwent a long revisional process from its beginnings in 1829, to its first appearances as a piano duet, the first edition of orchestral parts, to the first edition of the orchestral score in 1835.

There are many speculations on why **Franz Schubert's** *Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished"* went unfinished. Some believe that he stopped his work in the middle of the third movement in the fall of 1822 because he may have associated it with his initial outbreak of syphilis which contributed to his depression. Others believe that he was not confident in his symphonic output, recognizing the influential works of his contemporary, Beethoven, during that time. Schubert begins the work with an ominous melody in the lower strings which pervades the entire movement. The stormy mood is contrasted with a lighter theme, again presented by the cellos, which is abruptly thunderstruck by the full orchestra. This struggle between violence and serenity exemplifies the elements of *Sturm und Drang* which appears in many artforms during the late classical era of music.

**Alice Mary Smith** was an English composer who wrote two symphonies, chamber works, sonatas. Her *Symphony No. 2 in A minor* was written for the Alexandra Palace competition of 1876 in London, but was never submitted. In November 1867, she was elected Female Professional Associate of the Royal Philharmonic Society, and in 1884, she was elected as an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music. Some of Smith's large-scale composition received prominent performances which was unusual for a woman composer at the time, and generated debate about women as composers. To this day, her works remain largely unpublished, with exception of her choral works. Her manuscripts have been housed in the Royal Academy of Music library since 2010.

Perhaps Finland's greatest composer – **Jean Sibelius'** *Finlandia* is a tone poem, composed as a secret protest against censorship from Imperial Russia. The first half of the piece depicts the national struggle of the Finnish people. Then, the piece calms into the tranquil Finlandia Hymn. Modern performances of *Finlandia* may include a choir, singing the Finnish lyrics during the hymn section. Since its composition, *Finlandia* has been sung in various Christian hymns with different text settings. Many have thought of *Finlandia* to be the national anthem

of Finland. Along with Sibelius' symphonies, *Finlandia* and his tone poems are his best-known compositions.

**Samuel Chen** is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts – Orchestral Conducting degree at the University of Iowa where he serves as Assistant Conductor of the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra (UIO), Director of the Campus Symphony Orchestra (CSO), and assistant conductor for opera productions. Samuel is the Music Director of Sinfonietta Honolulu, an ensemble he co-founded that focuses on historically informed performance practice of the classical style. He also served as lecturer and sabbatical replacement at the University of Hawai'i, where he taught and conducted the University of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (UHSO). He has appeared as guest conductor and clinician for the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Guest Artist-in-Residence with the Concordia Orchestras at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Samuel graduated with a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where he served as a graduate assistant, assistant conductor of the UHSO, and collaborative pianist for the UH Choirs. Samuel studied with Michael Jinbo at the Monteux School and Music Festival as a conductor, pianist, and violinist performing chamber and orchestral works. He also conducted in Memphis, Tennessee with Sinfonietta Memphis as a guest conductor and conducting fellow. Samuel thanks his teachers Dr. Thomas Yee, Dr. Kevin Sütterlin, Joseph Stepec, Wayne Wyman, and Dr. David Gompper for their wisdom, support, and guidance.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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## DECEMBER

6	7:30pm	JACK Quartet plays John Zorn 	Old Capitol Museum
6	7:30pm	Hawk Combo Concert	Stark Opera Studio
7	7:30pm	Center for New Music Ensemble II 	Concert Hall
7	7:30pm	Clarinet Studio Recital	Stark Opera Studio
8	12:00pm	Organ Studio Recital	Concert Hall
8	7:30pm	Chamber Music Residency Program Recital I	Recital Hall
8	7:30pm	Faculty and Guest Artist Recital: Britain Moore Duo	Concert Hall

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