ENSEMBLE CONCERT

University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra
David Gompper, interim director

Friday, February 23, 2024 at 7:30pm
Voxman Music Building Concert Hall
PROGRAM

Overture to Ruslan and Ludmila (1842)  
Mikhail GLINKA (1804-1857)
Samuel Chen, conductor

Romeo and Juliet, Suite II, op. 64b (1936)  
Sergei PROKOFIEV (1891-1953)
I. Montagues and Capulets
II. The Child Juliet
VII. Romeo at the Grave of Juliet
David Gompper, conductor

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, op. 55, “Eroica” (1803)  
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)
I. Allegro con brio
II. Marcia funebre: Adagio assai
III. Scherzo: Allegro vivace
IV. Finale: Allegro molto
David Gompper, conductor
**PROGRAM NOTES AND BIOGRAPHIES**

**Ruslan and Lyudmilla** is an opera composed by Mikhail Glinka based on the original poem by Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. The opera was completed and first performed in 1842. Ruslan, a bold knight, and Lyudmilla, royal lady of Kiev, are to be wed. At the banquet hall, her father Svetozar the Great Prince of Kiev, gives his blessing. Lyudmilla’s unsuccessful suitors are immensely jealous. Then everything goes dark with a crash of thunder, and when light returns, Lyudmilla has disappeared. Svetozar then declares whoever brings Lyudmilla back will have half of his kingdom and Lyudmilla's hand in marriage.

**Romeo and Juliet, Suite II** - The music is taken from a ballet Prokofiev wrote in 1935. The entire ballet has received numerous performances and recordings since its inception and is one of the most beloved works written for orchestra. Our performance tonight will include three movements. Montagues and Capulets is assembled from two widely spaced moments from the ballet, the slow and dark music that accompanies the Duke's order, and the ballroom scene Dance of the Knights. The Child Juliet captures the constantly changing mood of the young girl. And the seventh movement, Romeo at the Grave of Juliet returns with the love them, full of immense grief and regret.

Beethoven's **Third Symphony**, the “Eroica”, was a major turning point not only in the composer’s output, but in the history of orchestral music. Many orchestral works that followed were directly influenced by the Eroica, including ones by Brahms, Dvorak, and Tchaikovsky. This symphony helped to usher in his “heroic” middle period, expanding the sonata form in length and complexity, and containing many original and unconventional musical ideas. At first, Beethoven was a supporter of the French Revolution and intended to dedicate this work to the heroic Napoleon. Beethoven admired him for his ideals of liberty. But when Napoleon named himself emperor, the disappointed composer withdrew the dedication. The heroic nature of the symphony is tied with Beethoven's own struggles and the realization that he was about to lose his hearing.

**David Gompper** (b. 1954) has lived and worked professionally as a pianist, a conductor, and a composer in New York, San Diego, London, Nigeria, Michigan, Texas, and Iowa. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London with composers Jeremy Dale Roberts and Humphrey Searle, pianist Phyllis Sellick and conductor Norman Del Mar. After teaching in Nigeria, he received his doctorate at the University of Michigan and taught at the University of Texas, Arlington. Since 1991, he has been Professor of Composition and Director of the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa. In 2002–03 Gompper was in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching, performing, and conducting at the Moscow Conservatory. In 2009 he received an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York City, a Fromm Commission in 2013, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2020. He has been appointed Director of Orchestral Studies for the 2023-2024 academic year. Gompper's compositions have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Merkin Halls (New York), Wigmore Hall (London), the Konzerthaus (Vienna) and the Bolshoi and Rachmaninoff Halls (Moscow Conservatory). His compositions have been released on 20 albums (12 on the Albany label),
including his Violin Concerto with Wolfgang David and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Naxos (8.559637). As a pianist, he continues to collaborate with musicians, including Wolfgang David (violin), Stephen Swanson (baritone), Michael Norsworthy (clarinet), Christine Rutledge (viola), Timothy Gill (cello) and Volkan Orhon (double bass).

**Samuel Chen** is a first-year doctoral student 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 (UISO), 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 Hawaii, where he taught and conducted the University of Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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.
**UISO PERSONNEL**

**VIOLINI I**
Rachel Peters  
Hugo Kaut  
Michael Klyce  
Alicia Maiz Alonso  
Ollie Bostian  
Charmirose Durante  
Luke Cuasay  
Isabella Gaspereo  
Andrea Allen  
Sophia Jin  
Emilia Baltrukonis

**VIOLINI II**
Yestyn Griffith  
Renee Santos  
Luis Infante Hernandez  
Olivia Young  
Julia Correia  
Bair Brandt  
Readan Ballard  
Isabella Iampaglia  
Madison Sheriff  
Oz Braslavsky  
Alvaro Peraza  
Cecilia Shearon

**PIANO/CELESTA**  
Samuel Chen

Luis Infante Hernandez, orchestra librarian  
Xiaowen Tang, graduate assistant

**VIOLONCELLO**
Ryan Doerr  
Hanna Rumora  
Eli Lawrence  
Allyson Liu  
David Hitchman  
Olivia Palen  
Elizabeth Kerr  
Celia Phillips  
Micah Truesdell  
Christina Leigh Stephenson  
Madison Brady  
Kara Kueper

**CONTRABASSI**
Natalia Terra  
Addison Lueken  
Ella Gerber  
Sam Greiner  
Eamon Reed  
Xavier Vongphakdy  
Harrison Stephens

**FLUTI**
Emily Ho^+  
Laura Lin

**PICCOLO**
Octavia Barbulescu

**OBOE**
Amelia Johnson^o+  
Henry Golay  
Sam Hoving, corno inglese

**CLARINETTI**
Sayyod Mirzomurodov^+  
Sara Sample•  
Tony Wang, clarinetto basso

**FAGOTTI**
Sara Remoy^•  
Carlos Lopez+

**CONTRAFAGOTTO**
Emily Roberts

**SAXOFONO TENORE**
Charlotte Leung-Brown

**CORNITALIA**
Jonathon Hughes^  
Keelie Kruse•  
Irene Tang+  
Anna Boes

**TROMBE**  
Anna Kelly^  
Natalie Roth•  
Jake Fekete+

**CORNETTO**
Jake Fekete

**TROMBONI**
Ty Waters^•  
Brady Gell  
Xiaoyu Liu

**TUBA**
Matt Sleep

**TIMPANI**
Kimmy Moore^  
Zoe Dorr•  
McKenna Blenk+

**PERCUSSIONE**
Zoe Dorr  
McKenna Blenk  
Daniel Peterson  
Kimmy Moore

**ARPA**
Melanie Landsittel

^—principal on Glinka  
•—principal on Prokofiev  
+-principal on Beethoven
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Key Change: Piano Revolutionaries Series, Concert #5 📺</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Center for New Music Ensemble III 📺</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>University Choir 📺</td>
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<td>Hawk Combo</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Composers’ Workshop Concert III 📺</td>
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### MARCH

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Faculty Chamber Recital: Tribute to Willie Ruff</td>
<td>Recital Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Best of The Sacred Concerts - Duke Ellington: Johnson County Landmark and Kantorei</td>
<td>Hancher Auditorium</td>
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