



# Fall 2023: Veteran's Day



**Dr. Alyssa Schwartz**, Music Director  
**Shaun Hancher**, Assistant Director

**Saturday, November 11, 7:30 PM**  
Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre  
Loulie, Valerie, and William Canady Creative Arts Center  
West Virginia University

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Follow the activities of the Morgantown Community Orchestra  
[www.music.wvu.edu/cmp/morgantown-community-orchestra](http://www.music.wvu.edu/cmp/morgantown-community-orchestra)

# **Morgantown Community Orchestra**

*Dr. Alyssa Schwartz – Conductor*

*Shaun Hancher – Assistant Conductor*

*November 11, 7:30 PM, Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre*

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## **Program**

- Tale as Old as Time Alan Menken  
*Youth Strings Musicians* b. 1972  
arr. Alyssa Schwartz
- Por Una Cabeza Carlos Gardel and Alfredo Le Pera  
*Youth Strings Musicians* 1890-1935  
arr. Michael Tan and Alyssa Schwartz
- Valse No. 2 Isabel Johnson  
*World Premiere*
- Finale, 1812 Overture, Op. 49 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
1840-1893

## **Intermission**

- The Bamboula, Rhapsodic Dance No. 1 Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
1875-1912
- “Hoe Down” from Rodeo Aaron Copland  
1900-1990
- Armed Forces Salute arr. Robert Lowden  
1920-1998
- Stars and Stripes Forever John Phillip Sousa  
1854-1932

*Many individuals provided us with the necessary help to get this concert performed. To all of you, we say thank you for your generosity and your time.*

# MCO Musicians

## **Violin**

*Isaac Klennert, Concert Master*

*Holly Attaway*

*Susan Basse*

*Sonja Bearce*

*Hero Board*

*Amy Chorpening*

*Mara Clement*

*Aryannah Destu*

*Alanna Gould*

*Chelsea Humphrey\*\**

*Connie Lama*

*Hyeonsuh Lee*

*Liz Mow*

*Martha Mow*

*Lori Mueller*

*Daniel Munroe*

*Rachel Noble*

*Estelle Rimes*

*Nicole Roscher*

*Martha Schwab*

*Olivia Moore\**

*Larryn Betts\**

## **Flute and Piccolo**

*Lana Abulaban*

*Lynn Baker*

*Tyler Grace Davis*

*Emme Fragale*

*Frances Hollinger*

*Mark Koresko*

*Zachary Soe*

## **Oboe**

*Malik Nowlin*

*Georgia Palmatory*

*Claire Wydt*

## **Bassoon**

*Joe McDaniel*

*Ky Moore*

*Jean Preckel*

## **Clarinet**

*Owen Cosner*

*Cynthia Skorlinski*

## **Piano**

*Henry Fullen*

## **Viola**

*Martin Poncelet*

*Nesley Cortland*

## **Cello**

*Colin Ashton*

*Miki Carducci*

*Erica Skorlinski*

*Luke Elam\*\**

*Lizah Wash*

## **Trumpet**

*Colin Addie*

*Carly Gordon*

*Isaiah Harvey*

*William Johnston*

*Jon Miltenberger*

*Shawn Shultz*

## **Horn**

*Harry Abernathy*

*David Harris*

*Andrew Kaiser*

*Malia Lewis*

*Allen Sheldon*

*Karen Shultz*

## **Trombone**

*Daniel Connoley*

*Sebastian Duenas Diaz*

*Maxwell Davis*

*Sarah Garlow*

*Mattie Jones*

*Jackson Taylore*

## **Bass Trombone**

*Jacob Thomas\**

## **Tuba**

*Ewan Smith*

*Aidan Hamrick\**

## **Percussion**

*Evan Lewis*

*Emily Arnette*

*Noah Johnson*

*Zachary Kamp*

## **Harp**

*Janet Jones\*\*\*\**

*\*West Virginia University School of Music*

*\*\*Fairmont State University, Department of*

*\*\*\*WVU Community Music Program*

## **THE HISTORY OF THE MCO**

The history of the **Morgantown Community Orchestra** can be traced back to the first decades of the WVU School of Music, founded in 1897. Enrollments were small in the early years, and for the school to have an orchestra, talented members of the community joined with students in performances. This was the case as late as the 1920s. Subsequently, the WVU Orchestra grew to the point where there were enough students to perform orchestral literature, and the community ensemble languished until it was revived in the 1970s. It has been in continuous existence ever since. Its members include adult amateurs dedicated to the performance of concert music; middle- and high-school students whose studies of their respective instruments have prepared them to perform this repertory, as well as a handful of music performance majors in the School of Music who supplement the regular forces. The MCO's members are committed to performing orchestral music at the highest standard possible. Their commitment reflects the inspiration and leadership of Dr. Alyssa Schwartz who has been leading the group in rehearsals since Spring 2022 and is conducting today's concert. We would like to thank our assistant conductor Shaun Hancher for sharing his gifts with the ensemble and assisting with rehearsals.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **SPRING 2024**

#### **MCO Registration Opens**

January 8

#### **Play-in Rehearsals**

January 13, 27 & February 3

#### **Open Rehearsal Day for Youth, Students, Adults, and Seniors**

March 2024, TBD

# COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAM



*Unlock Your Musical Potential!*

## **PRIVATE LESSONS, GROUP CLASSES & ENSEMBLES FOR ALL AGES**

*Early Registration: January 8 - February 11*

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[www.music.wvu.edu/cmp](http://www.music.wvu.edu/cmp)

## PROGRAM NOTES

Notes provided by Dr. Alyssa Schwartz

**Tale as Old as Time** by Alan Menken, the iconic love song from Disney's animated film *Beauty and the Beast*, was first recorded by vocal artist Angela Lansbury, the voice of the 1991's film character Mrs. Potts. The tender lyrics describe the evolving loving relationship of Belle and the Beast: how the two have learned to accept each other's differences and help inspire the other to be better. The song, sung as the two main characters enjoy a lovely evening of dinner and dancing in the Beast's castle, implies that the feeling of love is timeless and ageless.

**Por Una Cabeza** may very well be Carlos Gardel's most famous tango composition. His mother moved with him to Argentina when he was an infant, and he grew up to be an enduring voice of the Argentinian tango. Though he only lived to be 45 years old, he recorded 770 pieces, 514 of which were tangos. The title translates to "By a Head," and the lyrics of the original arrangement of the song express the thoughts and feelings of a horse-race gambler who compares his gambling addiction to his obsession with women.

**1812 Overture** by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was premiered in 1882 in Moscow in a ceremony celebrating the dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, built to commemorate Russia's defense against Napoleon's army in 1812. Tchaikovsky famously said of this now famous and celebrated work: "The overture will be very loud and noisy, but I wrote it with no warm feelings of love, and so it will have no artistic merits at all." The piece presents a virtual blow-by-blow of the conflict between the Russian and French forces, and thought the church bells and booming canons that often accompany performances of this piece suggest a definitive Russian victory, this was not the case, as the Russian military, in fact, retreated after losing the Battle of Borodino, allowing France to occupy Moscow. The overture presents many favorite Russian folk tunes and hymns, giving it a strong sense of nationalism and Russian pride.



**The Bamboula** by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor is a piece that celebrates both a traditional African drum and dance of the same name that were brought to America and the Caribbean by African slaves. In this arrangement, Coleridge-Taylor presents the simple melody in a dance pattern of fast-slow-fast and with a number of variations. This piece is part of a larger-scale project that the composer was pursuing to document and perform traditional African music and is one of a set of 24 pieces on this theme.

**Hoe Down** is a number from the ballet *Rodeo* composed by Aaron Copland in 1942. Copland is known for capturing the sound of America in his music by employing American folk tune melodies in many of works and seeking to create a sense of great open expanses in his sound (by having a firm foundation of low instruments often on very drone-like parts, high, soaring folk melodies, and thin texture in between). *Hoe Down* is meant to capture the spirit, energy, and sometimes coarseness of fiddle playing.

**Armed Forces Salute**, arranged by Robert Lowden, includes the U. S. Army's *The Caissan Song* (1908), the U. S. Coast Guard's *Semper Paratus (Always Ready)* (original version, 1922), the U. S. Marine Corps' *The Marine's Hymn* (original date unknown, but it had already gained popularity and was widely performed by the mid- 1800s), the U. S. Air Force's *The U. S. Air Force* (1951), and the U. S. Navy's *Anchors Aweigh* (1907). Lowden's arrangement combines these patriotic tunes into a seamless medley as a beautiful tribute to the fighting men and women of the United States.

**Stars and Stripes Forever** has become the "March King" John Philip Sousa's most popular march and, according to the composer, "is by no means limited to the United States." The three famous themes of the final trio were meant to typify the three sections of the United States. The broad melody, or main theme, represents the North. The South is represented by the famous piccolo obbligato, and the West by the bold countermelody of the trombones.

*Thank you to all our service men and women!*

## **ISABEL JOHNSON**

Composer of Valse No.2

*World Premiere*

Isabel Johnson is an Afro-Latina composer from South Carolina. She is seventeen and in her last year as a homeschooled high school senior. She aspires to become a film score composer and has already written dozens of pieces varying from solo to orchestral compositions. She is excited to start her college career in the fall, focusing on music. Isabel began playing the piano at the age of three, and her first official composition was scored at the age of nine. While her primary instrument is the piano, she plays several other instruments, including the bass, guitar, percussion, charango, indigenous woodwinds, and other instruments. She is currently training under Dr. Hooi Yin Boey and Dr. Matthew Heap, both faculty at WVU Department of Music. Music has always been Isabel's passion and always will be. Isabel's inspiration for her music comes through her feelings, her experiences, and her perception of the world and the people she meets. Isabel often feels that music expresses her emotions and imagination to a certain level and that capturing what is happening inside her head is hard.

## **DR. ALYSSA SCHWARTZ**

MCO Music Director and Conductor

Dr. Alyssa Schwartz comes from Jamestown, New York and is the Director of Bands and Professor of Flute at Fairmont State University, Director of the Morgantown Community Orchestra, and Senior Instructor of Flute and Piano through West Virginia University's Community Music Program. Previously, she has served as Contributing Faculty in Flute at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA and as a Lecturer of Music Theory and Music Education at West Virginia University. She debuted at New York City's Carnegie Hall in November 2017 and returned for a second performance the same month as a result of winning 1st prize in the 2017 Golden Classical Music International Competition and 2nd Prize in the 2017 Concert Artists International Music Competition.

Alyssa is a competitive performer, winning 1st Prize in the 2020 International Music Competition Bonn for which she gave her debut at Beethoven Haus-Bonn in August 2021, the 2019 Florida Flute Association Orchestral Excerpts Masterclass Competition, 1st Prize in the 2017 International Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition Senior Division for which she gave her debut performance at the Wiener Saal Mozarteum in July 2017, 2nd Prize in the 2016 International Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, 2nd Prize in the 2016 Golden Classical Music Awards Senior Division, 3rd Prize in the



2016 Golden Classical Music Awards Chamber Music Division, 1st Prize in the 2016 Oklahoma Flute Society Collegiate Competition, 3rd Prize in the 2016 Kentucky Flute Society Due Competition, and 2nd Prize in the 2013 International Flute Symposium Emerging Artist Competition. Alyssa is a founding member of BETA Quartet, a professional ensemble that has won 1st Prize in the 2020 France Music Competition, participated as a semi-finalist in the 2017 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, won 1st Prize in the 2017 Kentucky Flute Society Quartet Competition, and won 1st Prize in the 2016 WV MTNA Chamber Winds Competition.

In November 2020, Alyssa partnered with Cambridge-based physicist and composer Domenico Vicinanza and NASA to utilize the first audio recording of a Marsquake as the structural foundation for a new piece, "Sonification for NASA," which was premiered at NASA's SC20 Virtual Conference. She recorded two ringtones and one alert, composed by Domenico, that are now available for download for Android and iPhone on NASA's website. She further collaborated with Domenico on a documentary for the BBC which aired in February 2021.

A new music advocate, Alyssa has premiered a number of new works including "Marcahuasi" for Solo Flute, Op. 10 by Manuel Carranza Cueto (December 2019), "Impression" by Reza Nakisa (January 2018), "Endless Endless Endless" by Shelley Washington (May 2017) and "Asphyxia" by Nicole Chamberlain (April 2016). With BETA Quartet, she has premiered "Nuraghi Warriors" by Anže Rozman (February 2019), "Recitation Book" by David Maslanka, arranged for flute quartet by Tatiana Cassetta (February 2019), and "In Sight" by Matthew Heap (March 2018). Her primary teachers include Alberto Almarza of Carnegie Mellon University, Nina Assimakopoulos of West Virginia University, Richard Sherman of Michigan State University, Dr. Susan Royal of Fredonia State University, and Nicole Zenns. Alyssa has performed for such renowned flutists as Jim Walker, Jeffrey Khaner, Lorna McGhee, Trudy Kane, Jeffrey Zook, Gary Schocker, Jennifer Conner, Rhian Kenny, Nancy Stagnitta, Shelley Binder, and Cobus Du Toit.

## SHAUN HANCHER

MCO Assistant Director and Conductor

Shaun Hancher, a native from Wheeling, WV, is studying a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at West Virginia University. He earned his undergraduate degree in music education with a double primary in tuba and violin at WVU. He was active in the WVU Symphony Orchestra for nine semesters, Wind Symphony for three semesters, and Symphonic Band for two semesters. He studied with Dr. Mikylah Myers, Dr. Lauretta Werner, and Dr. Yaniv Gutman on violin, and Professor Carson McTeer on tuba. Currently, he studies orchestral conducting with Dr. Mitchell Arnold, and is his graduate conducting assistant. He also studies organ with Dr. William Haller. He continues to play violin in the WVU Symphony Orchestra. Shaun actively serves as Music Director and Organist at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church of Wheeling, WV, and as Conductor of the Monongalia Sinfonietta. He was just recently named Assistant Conductor of the Morgantown Community Orchestra.




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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Dr. Alyssa Schwartz, Director, Morgantown Community Orchestra  
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Dr. David Bess, MCO Photographer

### Guest Musicians

Olivia Moore (WVU Violin Studio)  
Larryn Betts (WVU Violin Studio)  
Luke Elam (Cello, Fairmont State University)  
Chelsea Humphrey (Violin, Fairmont State University)  
Janet Jones (Harp, Community Music Program)

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You may also fill out the form below and drop it off to Dr. Eftihia Arkoudis' mailbox on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor by Room 4097. Envelopes are in place for you to use.

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