



A Jubilant Spring Concert



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

Saturday, April 29, 2:00 pm
Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre
Loulie, Valerie, and William Canady Creative Arts Center
West Virginia University

Follow the activities of the Morgantown Community Orchestra
www.music.wvu.edu/cmp/morgantown-community-orchestra

Morgantown Community Orchestra

Dr. Alyssa Schwartz – Conductor

Mr. Shaun Hancher – Assistant Conductor

April 29th, 2023, 2:00 PM, Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre

Program

Joy in All Things
MCO Winds and Percussion Brian Balmages
b. 1975

"Jupiter" from The Planets, Op. 32
Youth Strings Musicians Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)
arr. Deborah Baker Monday

Experience
Youth Strings Musicians Ludovico Einaudi
b. 1955
arr. Alyssa Schwartz
Featuring Anna Brusoe, Piano

The Complete Harry Potter
John Williams
b. 1932
arr. Jerry Brubaker

Intermission

Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88
IV. Allegro non troppo Antonin Dvorak
(1841-1904)

Funeral March of a Marionette
Charles Gounod
(1818-1893)

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46
I. Morning Mood
II. The Death of Ase
III. Anitras Dance
IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King
Edvard Grieg
b. 1950

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

Tiffany Mihaliak, Concert Mistress

Sonja Bearce

Hero Board

Hugo Carducci

Amy Chorpening

Alanna Gould

Rowan Keifer

Isaac Klennert

Connie Lama

Hyeonsuh Lee

Lori Mueller

Daniel Munroe

Janna Rogers

Nicole Roscher

Aubree Street

Flute and Piccolo

Olivia Cox

T. Grace Davis

Jay Johnson

Sarah Johnson

Bailey Phillips

Nathan Wilson

Oboe

Maura McLaughlin

Malik Nowlin

Bassoon

Joe McDaniel, Guest Artist

Jovi Altadonna, Guest Artist

Clarinet

Amy Chorpening

Owen Cosner

Ky Moore

Bass Clarinet

Ky Moore

Saxophone

Mark Wallace, BDP Musician

Andres Santana, Guest Artist

Baritone Saxophone

Nate Penven, Guest Artist

Piano

Anna Brusoe

Viola

Martin Poncelet, Principal

Jane Bacon

Virginia Desouky

William Fiore

Chase Reheard

Cello

Miki Carducci, Principal

Livia Collazo

Kevin Hugas

Katherine Skillings

Erica Skorlinski

Bass

Anika Pirkey, Principal

Trumpet

Colin Addie

Carly Gordon

Isaiah Harvey

Edward Miltenberger

Jon Miltenberger

Horn

Harry Abernathy

Abigail Duncan

Andrew Kaiser

Chris Moran

Allen Sheldon

Karen Shultz

Trombone

Daniel Connoley

Maxwell Davis

Sarah Garlow

Jacob Lambert

Matthew McLaughlin

Tuba

Kyle Patterson

Percussion

Evan Lewis

Anika Pirkey

Nathan Wilson

Jose Gonzales, Guest Artist

Harp

Christine Mazza, Guest Artist

Rose Tobery

Layla Wilson

FEATURED SOLOIST



From Morgantown, Anna is a homeschooled high school senior who has played piano for 12 years. She has competed in piano competitions from the local to international level. After placing first in the region for the Elite International Music Competition, she performed at New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2019. Outside of competition performances, Anna is a church pianist and has performed in fundraising recitals for local non-profit organizations. She has played for local retirement homes and senior centers since she was 10. Most recently, Anna has started learning the organ and currently studies it with Dr. William Haller.

Outside of her musical interests, Anna is in robotics and is an author of a STEM education children's book, *Reaching for the Stars*. Anna plans on studying mechanical engineering next fall with a minor in music performance.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL 2023

MCO Registration Opens

August 14, 2023

Play-in Rehearsals

August 26, September 9 & 16

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

November 2023, TBD

COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAM



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PROGRAM NOTES

Notes provided by Dr. Alyssa Schwartz

Joy in All Things is a Grade 5 piece for band that is based on the hymn "Come, Christians Join to Sing" by Brian Balmages. The piece begins with a wash of woodwind trills, church bells in the percussion, an energetic timpani solo, and flurries of fanfares in the brass. It incorporates complex and ever-changing meter changes which results in an exciting and driving groove until the arrival of the contemplative middle section that presents the hymn melody in an off-stage flute solo first and then in brass choir. The piece was commissioned as a surprise for Neil S. Underwood, the band director of North Lincoln High School in North Carolina.

Jupiter is perhaps one of the more famous themes from Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, which Holst began in 1914 and premiered in 1920. Jupiter is the bringer of jollity and "symbolizes expansiveness, scope of enthusiasm, knowledge, honor, and opportunity... [and] corresponds to fortune, inheritance, bonanza," according to American astronomer Noel Tyl.

Experience by Ludovico Einaudi was perhaps first popularized via its inclusion in the popular Netflix docuseries "Moving Art" in which there is no dialogue... the stunning imagery and reflective soundtrack do all the talking. The piece has many characteristics of Minimalism, meaning it is highly repetitious with subtle, shifting changes that occur gently over the same bassline and chord progression throughout the entirety of the work. The variations of the melody and harmony provide a changing sense of energy and emotion throughout despite the repetitive nature of the musical structure.

The Complete Harry Potter incorporates many of John Williams' most recognizable themes from all eight Harry Potter movies in a masterful medley arrangement by Jerry Brubaker. Some favorite themes the audience will hear in this rendition include : Hedwig's Theme, Nimbus 2000, Hogwarts, Quidditch, Harry's Wondrous World, Fawkes the Phoenix, Harry in Winter, Dumbledore's Farewell, Voldemort, Elder Wand; Lily's Theme, The Friends, The Weasley Stomp, Obliviate, and Family Portrait.

Symphony No. 8 in G Major by Antonin Dvorak was premiered in 1890 in Prague is overall more upbeat than many of the composer's other works (most notably the seventh symphony) but maintains a

substantial amount of minor throughout. The fourth movement opens with a fanfare followed by a set of variations on a dance-like theme based on traditional Bohemian musical elements. When rehearsing the final movement, well-known Czech conductor Rafael Kubelik famously declared, “Gentlemen, in Bohemia the trumpets never call to battle – they always call to the dance!”

Funeral March of a Marionette was originally composed for solo piano in 1872 by French composer Charles Gonoud. In the story, the Marionette has died in a duel, which we hear in the opening funeral processional music (presented in D minor). The middle section, in D major, depicts the funeral party and guests enjoying refreshments and some levity before returning to the funeral march for the closing section, once again in minor.

Peer Gynt Suite No 1 is one of two concert suites of music that Edvard Grieg extracted from the music he had written to accompany a five-act play of the same title by Norwegian dramatist Henrik Isben. Peer Gynt is a man from Norwegian mythology who, though he travels the world on many adventures, suffers mishaps due to his immaturity and selfishness. The first movement, "Morning Mood," depicts a sunrise in Morocco where we see Peer Gynt making a reed pipe (hence the exposed flute solo) (Act IV). In Act III, while traveling elsewhere, Peer's intuition warns him to return home to spend time with his mother, who he treated ungratefully the last time he had seen her, before she passes (music respresented in Movement II, "The Death of Ase." The flirtatious third movement depicts Anitra, the daughter of a chief (again, Act IV in Morocco), who dances and seduces Peer, while in the famous fourth movement, "In the Hall of the Mountain King," we join our hero underground in kingdom of trolls, goblins, and gnomes where he attempts to match wits with the menacing troll king (Act II).



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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.

MR. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Professor Christine Mazza, Rose Tobery, and Layla Wilson, Harpists
Mark Wallace and Andres Santana, Saxophonists
Joe McDaniel and Jovi Altadonna, Bassoonists
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