



THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Featuring the 2021-2022 concerto competition winners

Sophia Duray, *soprano*

Matthew Yee, *trombone*

Marcus Engstrom, *alto saxophone*

Diego Piedra, conductor

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Valparaiso University
Chapel of the Resurrection

PROGRAM

Kaiser Walzer, op. 437

Johann Strauss II
(1825-1899)

“Ah, se in ciel, benigne stelle,” K.538

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Sophia Duray, *soprano*

Concertino for Trombone and String Orchestra, op. 45, no. 7

Lars-Erik Larsson
(1908-1986)

I. Preludium; Allegro pomposo

II. Aria: Andante sostenuto

III. Finale: Allegro giocoso

Matthew Yee, *trombone*

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra

Pierre Max Dubois
(1930-1995)

I. Lento espressivo

II. Sarabande

III. Rondo

Marcus Engstrom, *alto saxophone*

PROGRAM NOTES

Kaiser Waltzer (Emperor Waltz)

It is general knowledge that the Waltz as a genre is a signature musical style of the Viennese, and specially in the hands of Johann Strauss II. Composed in 1889, the title of this waltz honors Austrian and German monarchs. Although not performed as frequently as the *Beautiful Blue Danube*, *Kaiser Waltzer* is a beautiful set of waltzes that includes a beautiful cello solo, a full orchestration, and elegance fit for the Monarchy.

Program Note by Diego Piedra

“Ah se in ciel benigne stelle”

Mozart's “Ah se in ciel benigne stelle,” KV 538, is the last and most difficult aria written for soprano Aloysia Weber. Mozart began writing it in Mannheim in 1777 around the time he met Weber, and debuted it in Vienna in 1788. During this time women commonly portrayed male characters, which is the case for this aria. The text derives from Pietro Metastasio's *L'eroe cinese* (The Chinese Hero). This aria is performed in Act I, when Prince Sevino, son of the Regent of China sings about the risk of being separated from his love, Lisinga. This aria was unlike any other for Weber with no recitative and a regal, striking coloratura sound.

Translation:

Ah se in ciel, benigne stelle	Ah if in heaven kind stars
La pietà non è smarrita,	the pity not is lost,
O toglietemi la vita	either take from me my life,
O lasciatemi il mio ben!	Or leave me my beloved!
Voi, che ardetè ognor sì belle	You who shine so beautifully
Del mio ben nel dolce aspetto,	in the sweet face of my beloved,
Protegete il puro affetto	protect the pure affection
Che ispirate a questo sen.	That you breathe into this breast.

Translation from IPA Source LLC, transcribed by Bard Suverkrop in 2007.

Program Note by Sophia Duray

Concertino for Trombone and String Orchestra

1. Preludium: Allegro pomposo
2. Aria: Andante sostenuto
3. Finale: Allegro giocoso

Lars-Erik Larsson was an important Swedish composer whose style ranged from late Romanticism to Arnold Schoenberg's twelve-tone techniques. His music is highly regarded for its flowing lyricism. Between 1953 and 1957, Larsson produced a series of twelve Concertinos for solo instruments including flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola, cello, double-bass, and piano. These twelve works are unique because similar themes can be heard from one concertino to another.

Concertino för basun och stråkorkester (for Trombone and String Orchestra), op. 45, no. 7, was written in 1955 and consists of three contrasting movements. The first movement feels like an extended cadenza where the orchestra plays interlude-like sections in between long passages played by the soloist alone. The second movement evokes a sense of longing and there are beautiful, climactic moments shared between the soloist and orchestra. The third movement begins in stark contrast to the second movement. Amid the excitement, listen carefully for themes Larsson has recalled from the first two movements before the piece comes to a rousing finish.

Program Note by Matthew Yee

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra

1. Lento espressivo; Allegro
2. Lento nostalgico
3. Allegretto

The Dubois Concerto is a classical piece for solo alto saxophone and string orchestra, composed by Pierre-Max Dubois in 1959. Dubois was a French composer who studied composition under Darius Milhaud, who composed Scaramouche, and was awarded the Prix de Rome in 1955, a French scholarship to stay in Rome to compose, paid for by France. Dubois composed this 18 minute piece for Jean-Marie Londeix, in three movements. However, Londeix didn't think it was difficult enough, so he asked Dubois to write another cadenza. Dubois was too busy to compose a new one, so Londeix composed it instead. Dubois approved and used it in place of his own cadenza. Londeix's version included much faster note values, and more often than the original. While the original had much chromatic and stepwise motion in repetitive patterns, Londeix used a variety of intervals, up to a compounded major second.

The first movement begins with this cadenza and is followed by the allegro section, which gains intensity as the section progresses. The second movement is much slower and more relaxed. The third movement is a quick, light movement in contrast to the second movement, providing an exciting finale to the piece.

Program Note by Marcus Engstrom

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra is a select ensemble dedicated to professional performance standards of works from both the standard and contemporary repertoires. Students of all areas of study are welcome to participate. Recent performances have included music by Beethoven (Symphonies 5, 8, 9), Brahms (Symphonies 1, 2, 4), Mendelssohn (Symphonies 4, 5), Shostakovich (Symphony 5, Piano Concerto 2), Sibelius (Symphonies 1, 2), Tchaikovsky (Symphonies 4, 5), Mahler (Symphony 2), Britten (Sea Interludes), Elgar (Enigma Variations), Holst (The Planets), Respighi (Pines of Rome), Strauss (Death and Transfiguration), and Stravinsky (Firebird Suite). In 2018, the VUSO served as the anchor ensemble for the second annual Friendship Lasts Forever gala concert, which was held at Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, the premier outdoor performance venue in Chicago. In the spring of 2018, they toured China for the second time. For many years, the VUSO has hosted the Great Lakes Music Festival, welcoming traditional musicians from China, as well as high school students from Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sophia Duray is a sophomore at VU pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. She is the librarian and social chair for Chorale, and recently performed with the Bach Institute at an American Choral Directors Association conference in Chicago. She plans on auditioning for summer music festivals in 2023, and graduate school and professional choirs during her senior year. Sophia wants to thank her parents, Dominic, Bella, and Maria for supporting and inspiring her throughout her life, and she hopes the audience enjoys every piece performed tonight. Sophia is a student of Maura Janton Cock.

Matthew Yee is a third-year student at Valparaiso University studying Music Performance and Civil Engineering, originally from California. While his primary instrument is euphonium, he has also studied the trombone for nearly a decade. He most enjoys playing in large

ensembles and brass quintets. He has also enjoyed performing as a church musician for the past nine years. He was honored to participate in regional honor bands in Northern California throughout high school and sat first euphonium in the California All-State Wind Symphony as a senior in 2019. Matthew was the recipient of the John Philip Sousa Award in 2019. Most recently, he served as the trombone/euphonium fellow at Lutheran Summer Music in 2021. Ideally, Matthew would like to play professionally in an ensemble such as a military band or symphony orchestra. He is a current student of Professor Dombrowski (trombone) and Professor Watson (euphonium). He would like to thank his current instructors, Dr. Piedra, Dr. Doebler, Dr. Maugans, and past instructor Professor Grodrian for their encouragement and significant roles in his Valpo experience.

Marcus Engstrom is an undergraduate senior majoring in Music, Math and Physics. He was born on November 10, 1999 and lives in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. He is a student of Dr. Stacy Maugans, currently studying with Dr. Carolyn Bryan at Georgia Southern University. He was a guest soloist for Windiana Concert Band in February 2020, performing *Fantasia* by Claude T. Smith. He participates in Chamber Concert Band and Jazz Band, and has played soprano, alto, tenor and bari saxophone in various saxophone quartets.

Diego Piedra is the Director of Orchestras at Valparaiso University. A strongly driven performer and educator, Dr. Piedra feels at home working on the podium with student and professional orchestras. Recent professional conducting engagements have included the Music Directorship and Conducting of Spectrum Orchestra, visiting orchestral positions at Luther College and the University of Toledo, and guest conducting appearances with the Oakland Symphony Orchestra in Michigan, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, and the Municipal Orchestra of Cartago. In Costa Rica Dr. Piedra was in high demand as the orchestral conducting professor at the University of Costa Rica as well as a guest violin teacher and performer in Venezuela, Honduras and Guatemala. He founded the national youth orchestra called Manuel María Gutiérrez at SINEM (the Costa Rican version of Venezuela's El Sistema), and was its Music Director and Conductor from 2009-2011. Since 2014, Dr. Piedra has been Music Director at the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's Summer String Camp, working as a conductor, violinist and composer. As a professional violinist he has been a member of the prestigious New World Symphony in Miami, South Bend Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica and Concertmaster of the Orquesta de Cámara de Costa Rica. Dr. Piedra participated as violinist and assistant conductor in the tour and recording of the University Symphony Orchestra of the University of Michigan (winner of four Grammy awards in 2006), which culminated at Carnegie Hall, New York.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

+Morgen Heissenbuettel, Ypsilanti, MI
(music performance, psychology)

Savannah Jackson, Rockford, IL
(mechanical engineering)

Elizabeth Deml, Bedford, NH (mechanical engineering)

Simeon Klepac, Wilmore, KY (music education)

Violin 2

^Jeremy Freed, Three Rivers, MI (meteorology)

Olivia Maass, Fishers, IN (exploratory)

Emily Nelson, Chicago, IL (physics)

Viola

^Anton Pham, Goshen, IN (meteorology)

Lucia Otten, Valparaiso, IN (exploratory)

Reiana Thomas, Portage, IN (music)

Carolina Bowen, Salem, VA (music education)

Cello

^Hallie Wolf, Kenosha, WI (chemistry)

Evee Curtis, Mishawaka, Ind. (music education)

Micah D'Arcangelo, Statesboro, GA (mechanical
engineering)

Bass

^Jakob Wiegand, Saratoga Springs, NY
(civil engineering)

Flute

^Genevieve Brown, Williamston, MI (music performance)

Julia Pastore, Munster, IN (music therapy)

Sammy Knapp, Georgetown, KY (engineering)

Oboe

Adelyn Carney, Appleton, WI (biology/chemistry)

Clarinet

^Max Ehlers, Milwaukee, WI (biology/chemistry)

Camille Ancevicus, Homer Glen, IL (nursing)

Bassoon

^Nicholas Sanchez, Hobart, IN (music education)

Joel Stoppenhagen, Ossian, IN (music education)

Horn

^Maiah Deogracias, Fort Wayne, IN
(art/communications)

Savannah Becka, Crown Point, IN (environmental
science)

Hannah Nelson, Rolling Prairie, IN (environmental
engineering)

Trumpet

^Jacob Keen, Knox, IN (music education)

Kurt Mertzger, Vicenza, Italy (music education)

Ryan Gee, Princeton, IL (music)

Trombone

^Matthew Yee, Auburn, CA (civil engineering, music)

Adam Lindemer, Crown Point, IN (music education)

David Lee, Schererville, IN (music education)

Tuba

Payton Wills, Valparaiso, IN (biology/chemistry)

Timpani

Ricky Paz, Schererville, IN (music education)

Percussion

Matt Kennedy, St. Charles, IL (civil engineering)

Joel Reuning-Scherer, West Hartford, CT (computer
engineering)

Orchestra Manager

Ricky Paz, Schererville, IN (music education)

+ Denotes concertmaster

^Denotes principal

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Small High School Band Festival
Luce Concert Band, guest high school students
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Resurrection

Community Band Festival and Sensory-Friendly Concert
Community/University Concert Band, Luce Concert Band, guests
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Resurrection

Bach Institute
Mass in B Minor
Saturday, April 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Resurrection

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