



OCTOBER 28, 2020
7:30 PM

BENJAMIN FIRER, DIRECTOR
ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CONVOCATION HALL

PROGRAM

- Andante Festivo Jean Sibelius
- Flute Concerto No. 3 in D Maj. RV. 428 Antonio Vivaldi
- I. Allegro
- II. Cantabile
- III. Allegro
- Lillian Pankhurst, flute
2020 Concerto Competition Recipient
- Horn Concerto in Eb K. 417 Wolfgang A. Mozart
- I. Allegro maestoso
- Jack Gordon, horn
2020 Concerto Competition Recipient
- Intermezzo from the opera "Goyescas" Enrique Granados
Izabella Gieron, Conducting Intern arr. Tamás Beischer-Matyó
- Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral Richard Wagner
arr. Matthew Moreno
- Romanian Folk Dances Béla Bartók
Arr. Arthur Willner
- I. Joc cu bâțâ. Allegro moderato
- II. Brâul. Allegro
- III. Pê-loc. Andante
- IV. Buciumeana. Moderato
- V. Poargă românească. Allegro
- VI. Mărunțel. L'istesso
- VII. Mărunțel. Allegro vivace

MYSO

METROPOLITAN YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE

VIOLIN I

Courtney DeVenuto,
*concertmaster The
Nicolette Bellos
Memorial Choir*

Lauren Raimbault
Claudia Dlugosz
Lenette May Lee

VIOLIN II

Ben Keene
Alexandra Rocha
Madison Randle
Gabe Hawley
Abigail Hogan
Patricia Maka
Madelyn Allen
Maira Kozlowski
Olivia Tan

VIOLA

George Graefen
Margaret Randle
Zach Green

CELLO

Mia Melde, *principal*
Claudia Danowski
Loralei Summers
Alivia Glas
Eric Radulovich

CONTRABASS

Axel Moreen
Brendan O'Connor
James P. Daley
Phoebe Shaughnessy

HARPSICHORD

Luke Feria

OBOE

Robert Gordon
David Coons

HORN

Amanda Karowski
Harris Jordan



BENJAMIN FIRER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Benjamin Firer is thrilled to join the faculty at Lewis University as Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra for the 2020-2021 season. An award-winning conductor, Firer is active throughout the Chicago area. Currently, as Director of Orchestra and Opera at Northern Illinois University, he directs the NIU Philharmonic, Opera Theatre, and teaches courses in music theory, orchestration and orchestral literature. At NIU, Firer helped design a new Master's in Conducting degree program and built a thriving graduate orchestral conducting studio. Along with his duties at NIU,

Firer is on faculty as conductor with the Northeastern Illinois University and the Chicago Chamber Music Festival.

Passionate about inspiring the next generation of musicians, Firer led the Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra during their 50th anniversary season, culminating in a side-by-side concert with the acclaimed Minneapolis Youth Symphony. A committed educator, he was engaged as a teaching artist through the Yale University Music in Schools Initiative, providing instruction at the John C. Daniels Magnet School while serving as Music Director of the Yale-Saybrook College Orchestra. Prior to his current appointment, Benjamin held posts as Interim Associate Director of Orchestras at the Pennsylvania State University, Summer Philharmonic Conductor at the Merit School of Music, Director of Orchestras at Juniata College, and Music Director of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestras.

Firer was selected as an Emerging Conductor with the Peninsula Music Festival and as the conducting fellow for the Atlantic Music Festival. He has garnered awards including The American Prize in Conducting, The Woolsey Concerto Competition, Yale Chamber Music Competition, Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship, and the Long Island University Conductors Award. Recognized for his musical entrepreneurship, he was granted the SUNY Thayer Fellowship in the Arts and the Emma Peters Hooper Endowed Award.

As a guest conductor, Firer has made appearances with the symphony orchestras of Champaign-Urbana, Dubuque, DuPage, Miami, Fargo-Morehead, Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra de la Francophonie, Northwestern University Opera Theatre, Alice Millar Brass Ensemble, and New Music New Haven. In demand as a clinician for school and youth orchestras, he collaborates regularly with the Midwest Young Artists, The People's Music School, McHenry County Youth Orchestras, Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestras and CPS All-City Orchestras.

GUEST ARTIST JACK GORDON

Jack Gordon is a senior music major at Lewis University. He is extremely grateful for this opportunity to perform Mozart's 2nd Horn Concerto with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra. Jack would like to thank his horn teacher Amanda Karwoski for helping him prepare for this performance.



GUEST ARTIST LILLIAN PANKHURST

Lillian Pankhurst is a senior at Plainfield Central High School where she is an athlete, AP student, and musician. She is involved in National Honors Society, Tri-M Music Honors Society, Marching Band, Cross Country, Wind Ensemble, Pit orchestra, and has done two years of Jazz band. In the summer she is in the pit orchestra for musicals at Bicentennial Park, her favorite being Spamalot where she played Reed 1 (Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, and Saxophone).

Lillian has been studying Flute since 12 years old with Cindy Butler, and piano with Mark Epling since 5 years old. She has also studied two summers with Dr. Cate Hummel at flute camp, and has performed last February in a master class with Dr. Jeiran Hasan. Lillian has won Best in Room two years in a row at the Plainfield Solo and Ensemble Festival, selected as a piccolo for Honor Band for the last three years, accepted into the District ILMEA Band Festival in 2019, and has been a member of MYSO since 2017. In her free time, Lillian enjoys getting tea with her friends, working out, kayaking, and listening to eclectic music.



CONDUCTING INTERN IZABELLA GIERON

Izabella Gieron is an undergraduate Music Education and Music Performance Major at Northern Illinois University. She studies with renowned soloist and Avalon String Quartet musician, Blaise Magniere. She is a member of the NIU Philharmonic and is involved in chamber music.

Izabella was born and raised in the Chicagoland area. As a child, Izabella displayed advanced skills on both violin and piano. She has been studying piano since age 4 with Katarzyna Nowak until high school. In addition, she was a member of the Protégé Philharmonic in Chicago under the direction of Joseph Glymph. Joseph Glymph continued as her mentor until college.

In her early music career, she was chosen to play in both District and All-State Orchestra throughout high school. Izabella performed in the All-Conference Jazz band for three years. She had the opportunity to perform alongside various artists such as, Marek Balata and Wici Song & Dance Theatre.

Not only has she performed at venues within the states, but she has performed internationally. In 2016, Izabella performed at the Folklore Music Festival in Paso Fundo, Brazil. In 2018, she performed at the CIOFF International Festival in Arequipa, Peru. In 2019, she performed at The International Folklore Festival "EUROFOLK – ZAMOŚĆ" in Zamość, Poland.

For the past four years, Izabella has been teaching private violin and piano lessons. She is also an active orchestra teacher for the Fox Valley El Sistema Program in Aurora, IL. Amongst many internships, she has had the opportunity to work with the People's Music School. She is an active chamber coach for high school orchestra programs around the Chicago-land area.

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MYSO 2020-2021 CONCERT SCHEDULE

The MYSO Board and partnering Universities will continue to evaluate the dangers of COVID-19 and decide how concert settings will function for the 2020-2021. Please visit mysomusic.org for developing information.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

7:30pm

St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall
Lewis University in Romeoville, IL
Free Admission

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

7:30pm

St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall
Lewis University in Romeoville, IL
Free Admission

Thursday, June 3, 2021

6:30pm

Outdoor Concert on the Hill
Bicentennial Park in Joliet, IL
Free Admission

CD RECORDINGS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

To purchase a recording of this program, click [here](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/reward/OTg1NDg=) (https://www.flipcause.com/secure/reward/OTg1NDg=). Proceeds will benefit MYSO. Thank you to Recording Artist Greg Ballak for his donation of time and talent.

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