FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD
STRONG AUDITORIUM

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA’S

CARNIVAL!

FEATURING
VITUS “V” SPEHAR, NARRATOR
AND NATALIE SPEHAR, CELLO

@underthedesknews
University of Rochester
Symphony Orchestra

Overture to Il Signor Bruschino  Gioachino Rossini
(1792-1868)

blue cathedral  Jennifer Higdon
(b. 1962)

Carnival of the Animals  Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)
arr. William C. White

Natalie Spehar, cello
Vitus “V” Spehar, narrator

1. Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
2. Hens and Roosters
3. Wild Asses (Swift Animals)
4. Tortoises
5. The Elephant
6. Kangaroos
7. Aquarium
8. Characters with Long Ears
9. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods
10. Aviary
11. Pianists
12. Fossils
13. The Swan
14. Finale
Symphony Orchestra  
Dr. Mark Powell, Music Director  
Donovan Snyder, Associate Conductor

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<tr>
<th>Flutes</th>
<th>Oboes &amp; English Horn</th>
<th>Clarinets</th>
<th>Bassoons</th>
<th>French Horns</th>
<th>Trumpets</th>
<th>Violins</th>
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<td>Qike Jiang</td>
<td>Kathleen Holt</td>
<td>Joshua Daniels</td>
<td>Isabel Ament</td>
<td>Eleanor Harrison</td>
<td>Nathan Fricano</td>
<td>Vivian Chen</td>
<td>Needle de Carvalho Wang</td>
<td>Amy Grove</td>
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<td>Emily Kay</td>
<td>MJ Keller</td>
<td>Stephen Lurie</td>
<td>Erin Nguyen</td>
<td>Ethan Hess</td>
<td>Jackson Gerev</td>
<td>Joshua Chou</td>
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<td>Kayla Koo</td>
<td>Amy Marron</td>
<td>Prital Prabhu</td>
<td>Maria Makula</td>
<td>Steve Landgren</td>
<td>Millicent Hawkins</td>
<td>Reuben Epstein*</td>
<td>Kaitlyn McIntosh*</td>
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<td>Ahani Murthy</td>
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<td>Joey Stempien</td>
<td>Katie Ormsbee</td>
<td>David Nichols</td>
<td>Justin Lloyd</td>
<td>Ryan Garber</td>
<td>Jason Richards</td>
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<td>Laura Smoller</td>
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<td>Lori Osgood</td>
<td>Elyse Roepe</td>
<td>Emma Hilger</td>
<td>Ellis Siepel</td>
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<td>Tony Sun</td>
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<td>Naomi Ruetz</td>
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<td>Antonio Hrynio</td>
<td>Taylor Speas</td>
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<td>Greg Savich</td>
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<td>Ellen Konar</td>
<td>Josh Stead-Dorval*</td>
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<td>Grace Wu</td>
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<td>Miho Sunada</td>
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<td>Joshua Li</td>
<td>Mark Subramani</td>
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<tr>
<th>Trombones</th>
<th>Tubas</th>
<th>Percussion</th>
<th>Piano &amp; Keyboard</th>
<th>Basses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Liao</td>
<td>Travis Brown</td>
<td>Adam Joslyn</td>
<td>Jacob Rose</td>
<td>Molly Corr</td>
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<td>Louis Osgood</td>
<td>Michael Dorval</td>
<td>Ben Kamenetsky</td>
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<td>Eli Seamans*</td>
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<td>Angel Paz</td>
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The University of Rochester Orchestras and the Arthur Satz Department of Music wish to thank:

**The Ensemble Librarians:**  
Donovan Snyder  
Lindsey Brayer  
Claire Choi  
Jonathan Wang  
Molly Corr  
Emma Dickerson  
Ellis Siepel  
Millicent Hawkins

**The Orchestra Committee Chairs:**  
Josh Stead-Dorval  
MJ Keller

**Friends of the University of Rochester Orchestra**

**The UR Music Techs**

**The Music Interest Floor**

* Principal
Jennifer Higdon is one of America’s most acclaimed figures in contemporary classical music, receiving the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto, a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto and a 2020 Grammy for her Harp Concerto. In 2018, Higdon received the prestigious Nemmers Prize, awarded to contemporary classical composers of exceptional achievement who have significantly influenced the field of composition. Most recently, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works, and blue cathedral is today’s most performed contemporary orchestral work, with more than 700 performances worldwide. Her works have been recorded on more than sixty CDs. Higdon’s first opera, Cold Mountain, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere and the opera recording was nominated for 2 Grammy awards. Her music is published exclusively by Lawdon Press.

Natalie Spehar has made her mark as a genre-bending electric and acoustic cellist, writer, arranger and creative educator. Recognized for her versatile skill set, Natalie is an official NS Design Artist and has performed live with artists including Disturbed, Cage the Elephant, 2 Cellos, Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman, Dessa, Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, Johnny Mathis, Michael Bolton, Little River Band, Il Volo, Charly Bliss, Japanese Breakfast, Michael Bublé, Trans Siberian Orchestra and the Hadestown 1st National Broadway Tour.

Natalie is also an active composer and studio recording artist. Her playing appears in the soundtracks of Spider-man: Across the Spider-verse and Decoding Annie Parker, as well as the television documentary Through the Eye of the Needle and the award-winning animated short film Test Anxiety, for which Natalie composed and recorded the original score. Natalie is a graduate of Eastman School of Music (BM’ Cello Performance & Arts Leadership) and the University of Maryland (MM’ Music Performance).

Natalie has traveled to perform & lecture on her work in string performance with electronics at universities across the United States, and her "ALT-C" alternative-genre workshop options are available online worldwide.

Vitus "V" Spehar is an accomplished TikToker, political advocate and general good friend. Their core brand, Under The Desk News™, started out as a series expanding on news events in a nutshell and quickly became GenZ and Millenials go-to source for news. In 2024 they launched the American Fever Dream podcast with Betches Media. V’s in-depth citizen journalism led them to collaborate with notable figures like former President Obama, President Biden and a dozen plus members of Congress to lucidly inform and push for civic participation. V won the 2023 Webby's Special Achievement Award “for their articulate and concise, but unabridged reporting, and for methodically balancing positive news with more solemn headlines”.

You can follow them on all social media platforms @underthedesknews and find their podcast American Fever Dream wherever you get your pods.