In Collaboration with: Memorial Art Gallery
Dr. Nile Blunt, McPherson Director of Academic Programs at MAG

Saturday, December 10, 2022
8:00 PM
Upper Strong Auditorium
Dr. Rachel Waddell, Music Director and Conductor
Donovan Snyder, Assistant Conductor
Maia Ross, Assistant Conductor

*William Tell Overture*  
Gioachino Rossini  
(1792-1868)

*Sinfonia No. 1 in G Major*  
Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges  
(1745-1799)

I. Allegro
II. Andante
III. Allegro assai

Dr. Leah McGray, Guest Conductor  
Geneseo Symphony Orchestra

-- Intermission --

Lecture  
Dr. Nile Blunt  
McPherson Director for Academic Programs  
Memorial Art Gallery

Painting & Prejudice: Diversity and Opportunity in the Arts of the Regency Period

12 Contredanses  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

and Ludwig van Beethoven  
arr. José Ramón Hernández and Donovan Snyder

Projections by Dr. Nile Blunt  
Memorial Art Gallery

Symphony No. 2 in e minor  
Emilie Mayer  
(1812-1883)

I. Un poco adagio – Allegro assai
II. Scherzo
III. Un poco adagio, cantabile
IV. Finale. Allegro Vivace
Chamber Orchestra
Dr. Rachel Waddell, Music Director and Conductor
Donovan Snyder, Assistant Conductor
Maia Ross, Assistant Conductor

Flute
Lindsey Brayer
Willow Veytsman
Hannah Wang

Oboe
Katie O’ Leary
Maya Daniello

Clarinet
Alex Evert
Joshua Nova-Yingst
Bohan Zhu

Bassoon
Isaac Ondo
Angel Paz

Horn
Eleanor Harrison
Emily Krasinski
Enyi Shi
Charlotte Spaulding

Trumpet
Jackson Gerew
Millicent Hawkins
Sameer Jain
Joseph Meltzer

Trombone
Darron King
Peter Thompson
Xingyu Chen, Bass

Percussion
Alexa Pishtey, Principal
Maia Ross
Xin Zheng

Violin 1
Sarah Koehler, Co-Concertmaster
Grace Speller, Co-Concertmaster
Victor Gu, Co-Concertmaster
Aashay Mardikar
Luka Choi
Florence Schaumann
Isaac Mathias
Jonathan Wang
David Xie

Violin 2
Victor Gu, Principal
Yujia Jiang
Emma Maconaughey, Acting Principal
Allison Love
Kamdyn Smith
Catherine Xie
Malia Dickinson
Hannah Klein
Yiyao Chen

Viola
Donovan Snyder, Principal
Alex Oberszyn
Jakob Riches
Ellis Siepel
Brooke Stanley

Cello
Jack Mandell, Principal
Alexander Yang
Claire Choi
Jake Scinta
William Bothe
Zhengyang Zhu
Michael Ng

Librarians:
Donovan Snyder, Head Librarian
Lindsey Brayer, Head Woodwind Librarian
Claire Choi, Head Strings Librarian
Jonathan Wang, String Librarian
Ashley Leung, String Librarian
Geneseo Symphony

Violin I
Piper Beckwith, concertmaster *
Jack O’Loughlin
Logan Sargent

Violin II
Clare Douglas, principal second *
Shamar McFarlane
Kaitlyn Bishop
Emilia Bottoms
Kaitlyn James

Viola
David Lawler, principal *
Anthony Pirrone
Ethan Schubart

Violoncello
Maya Tuberdyke, principal *
Ben Samberg
Elyse Davis
Michael Matzek
Audrey Ryan
Faith Zatlukal
Laura Wright

About URCO

Our student-focused orchestra has between 40-70 members per semester. We perform a variety of music including large-scale orchestral works, and chamber orchestra, chamber ensemble, and string repertoire. The backbone of our ensemble is collaboration through educational and community initiatives. We have toured both internationally and domestically, including annual performances beyond the University of Rochester Campus through our “Around the Town Concert Series” which pairs musical programs with Rochester-area organizations and institutions.

URCO is open to all students, and to faculty, staff, and community members (with permission of/at the request of the Music Director) by audition. Auditions take place in late August prior to the start of each academic year. Afterwards, auditions are accepted on a rolling basis with priority given to wait-listed students.

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Want to be on stage at our next concert?

URCO has immediate openings for viola, cello, bass, and trombone. Please email Prof. Rachel Waddell (rwaddell@ur.rochester.edu) for more information or if you are interested!
Dr. Nile Blunt
McPherson Director of Academic Programs
Memorial Art Gallery
Assistant Professor of Curatorial Practice
Department of Art and Art History, University of Rochester

As the Memorial Art Gallery’s chief educator, Dr. Nile Blunt leads and directs the museum’s engagement with regional educators and students at all levels, designs arts-based learning experiences, and co-leads the museum’s interpretation efforts around art installations and temporary exhibitions. He plays a key role in MAG’s efforts towards broader community engagement by creating exciting and innovative learning opportunities for new and existing audiences through programming and arts-based initiatives. Blunt also holds an appointment in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Rochester where he teaches course on museum studies. He earned his PhD in British History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Leah McGray is the Director of Instrumental Studies for the State University of New York at Geneseo, where she conducts the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and teaches classes in conducting and theory. Dr. McGray held a similar position at Rhodes College in Memphis TN and has served as guest conductors for the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. In demand internationally as a conductor and adjudicator, she has conducted across the United States, Canada, and South Korea, and will be the conductor for the National Youth Band of Canada in 2023.

Dr. McGray earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She received the Master of Music in conducting from University of Toronto, and Bachelor of Music and Education degrees from Acadia University. Twice awarded major grants from the Social Science Humanities and Research Council in Canada, her research explores techniques of non-verbal leadership, and orchestral and wind ensemble repertoire by traditionally underrepresented composers.
American conductor Rachel Waddell is in the business of shared experiences. She loves the process of music creation and collaboration and wants to enable others to share their own stories through music. She believes 21st century orchestras have an opportunity to mirror the rich diversity of the world through their programs, orchestra personnel, and audiences. She prides herself in her ability to grow orchestras and their resources, innovative programming, and building meaningful connections with community.

Rachel serves as the Director of Orchestral Activities and Assistant Professor, with the Satz Department of Music at the University of Rochester in New York. Lauded as, “a conductor of creativity and courage,” she won both second place (2019) and third place (2020) in the American Prize’s Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award in Orchestral Programming. Her 2021 digital collaboration with Oberlin Conservatory and conductor Tiffany Chang won Best Instrumental Performance of 2021 in the LIT Talent Awards. She has conducted orchestras across the country including the Rochester, Las Vegas, and Fort Wayne Philharmonics, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (where she was a Music Director Finalist), and Cleveland’s Suburban Symphony. She recently made her Vienna debut conducting Così fan tutte as part of the Vienna Opera Academy. Previously she served as the Associate Conductor of the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Cover Conductor and Rehearsal Assistant for the Las Vegas Philharmonic.

Rachel’s interest in the constantly evolving role and responsibility of orchestras within their communities led her to co-found Conductors for Change, Inc. She is a student of Ennio Nicotra, and has attended numerous conducting workshops, seminars, and institutes including the Dallas Opera’s prestigious Hart Institute for Women Conductors, and Mark Shapiro’s Conducting Intensive at Juilliard.

Rachel holds a DMA in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a certificate in Music Industry Essentials from the prestigious Clive Davis of Recorded Music at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.
Reflective Stages Project

We appreciate you making the time to fill out our Reflective Stages questionnaire at each and every concert that you attend. Simply scan the QR code with your phone (open your camera app and hold it up to the QR code) or fill out a hard copy in the lobby. See an usher for more information or if you have any questions about how to complete this form.

The purpose of the Reflective Stages Project is to determine to what extent our orchestras are representative of the University of Rochester and greater Rochester communities. Over the course of four years, we will strive to gradually adjust our orchestra’s recruitment and repertoire, so we align with these demographics. Starting with the 2021-22 academic year, we will collect data to determine how members of our orchestras and audience identify themselves among different demographic populations. We will then actively seek to recruit from and connect with populations that we are under-serving. In doing so, we hope to not only build orchestras and programs that are more representative of our populations, but to build meaningful connections and collaborations with students and community members in populations that have been under-served by our orchestras.

Why are we doing this? (A Word from Our Music Director)

There’s a myth in music, and maybe a lot of art, that we start young, as if musicians and artists are born, not made. I fundamentally disagree with this on many levels, not least of which is how comparatively late I started my own music career. Although I always loved music, I didn’t know how to make a career out of it because I was not interested in teaching or performing. As a high schooler, I assumed that the only career I could have in music was teaching or performing because I had only ever seen women teach or perform. It never occurred to me that women could also be composers, administrators, and especially conductors because I had never seen a woman do any of those things. The purpose of this little anecdote is to highlight how much representation matters. Most people have a hard time relating and participating in activities and careers they cannot see themselves in. To me, representation is more than a stage of diverse faces, or a program of diverse composers and experiences. We will know that our musical world is truly representative when no one in our audience wonders whether they can do something because they will see themselves doing it.

Orchestras across our country have a responsibility to serve our communities, but how can we truly do so without making a concerted effort to become more representative of the communities that we serve? In the process we gain a better understanding of how what we do, or do not do, alienates or invites. Without doing so, we miss out in a world that is richer both in perspective and artistry.
Donations & Giving

We thank our donors from our Winter 2020 Virtual Gala, Fundraiser, and Concert. Additional donors wished to remain anonymous or not be recognized, and we thank them for their support, even though their names will not appear below.

Susan and Joel Brenner  
Ken and Joyce Choi  
Khang T. Huynh  
David and Terry Moy  
Beth and Jonathan Rose  
Sharon and Martin Rose  
Ann and Victor Siegle  
Reuben Epstein and Jody Siegle  
Jennifer and Roger Snyder  
Rena and Derek Volkin

Our River Campus Orchestras invite your charitable contributions to the following funds:

**THE B. KATHLEEN MORSE ENDOWMENT**, established through a generous bequest from the estate of Ms. Morse in 2002 and which is used for the Orchestras’ outreach and development.

**THE DAVID HARMAN FUND FOR ORCHESTRAL EXCELLENCE**, established in recognition of Dr. Harman’s tenure as Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Rochester and his exemplary contribution to musical life on campus and in the community, which is used to support the activities of the College Music Department’s orchestras.

Your tax-deductible contributions in any amount can be arranged by contacting Dr. Rachel Waddell at (585)-275-2827 or Jimmy Warlick at (585)-273-5157 and will be greatly appreciated.