



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD  
STRONG AUDITORIUM



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S  
**CARNIVAL!**

FEATURING  
VITUS "V" SPEHAR, NARRATOR  
AND NATALIE SPEHAR, CELLO





# Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Mark Powell, Music Director

Donovan Snyder, Associate Conductor

## **Flutes**

Qike Jiang  
Emily Kay  
Kayla Koo  
Ahani Murthy  
Laura Smoller  
Tony Sun  
Willow Veytsman  
Grace Wu

## **Oboes & English Horn**

Kathleen Holt  
MJ Keller  
Amy Marron

## **Clarinets**

Joshua Daniels  
Stephen Lurie  
Prital Prabhu  
Joey Stempien

## **Bassoons**

Isabel Ament  
Erin Nguyen

## **French Horns**

Eleanor Harrison  
Ethan Hess  
Steve Landgren  
David Nichols  
Lori Osgood  
Elena Perez  
Naomi Ruetz  
Greg Savich  
Miho Sunada

## **Trumpets**

Nathan Fricano  
Jackson Gerew  
Millicent Hawkins  
Justin Lloyd  
Elyse Roepe

## **Trombones**

Tyler Liao  
Louis Osgood  
Angel Paz  
Sicheng Qian  
Zach Sussman

## **Tubas**

Travis Brown  
Michael Dorval  
Zoe Jones

## **Percussion**

Adam Joslyn  
Ben Kamenetsky  
Maria Makula  
Katie Ormsbee

## **Piano & Keyboard**

Jacob Rose

## **Violins**

Vivian Chen  
Joshua Chou  
Reuben Epstein\*  
Ryan Garber  
Emma Hilger  
Antonia Hrynio  
Ellen Konar  
Joshua Li  
Emma Maconaughey  
Cordelia March\*  
Isaac Mathias  
Elissa Moy\*  
Natalie Opdahl  
Vanessa Perez Capcha  
Grace Speller\*  
Conall Spaur  
Sarah Walters  
Abby Wilson  
Leon Zong

## **Violas**

Needle de Carvalho Wang  
Amy Grove  
Isabel Humphreys  
Kaitlyn McIntosh\*  
Jason Richards  
Ellis Siepel  
Taylor Speas  
Josh Stead-Dorval\*  
Nakul Subramani  
Keiko Vann  
Grace Widjaja  
Ashlynnne Xavier

## **Cellos**

Elizabeth Garijo-Garde  
Miriam Herron  
Connor Hewson  
Stephen Platt  
Sarah Smith  
Alex Yang\*  
Zhibin Zhou

## **Basses**

Molly Corr  
Eli Seamans\*  
Tom Seketa  
Greg Wood

\* Principal

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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**

**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 Millennials 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.