PEABODY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MARIN ALSOP, CONDUCTOR

Annual Peabody Symphony Orchestra Concert in Memory of Steven Muller

Friday, March 1, 2024 · 7:30 pm
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall
Peabody Institute
A visionary leader, Steven Muller reshaped and reinvigorated Johns Hopkins University during his long tenure as president. Among his noteworthy accomplishments was the creation of an affiliation between the University and the then-independent Peabody Institute, an arrangement which brought much-needed management and development capabilities to the financially struggling Conservatory and significantly expanded the University’s commitment to the humanities. After first affiliating in 1977, Peabody became a full division of the University in 1986.

A Rhodes Scholar and specialist in comparative government and international relations, Muller was a lifelong lover of music and the arts. In his youth in Hamburg, he studied the violin and—after his family fled Nazi Germany and moved to Los Angeles—he sang with the all-male a cappella group the Le Conte Junior High Troubadours. He was known to have belted out parodies of well-known songs at home and, once, he sang his entire speech to the Hopkins President’s Club in New York. And he was delighted to join Maestro Leonard Bernstein in a chorus of “Happy Birthday” to Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg before Peabody’s Commencement Ceremony in 1980.

A generous gift from the Jill E. McGovern and Steven Muller Fund was made in 2013 to the Peabody Institute to launch and endow this annual concert in memory of Steven Muller and in tribute to all those with whom he worked to preserve Peabody for generations to come.
Iryna Aleksiychuk (b. 1967)

*Go Where the Wind Takes You*... PREVIEW PERFORMANCE

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

**Symphonic Dances, Op. 45**

I. Non allegro
II. Andante con moto (Tempo di valse)
III. Lento assai—Allegro vivace

INTERMISSION

Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)

**Concerto No. 3 in C major for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 26**

I. Andante—Allegro
II. Andantino
III. Allegro, ma non troppo

Yilun Xu, piano

Visit peabody.jhu.edu/events for all upcoming performances and events.
Half a year of hard work has finally come to an end. 
Joy—and at the same time—utter desolation...
Fifteen minutes of sound into which I put my whole soul.

This work is dedicated to Ukrainian women who, despite all the horrors of the war against Ukraine, do not lose their courage, hope and faith in our victory.

Thank you to the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program of Classical Movements and to Marin Alsop for commissioning this work for the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship. Thanks to my friend, the incredibly talented Ukrainian poet Olena Stepanenko, for the brilliant poem that inspired me to write this music. Olena has a lot to tell. She and her young son survived in Bucha, a town that was almost completely destroyed by the Russian army along with its inhabitants. But, like Olena, I am firmly convinced that “...there is nothing that we cannot overcome...!”

— Iryna Aleksiyuchuk, composer

The civilization of patriarchal values is crumbling, and we are witnessing new destruction every day. International legal institutions, world leaders and governments have turned out to be completely helpless in the face of absolute evil. What will keep the world on the edge of the abyss? A hand outstretched in the dark, a voice of compassion and support, effective nursing—across borders, races and religions. Love that will conquer violence and death itself.

— Olena Stepanenko, poet

Go Where the Wind Takes You
Olena Stepanenko

You are—a wall, a memory, complete, indestructible
scarred with the names of the living, the dead, the as yet unborn
in your voice’s home they weave gentle nests
never alone nor tied down
despite pain, daily pain and loss, blanching, blind pain
(it hides you under it every day), every day you come alive at its call:
—Sister, come and look!

Behold, the serpent of the sun basks in the ruins of your house
Behold your body’s shirt crocheted with bullet holes
Sister, sister... but you pick up the roots
pocketing your son, a toy tractor and the lamb-like clouds
that dried over the house (as long as it was, so it is)
you part the air, holding on only to your voice
millions of sisters who see and hear every day
wait at the gates of life, holding death on a leash
your hand is among them
invisible and unwavering
your voice
your task:
Sister, go where the wind takes you
There is nothing
that you cannot overcome
PEABODY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Marin Alsop, conductor
Juliano Dutra Aniceto, assistant conductor
Joseph Young, Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Artistic Director of Ensembles

Violin
Nya Angel
Sophie Chan
Sylvia Yunjun Chen
Ann Ching
Heeyun Cho †
Sophia Freed
Yanxiong Huang
Dayoung Hyun
Amir Kadamani Gonzalez
Anagha Kapsi
Lindsey Lee
Yin-Chi Lee
Katherine Lin
Charrine Liu-Maddox
Manuel Mendes Escobar ‡
Hannah Reinschmidt
Isabel Rushall
Felix Shen
Yu-Chu Teng
Lyu Song Tseng
He Wu
Shih-Han Wu
Liang-Yu Yao
Nina Youn
KaiLai Zhang
Sixuan Zhu

Viola
Asha Baylor
Joanne Cai
Hsiang-Hsin Ching ‡
Cristian Contreras
Ella Coon
William Gu
Yu-Ting Huang
Kyan Johnson
Olive Loentz
Heather Park

Cello
Adrian Bostian
Pia Carrasco-Isachsen
Celina Chen
Jiayi Cheng
Marcus Gee
Jiye Hong
Shawn Hsu
Mira Hu
Joshua Jang
Geonhoon Kim
Gloria Lee
Lindsay McKenna ‡
Ethan Oh
Emily Wu
Ruiyang Xie

Double bass
Jihoon Baek
Sunwoo Kim
Taylor Martin
Chunzhen Ouyang
Xinyi Ruan
Claire Russell
Sebastian Salazar
Alyssa Trebat
Hanna Wilson-Smith ‡

Flute
Aleksiychuk
Andrea Velasquez
Jiyoung Yoon ‡
Rachmaninoff
Jack King ‡
Matthew Ober
Jiyoung Yoon

Prokofiev
Matthew Ober ‡
Andrea Velasquez

Oboe
Aleksiychuk
Henry Armfield
Santo Villatoro ‡
Rachmaninoff
Bryn Carrier ‡
Erik Moberg
Santo Villatoro

Prokofiev
Henry Armfield ‡
Santo Villatoro

Clarinet
Aleksiychuk
Sophie Bracken ‡
Dylan Rosenthal
Rachmaninoff
Sophie Bracken
Renzo Decarlo
Dylan Rosenthal ‡

Prokofiev
Sophie Bracken
Renzo Decarlo ‡

Bassoon
Aleksiychuk
A Ra Kim
Sean Webster ‡
Rachmaninoff
Logan Jawgiel
A Ra Kim ‡
Sean Webster

Prokofiev
Logan Jawgiel ‡
A Ra Kim

Horn
Aleksiychuk
Kellie Chiang
Andrew Egerstrom ‡
Ashley Interiano
Daniel Wu
Rachmaninoff
Ashley Interiano
Michael Rising
Joshua Swyers
Mingzhe Wang ‡

Prokofiev
Kellie Chiang
Mika Judge ‡
Michael Rising
Daniel Wu

Trumpet
Aleksiychuk
Ryan Evans
Joshua Kucharski ‡
Dylan McKay
Rachmaninoff
Anthony Casella ‡
Joshua Kucharski
Nathan Lyle

Prokofiev
Ryan Evans
Nathan Lyle ‡

Trombone
Aleksiychuk
Taylor Ebenshade
Christian Kercy ‡
Colin Stubbs
Rachmaninoff
Taylor Ebenshade
Christian Kercy
Hayden Lovinsosse ‡

Prokofiev
Taylor Ebenshade
Christian Kercy ‡
Colin Stubbs

Tuba
Aleksiychuk
Liam Staines
Rachmaninoff
Miles Devlin

Timpani
Akira Hudson

Percussion
Aleksiychuk
Matthew Boyle ‡
Hsiao-Tsu Huang
Karl Lee
Rachmaninoff
Matthew Boyle ‡
Hsiao-Tsu Huang
Jacob Kline
Karl Lee
Deqi Mu

Prokofiev
Matthew Boyle

Harp
Kyunghwa Kim

Piano
Kennis Ang

Alto Saxophone
Deer Ma

† Concertmaster
‡ Principal
BIOGRAPHIES

Marin Alsop, conductor
Her outstanding success as music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) since 2007 has been recognized by two extensions in her tenure, now confirmed until 2021. As part of her artistic leadership in Baltimore, Alsop has created bold initiatives that have contributed to the wider community and reached new audiences. In 2008 she launched OrchKids, which provides music education, instruments, meals, and mentorship of the city’s neediest young people. Alsop serves as principal conductor of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (OSESP).

Alsop now conducts the world’s major orchestras including the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), and London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). Her extensive discography has led to Grammy and Gramophone awards and includes highly praised Naxos cycles of Brahms with the LPO and MDR Leipzig, Dvořák with the BSO, Prokofiev with OSESP, and further recordings for Decca Classics, Harmonia Mundi, and Sony Classical. She is dedicated to new music, borne out in her 25-year tenure as music director of California’s Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. Among her many awards and academic positions, Alsop is the only conductor to receive the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, is an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal Philharmonic Society, and is the director of graduate conducting at the Peabody Conservatory. She attended the Juilliard School and Yale University, who awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2017. Her conducting career was launched in 1989, when she won the Leopold Stokowski International Conducting Competition and was the first woman to be awarded the Koussevitzky Conducting Prize from the Tanglewood Music Center.

Yilun Xu, piano
An avid performer across China, the United States, and Europe, pianist Yilun Xu has played in such prestigious venues as the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall of Kaufman Center, and Harris Concert Hall in Aspen. Selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist by NPR’s From the Top, a national program showcasing America’s best young classical musicians, Xu continues to receive recognition for her compelling artistry. She has won numerous competitions in China and abroad, including first prizes in the Chappaqua Orchestra Concerto Competition and the Yale Gordon Competition. Beyond her concert career, Xu has been featured in major music festivals, notably BIMFA On the Road International Music Festival & Academy at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, University of Florida International Piano Festival, Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival in Italy, Gijon International Piano Festival, and Aspen Music Festival.

Xu began to study piano when she was 4 years old. At age 10, she was accepted into the elementary school affiliated with the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, followed by the middle school division. She then moved to the U.S. in 2012 to enroll in The Juilliard School’s Pre-College program under the tutelage of Professor Yoheved Kaplinsky. Xu subsequently earned her bachelor’s degree from the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange Program, merging her Juilliard music concentration with a comprehensive Columbia humanities education, and completed her master’s degree under both Kaplinsky and Hung Kuan Chen. Currently, Xu is pursuing her doctoral degree at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University with Yong Hi Moon.

Beyond music, Xu engages her scholarly interests through diverse coursework. She also serves her surrounding communities with her active dedication to student organizations. As the president of the Juilliard Chinese Student & Scholars Association from 2018 to 2022, her leadership proved her an ideal interdisciplinary ambassador for her colleagues as well as her own cultural roots. She encouraged awareness and appreciation for various aspects of Chinese culture to her school communities through her advocacy for Chinese orchestral music, and collaborated to organize gala concerts through partnerships with the Ivy League and other schools.

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