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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, which is slated for a full renovation starting December 2022.

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“Transformations”

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Robert Mueller, conductor
Yoshio Yamashita, assistant conductor

7:30pm, Monday, February 24, 2025
Faulkner Performing Arts Center
University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Overture to “Nabucco”

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Yoshio Yamashita, conductor

Symphony #2 in D Major, Op. 73

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Adagio non troppo
- III. Allegretto grazioso; Presto, ma non assai
- IV. Allegro con spirito

Special thanks to Dr. Er-Gene Kahng for her assistance in the preparation of this concert.

PROGRAM NOTES

Yoshio Yamashita, the Assistant Conductor of the USO, is in his second year of the UA Masters program in instrumental conducting. He is also the composer of dozens of works and a gifted percussionist.

Overture to "**Nabucco**." The year 1840 was devastating for the young Verdi; his second opera was a flop and his wife Margherita and their two children perished from encephalitis. At this time Verdi received the libretto for a possible opera, entitled, "Nabucco." It was based on the biblical story of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, but Verdi had no interest in composing anything, least of all another opera. Curiosity got the better of him and, little by little, he finished the opera by November of 1841. When it was premiered in March of 1842 in La Scala, it was a tremendous success and established Verdi as an operatic force. The overture contains several melodies from the opera itself, including a variant of "*Va pensiero, sull'ali dorate*," ("Fly, thought, on golden Wings"), the most famous aria in the opera, sung by Israelites, longing for their homeland.

Symphony #2 in D Major. Brahms spent more than 15 years working on his first symphony but finished the second in a few months of feverish work during the summer of 1877. The premiere in December of that year by the Vienna Philharmonic, conducted by Hans Richter, proved successful with both critics and the public at large. Brahms teased his friends before the premiere, telling them it was one of his saddest utterances ever. "Imagine," he wrote, "playing a succession of f minor triads, one after the other, treble and bass, fortissimo and pianissimo." Ironically, there is not a single f minor triad to be found in the symphony and it remains an audience (and trombonist's) favorite. The first eight bars of the symphony contain three separate motives which, through various transformations, become the basis for virtually the entire symphony.

PERSONNEL

USO

Flute

Namrata Anand+
Ava Jane Murphey
Olivia Pardue
Jillian Russell*

Oboe

Lorilee Erdman*
Hannah Myers+

Clarinet

Samantha Ellis+*
Kaelani Perez
Garland Watson

Bassoon

Romy Ftaiti+
Madison Gorny
Michael Keen*

Horn

Chris Dorner
Landon Greitzenauer+
Macy James
Drew Schulz*
Hudson Worley

Trumpet

Joseph McGee+*
Nathan Steinmuller

Trombone

Kizer Brown*
Mac Dishman+
Aammar Khan
Logan Ballard
Parker McCollum

Tuba

Henry Sargent

Timpani

Yoshio Yamashita

Violin

Isabella Adams
Landon Barker
Alec Barnum
Trinity Charlton
Soumya Chauhan
Merritt Denton I+
Phoebe Drinkard
McKenna Johnson
Gus Kerby
Juan Ramos II*
Lucy Mae Rousseau II+
Ethan Sexauer
Max Shive
Brett Shock
Dayton Strick I*
Lauren Weeks

Viola

Spring Berryhill
Ryan Davis
Angel Duron
Kancana Kathiravan+
Ashton Laurent*
Gisell Maldonado

Bass

Freeman Boatright
Gabriela Gomez+
Jackson Messenger
Jack Minnick*
Marco Wimer

Violoncello

Lorena Aguire
Chloe Hubbard
Jonathan Lea+*
Hayden Melchiori
Nicole Patrao
Beau Shock
Shawn Sproles

+ (Pr. On Verdi)

* (Pr. On Brahms)

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