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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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“EXALTATION”

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Robert Mueller, conductor

7:30pm, Monday, February 26th, 2024
Jim & Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center
University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Ethiopa’s Shadow in America

Florence Price (1887-1953)

II. Resignation and Faith

Symphony #7 in A Major, Op. 92

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Poco sostenuto- Vivace

Allegretto

Presto

Allegro con brio

PROGRAM NOTES

Ethiopa's Shadow in America. Written by American composer Florence Price in 1932, "Ethiopa's Shadow in America" is a three-movement orchestral work depicting the African American experience in America, from the arrival of the first slaves in 1619 through the turbulent Jim Crow era and into the 1930s. She entitled the three movements: I. Introduction and Allegretto: The Arrival of the Negro in America when first brought here as a slave; II. Andante: His Resignation and Faith; III. Allegro: His Adaptation. Though trained at the New England Conservatory in a traditional European style, her mentors George Chadwick in Boston and later the Chicago composer Leo Sowerby encouraged her to incorporate the rhythms, melodies and harmonic structure of the Negro Spiritual into her output. The opening melody of the Andante movement begins as an upside down version of the melody to the well-known, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." The music to this work was lost for many decades, only to be rediscovered in 2009 in the attic of a small house just outside of St. Anne, Illinois. The house had been bought by Ms. Price and used as a summer home until her death in 1953.

Symphony #7 in A Major. Beethoven composed his seventh symphony in 1812, although the premiere did not take place until December of the following year at a benefit concert for Austrian soldiers wounded at the battle of Hanau. The main attraction on that concert was not the symphony, but rather the very bombastic, "Wellington's Victory," a piece so important for its time that Vienna's elite (Antonio Salieri, Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Ignaz Moscheles) were "extra" musicians in the percussion section. Yet it is only very rarely performed today, whereas the seventh symphony enjoys the highest of reputations! Beethoven himself conducted the premiere and the composer Louis Spohr (who sat principal second violin in the orchestra) humorously commented on Beethoven's crass style of conducting, with vehement flailing of arms during sforzando passages and he even mentioned an occasion where Beethoven, apparently lost, crouched down very low for a quiet spot only to leap forth indicating a subito forte; except it was 12 bars too late!

After experimenting with the five-movement sixth symphony, Beethoven returned to the standard four-movement structure in the seventh. The second movement, normally a somber, slow utterance, in this case is a half fast Allegretto with a simple tune featuring an augmentation of the dactylic rhythm (long, short, short) common to militaristic drum playing. This gives way to a poignant, expressive theme which soon takes over the texture. This movement, the emotional center of the symphony, so amazed the audience at the premiere that it had to be repeated. After a bustling Scherzo, Beethoven quickens the pace with the exuberant, fun-filled Finale.

PERSONNEL

FLUTE

Abbigail Short
Namrata Anand+
Sierra Hoaglund*
Alton Holscher

OBOE

Wesley Becherer+*
Madeleine Amox
Hannah Myers

TRUMPET

Joseph McGee+*
Sophie Jaquez

TIMPANI

Yoshio Yamashita

CLARINET

Samantha Ellis+*
Abigail Tanner

BASSOON

Madison Gorny+*
Nathan Fuhrman

HORN

Drew Schulz*
Macy James
Lauren Zygmunt
Hudson Martin+

BASS

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

VIOLIN

Isabella Adams
Landon Barker
Sebastian Cabrera
Soumya Chauhan
Merritt Denton I+
Isabella Divino
Morgan Giese
Chloe Harder
Stella Hartmann
Gus Kerby II*
Maria McAdamis
Juan Ramos
Lucy Mae Rousseau
Ethan Sexuaer
Brett Shock
Dayton Strick II+,I*
Lauren Weeks

VIOLA

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

VIOLONCELLO

Lorena Aguire
Garrett Beard
Riley Borchhardt
Austin Dolan
Mikayla Foster
Dylan Franklin
Quincy Hartman
Jonathan Lea*
Hayden Melchiori
Arshiya Neupane
Nicole Patrao
Beau Shock+
Shawn Sproles

+ (Pr. On Price)

* (Pr. On Beethoven)

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