



UArk Music

2026-2027 Season

MUSIC MONDAY CONCERT SERIES
UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Jessica Morel, conductor

Monday, October 5, 2026
Faulkner Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

España, Rhapsody for Orchestra

Emmanuel Chabrier
(1841-1894)

Scheherazade, Op. 35

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)

- I. The sea and Sinbad's ship.
- II. The story of the prince-kalandar.
- III. The young prince and princess.
- IV. Festival in Baghdad. The sea. The ship breaks up against a cliff surmounted by a bronze horseman. Conclusion.

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PROGRAM NOTES

Chabrier, España

French composer and pianist, Emmanuel Chabrier, did not become active as a composer until he was 39 years old. His childhood music teachers advised that he was talented enough to pursue a music career, but his father insisted that he follow in his footsteps as a lawyer. While studying law and working for the French Ministry of the interior, Chabrier continued his studies in composition, violin, and piano, remaining passionate about music. After being moved by a performance of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, he decided to quit his job at the ministry and finally devote himself fully to music.

Chabrier wrote *España* in 1883, following a captivating six-month tour of Spain. Upon visiting Spain's major cities, including Seville, Granada, and Barcelona, he became inspired by the country's folk music and regional dances. The piece is built around two genuine Spanish dance forms: the fiery jota from Aragon and the lyrical malagueña from Andalusia. It opens with pizzicato strings mimicking a plucked string guitar, and then maintains a perpetual motion of spirited rhythms, expressive melodies, and imaginative orchestral colors. A frequent concert-opener, the piece was well-received by both audiences and critics, and it sealed Chabrier's fame overnight.

Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov was one of the “The Mighty Five,” a group of prominent 19th century composers in Saint Petersburg who focused on writing Russian nationalistic music. The others in this group included Mily Balakirev, César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, and Alexander Borodin. In their music, The Five sought to build national pride by capturing elements of Russian rural music and folk song, creating a distinctly Russian style that purposefully veered away from Western musical influences. Orientalism, or the use of Eastern themes and harmonies, was encouraged as a way of setting their Russian music apart from German symphonism. It was also a reflection of Russia’s interest in the East at the time.

Composed in 1888, Scheherazade is based on stories from “One Thousand and One Nights” (or Arabian Nights), a collection of Middle-Eastern folktales that emerged over the course of many centuries. The frame story of the collection is about the Sultan Schahriar and the Sultana Scheherazade, described by Rimsky-Korsakov in his score:

“The Sultan Schahriar, convinced of the perfidy and faithlessness of women, vowed to execute each of his wives after the first night. But the Sultana Scheherazade saved her own life by interesting him in the tales she told him through 1001 nights. Impelled by curiosity, the Sultan continually put off her execution, and at last entirely abandoned his sanguinary resolve. Many marvels did Scheherazade relate to him, citing the verses and poets and the words of songs, weaving tale into tale and story into story.”

Musically, the stern opening motive represents the Sultan, and the solo violin is the tender Scheherazade, accompanying herself with a lyre (or harp). As the storyteller, Scheherazade’s theme reappears in each movement, and at the end of the piece, the peaceful mood signals to us that she has won over the Sultan’s heart. In addition to its exotic Oriental features, this piece is well known for its colorful orchestration, engaging melodies, and rhythmic vitality.

PERSONNEL

Violin I

Landon Barker
Alec Barnum
Harper Berzon
Trinity Charlton
Albert Garcia+
Justin Han
Campbell Lewis
Ilya Otahal Mechura
Annalise Montgomery
Lucy Mae Rousseau++

Cello

Sarah Boulton++
Josh Chung
Phillip Jackson
Nina Kinzer
Javier Martinez
Hayden Melchiori+
Gavin Pate
Mason Richardson
Luke Swearingen

Violin II

Nate Bauer
Jackson Brent
William Dalcour
Phoebe Drinkard
Kenny Garner
Thomas Henry
Kailey Johnson
Katelyn Meyer
Max Shive
Isabella Stratman
Ben Weir+
Addison Winesburg++

Bass

Freeman Boatright
Jessica Domingo
Gabriela Gomez++
Calvin McClur
Jack Minnick+
Camila Rodriguez

Viola

Ty Chandler
Ryan Davis
Angel Duron+
Shaylee Ford-Wutzke
Emily Hornick++
Khanh Ng

Flute

Jackson Gordon
Emily Haas
Alton Holscher
Karla Martinez+

Oboe

Logan Blalack+
Mallory Willard

Clarinet

Kayden Harris
Abby Lawson+
Kendall Norman
Garland Watson

Bassoon

Nicolo Rame+
Ruth Sambrano
Isabelle Sharp

Horn

Ben Cartwright
Oliver Durham
Jubilee Killian
Jason Langham
Austin Rushing+

Trumpet

Emma Duncan+
Jack Lockhart
Avery Longing

Trombone

Jack Corbett
Jackson Kuphal+
Parker McCollum

Tuba

Moses Bannister+
Cameron Bisbee

Percussion

Logan Goodwin
Patrick Griffin++
Jacob Griffin
Hailey Middaugh
Aradia Patterson
Meme Walton++

Harp

Drew Kirkpatrick

+ denotes principal

++ denotes assistant principal