



PLAYING. SHARING. INSPIRING.

Yuri Ivan, Artistic Director

Lawrence Weller, Guest Conductor

Hosted by Steve Staruch

***The 19th Annual
Masters Concerto and Aria Competition
Winners' Showcase***

Saturday, February 11, 2017

7:30 PM

St. Albert the Great Catholic Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Program

Piano Concerto No. 3 in c minor
Op. 37, Movement 1 - Allegro con brio

Hyeoji Kim, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 ~ 1827)

Harp Concerto in e minor
Op. 182, Movement 1 - Allegro Moderato

Sonja Wangenstein, harp

Carl Reinecke
(1824 ~ 1910)

Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Op. 24, Text by James Agee

Carolyn Forte, soprano

Samuel Barber
(1910 ~ 1981)

~ 10 Minute Intermission ~

Concerto pour saxophone et orchestra
Movement 1 - Andante

Cameron Longabaugh, saxophone

Henri Tomasi
(1901 ~ 1971)

Carmen
Act I - "La fleur que tu m'avais jetée"

Joseph Okell, tenor

Georges Bizet
(1838 ~ 1875)

Concerto in D Major
Op. 77, Movement 3 - Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo vivace

Sarah Wright, violin

Johannes Brahms
(1833 ~ 1897)

***Please join the soloists and orchestra members
at a reception following the performance.***

Text & Translations

Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 24 originates from James Agee's essay "Knoxville," and the introduction to his Pulitzer Prize-winning posthumous novel, *A Death in the Family*.

"We are talking now of summer evenings in Knoxville Tennessee in the time that I lived there so successfully disguised to myself as a child.

"...It has become that time of evening when people sit on their porches, rocking gently and talking gently and watching the street and the standing up into their sphere of possession of the trees, of birds' hung havens, hangars. People go by; things go by. A horse, drawing a buggy, breaking his hollow iron music on the asphalt: a loud auto: a quiet auto: people in pairs, not in a hurry, scuffling, switching their weight of aestival body, talking casually, the taste hovering over them of vanilla, strawberry, pasteboard, and starched milk, the image upon them of lovers and horsemen, squaring with clowns in hueless amber. A streetcar raising its iron moan; stopping; belling and starting, stertorous; rousing and raising again its iron increasing moan and swimming its gold windows and straw seats on past and past and past, the bleak spark crackling and cursing above it like a small malignant spirit set to dog its tracks; the iron whine rises on rising speed; still risen, faints; halts; the faint stinging bell; rises again, still fainter; fainting, lifting, lifts, faints foregone: forgotten. Now is the night one blue dew.

"Now is the night one blue dew, my father has drained, he has coiled the hose.

"Low in the length of lawns, a frailing of fire who breathes...

"Parents on porches: rock and rock. From damp strings morning glories hang their ancient faces.

"The dry and exalted noise of the locusts from all the air at once enchants my eardrums.

"On the rough wet grass of the back yard my father and mother have spread quilts. We all lie there, my mother, my father, my uncle, my aunt, and I too am lying there....They are not talking much, and the talk is quiet, of nothing in particular, of nothing at all in particular, of nothing at all. The stars are wide and alive, they seem each like a smile of great sweetness, and they seem very near. All my people are larger bodies than mine,...with voices gentle and meaningless like the voices of sleeping birds. One is an artist, he is living at home. One is a musician, she is living at home. One is my mother who is good to me. One is my father who is good to me. By some chance, here they are, all on this earth; and who shall ever tell the sorrow of being on this earth, lying, on quilts, on the grass, in a summer evening, among the sounds of the night. May God bless my people, my

uncle, my aunt, my mother, my good father, oh, remember them kindly in their time of trouble; and in the hour of their taking away.

“After a little I am taken in and put to bed. Sleep, soft smiling, draws me unto her: and those receive me, who quietly treat me, as one familiar and well-beloved in that home: but will not, oh, will not, not now, not ever; but will not ever tell me who I am.”

***Carmen* Aria, Act I ~ “La fleur que tu m’avais jetée”**

Translation provided by Lawrence Weller

The flower that you had thrown me,
I kept with me in prison.
Withered and dry, the flower
Still kept its sweet smell;
And for hours,
On my eyes, my eyelids closed,
I became intoxicated by its fragrance
And in the night I saw you!
I began to curse you,
And hating you, I began to tell myself:
Why should fate
Put you on my path?

Then I accused myself of blasphemy,
And I felt within myself,
I only felt but one desire,
One desire, one hope:
To see you again, Carmen, oh,
You again!
For all you needed was to be there,
To share one glance with you
To long for you with all my being,
O my Carmen
And I was yours
Carmen, I love you!

Biographies

Lyric soprano **Carolyn Forte** is thrilled to be making her debut singing *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra. Possessing a voice rich with warmth and color, Ms. Forte recently covered the title role in *Florenca en el Amazonas* with Emerald City Opera in Steamboat Springs, Colorado where she spent the past summer as a young artist. This spring season she will sing the role of Magda in Puccini’s *La Rondine* with Undercroft Opera in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her other performances have included Mimì (*La Bohème*) with the Boulder Symphony as well as Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) with American Singers’ Opera Project in North Carolina.

A native of Washington, District of Columbia, Ms. Forte enjoys an active performing schedule as a choral artist in the Washington area. She recently appeared as a soloist in two concerts on the fall program of the “Music in McLean” concert series, singing Mozart’s *Exsultate, jubilate*, and Handel’s *Messiah*. She also performs with the Washington Master Chorale and the Advent Project, and will tour this July in Montreal and Quebec City with the St. Luke Festival Choir.

Ms. Forte received her Master of Music degree from Shenandoah Conservatory and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the University of Rochester.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, pianist **Hyejei Kim** showed a great interest in piano at a young age. She has performed a variety of pieces during her undergraduate and graduate experiences. These include a concerto with Shumen State Philharmonic Orchestra of Bulgaria; a chamber concert and solo recitals at the University of Texas at Austin; and a performance at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Ms. Kim received her Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Kyunghee University in Seoul, South Korea. She received the Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Texas Austin and studied with Prof. Gregory Allen. She was the recipient of the Sidney M. Wright Endowed Presidential Scholarship. Also, she was awarded honors in the Outstanding Master of Music Recital.

Ms. Kim is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree of Musical Arts in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota under the guidance of Prof. Paul Shaw.

Performing on the saxophone today, **Cameron Longabaugh** is currently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance with a Secondary Emphasis in Musicology at the University of Minnesota. While living in the Twin Cities, Mr. Longabaugh has performed with numerous university ensembles in addition to performances with the Schubert Club, the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra, and the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Orchestra.

Mr. Longabaugh also remains an active musician and clinician throughout the United States, most recently presenting a workshop on woodwind techniques at the 2016 Kansas Music Educator’s Association Conference in Wichita, Kansas. He has competed in numerous national solo and chamber music competitions, including the MTNA Young Artist Competition (semi-finalist), the Coleman National Chamber Music Competition (finalist), and the Plowman National Chamber Music Competition (semi-finalist). Mr. Longabaugh has studied saxophone with Eugene Rousseau, Anna Marie Wytko, and Preston Duncan.

Joseph Okell is a young tenor who has already performed many opera roles and appeared as a soloist with many different organizations. His performances have been called “inspired ... with a clear no nonsense delivery” by Opera News.

Mr. Okell appears on the NAXOS DVD production of *Parables*, performing as the Tenor Soloist in the staged version of the oratorio. Some of his other roles include: Lt. B.F. Pinkerton (*Madame Butterfly*), Don Jose (*Carmen*), Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Jenik (*The Bartered Bride*), Lysander (*A Midsummer’s Night Dream*), Dr. Caius (*Falstaff*), Ferrando (*Così fan Tutte*), Eddie Fislinger (*Elmer Gantry*), and Tamino (*Die Zaubergeige*).

As a soloist, Mr. Okell premiered *A Dialogue of Self and Soul* with the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble, and has also performed with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Oratorio Society and VocalEssence.

Mr. Okell completed his Bachelor of Music degree at Cornell College, and his M.M. and D.M.A degrees at the University of Minnesota. He resides in Richfield, Minnesota with his wife Cassandra, and two daughters, Lillian and Vivian.

Sonja Wangensteen began studying the harp at age six. While in high school, she played at the Governor’s mansion on multiple occasions when Jesse Ventura was in office. She completed her freshman year at the Juilliard School of Music, and continued her studies, receiving her BM from the Curtis Institute of Music. She has studied with some of the world’s greatest harpists, including Nancy Allen, Judy Loman and Susann McDonald.

Some of Ms. Wangensteen’s notable performances include performing at the 7th World Harp Congress in Prague, the Czech Republic, and at the 8th World Harp Congress in Geneva, Switzerland. She has also been a performer on MPR’s national radio program, *From the Top*. Her awards include third place at the 13th annual Harp Society National Competition, and second place at the ASTA National Solo Competition, harp division.

Ms. Wangensteen currently resides in Minneapolis where she serves as the Outreach Coordinator and teaches piano for the Hovland Conservatory of Music.

Although violinist **Sarah Hao Wright** grew up with a passion for music, she decided in college not to pursue it as a career. While in high school, she was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, serving as co-concertmaster in her final season. She was also selected for the National High School Honors Orchestra.

As a dedicated amateur, Ms. Wright completed her violin studies with acclaimed musicians Ellen dePasquale, Jun-Ching Lin and Jeff Thayer. She was awarded chamber music and orchestral fellowships at the National Orchestral Institute, Kent/Blossom Music, Credo and MasterWorks Festival. She has also appeared on NPR's radio show, *From the Top*.

Outside of her life as a violinist, Ms. Wright is a pharmacist and lives in Bloomington, Minnesota with her husband, Matthew and one year old son, Timothy. She is grateful for this opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra. For Ms. Wright, this opportunity is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

Hosting the Winners' Showcase for the second year in a row, **Steve Staruch** is an active freelance musician in the Twin Cities as well as the host of the weekday afternoon drive time program at Classical MPR. Trained as a violist and a tenor, Mr. Staruch has performed with the SPCO Chorale and the Minnesota Beethoven Festival Chorale, and as an instrumentalist with the Bach Society of Minnesota and with his own country-folk band, Belvidere Oasis.

Mr. Staruch brings his wealth of musical knowledge to Classical MPR's popular Friday Favorites. He and his wife, Naomi, have led music tours to Germany, India and to the Seattle Opera's Wagner Ring Cycle. Recently, he completed a 230-hour yoga teacher training. He loves to stand on his head.

Guest Conductor **Lawrence Weller**, a Chicago native, received his formal music training at the University of Illinois and Indiana University. He has performed as singer or conductor in concerts and operas throughout North America, Europe and South America. He has premiered more than 75 new works, performed 28 principal roles in opera and musical theater, and has been featured in recordings on seven labels. A regular performer with numerous musical organizations in Minnesota, the upper Midwest and nationally, he is consistently active as a singer, conductor, teacher, clinician and adjudicator.

Mr. Weller holds the title of Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota School of Music.

Yuri Ivan became the Artistic Director of the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra in 2007. He completed his formal music training in Ukraine, where his main teachers were Jarema Skybinky and Mykola Kolessa. After graduating from The State Conservatory of Music in Lviv, he was engaged from 1996 to 2000 as an Associate Conductor at The State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, where he conducted productions including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Pagliacci*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

In 2001, Mr. Ivan was named Artistic Director of the Trans-Carpathian Philharmonic, and he co-founded the Uzhgorod Youth Orchestra and the Young Virtuosi music festival in Ukraine. He also appeared with LVMI Opera, the National Symphony-Pops Orchestra of Ukraine, the National Broadcasting Company Orchestra of Ukraine and the Northern Hungarian Symphony. Mr. Ivan also holds a Doctorate Degree in conducting from the University of Minnesota where he studied with Akira Mori and Craig Kirchhoff.

In the Twin Cities metro area, Mr. Ivan collaborates with a range of artistic and educational organizations. He is the Music Director at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church, and has also served as the Music Director of the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra since 2006. In 2010, he founded the Byzantine Choral Festival, where he serves as Artistic Director.

The **Kenwood Symphony Orchestra (KSO)**, founded in 1972 as an arts education class at the Kenwood Community Center, is currently in its 45th season. From those humble beginnings, the orchestra has grown in membership, ability and reputation. Many gifted conductors have graced the podium, including Uri Barnea, Lee Humphries, Jim Riccardo, Jeannine Wager, William Intrilligator, Myles Hernandez, Kenneth Freed and Jeffrey Sterling. For the past nine seasons, the orchestra has been under the artistic direction of Yuri Ivan.

Based at Washburn High School in Minneapolis, KSO is comprised of over 50 highly accomplished musicians passionate about playing and sharing great music. KSO is a nonprofit organization financed primarily by members' dues, financial gifts from our supporters, our annual MCAC Winners' Showcase event, performance collaborations with the Metropolitan Ballet, and a 2016-17 grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.

19th Annual MCAC Judges

Conductor, pianist and composer **Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell** is a native of London. After education in England and France, he completed his studies at the Juilliard School, where he was the first to graduate with a Master's in Collaborative Piano. His varied career has taken him all over the United States, including Hawaii, and his performances include Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, as well as Wigmore Hall and London's South Bank. He is writing a book about musical artistry, imagination, creativity and expression, and is forming a new organization for musicians to develop these attributes. More information for Mr. Phipps-Kettlewell can be found at www.amademusic.com. Follow him on Twitter: [@roderickpk](https://twitter.com/roderickpk).

Please read above to learn more about returning adjudicator **Lawrence Weller**, who is also guest conducting the voice performances of the Winners' Showcase.

The **Masters Concerto and Aria Competition (MCAC)** was created by KSO to serve as a unique opportunity for adult and emerging professional musicians over the age of 25 to compete with their peers for the chance to perform with an orchestra. Tonight we are pleased to present the top two performers in the Amateur Category: Sonja Wangenstein and Sarah Wright; and the top four performers in the Emerging Professional Category: Carolyn Forte, Hyeegi Kim, Cameron Longabaugh, and Joseph Okell. Several candidates received Honorable Mention: Anna Christofaro, voice; Jeehoon Kim, voice; Salam Murtada, piano; and Minhee Park, piano.

KSO and the MCAC Coordinator would like to thank the following Volunteers for their generous support of this year's auditions:

John Renwick and Eleine Heisterkamp, Neill Merck, Laura Simonson, and Yuri Ivan.

Save the date for next year's auditions: November 11 & 12, 2017.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Guest Artist (\$750 and over):

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Section Leader (up to \$50):

Rita Franchett

Ann Markuson

Elaine Robashkin

Jacki Weibye

Acknowledgements

KSO would also like to sincerely thank:

- St. Albert the Great Catholic Church and its parishioners for their enthusiastic support in hosting this concert.
- Schmitt Music in Roseville, Minnesota for providing MCAC audition space. Please visit **schmittmusic.com** to find out more.
- The Cy and Paula DeCosse Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation for its part in providing music rental funding.
- Leonard and Ellen Pratt and Pratt Homes for endowing our Concertmaster Chair. Visit **pratthomes.com** to find your new dream home.
- Lakeside Floral & Gift for the flower arrangements.
- Olivia Hernandez for being the flower girl; and
- All the KSO musicians and fans who give their time, effort and encouragement to one another in pursuit of musical opportunity, excellence and joy.

We hope to see you at upcoming KSO Concerts - free and open to the public!

Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor and Franck's Symphony in D minor

Mindekirken, Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 7:30 PM

**Respighi's Pines of Rome, featuring the Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble,
and the Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor, with soloist**

Tony Ross of the Minnesota Orchestra

Our Lady of Peace, Sunday, May 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM



*This activity is funded, in part, by an appropriation
from the Minnesota State Legislature with
money from the State's general fund.*

KSO Members

Violin I

Brenda Haines
Barb Lamb
Gail Nelson
Julie Pronovici
Steven Rollin

Ian Snyder, Concertmaster

Ellen and Leonard Pratt Endowed Chair

Violin II

Stan Adams
Kassandra DiPietro
Erin Grorud, Principal
Patrick Plonski
Laura Simonson
Linda Xayamongkhon

Viola

Ann Bur, Principal
Patrick McCarthy
Erika Neely
Katy Schalla Lesiak
Jill Touchette

Harp

Jim Buxton, Guest

Cello

Todd Grill
Sarah Hernandez
Liesl Koehnen
Katherine Nyseth
John Renwick

Anne Swarts, Acting Principal

Bass

Al Albers
Stacy Aldrich, Principal
Neill Merck

Flute

Charlotte Bartholomew, Guest
Anne Cheney, Principal
Leslie Pietila

Piccolo

Leslie Pietila

Oboe

Julie Busen, Principal
Bryanne Presley, Guest
Tammy Wahlin

English Horn

Tammy Wahlin

Clarinet

Christopher Raddatz, Principal

Bassoon

Jackson Bryce, Acting Principal
Ellen Maas Pratt
Charlotte Toumaala, Guest

Horns

Nicole Danielson
Angela House Gritton, Principal
Bob Meier
Becky Monson

Trumpet

Howard Brahmstedt, Principal
James Olcott
Bob Zobal

Trombone

Chris Allen, Guest
Zach Gingerich, Guest Principal
Ian Gregory, Guest

Tuba

Sam Sharp

The Kenwood Symphony Orchestra's mission is to play, share and inspire great music by

- Offering performance opportunities
- Programming appealing repertoire
- Performing free concerts
- Including under-served communities

Visit www.kenwoodsymphonyorchestra.org and click on "Join the KSO" to learn more.

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