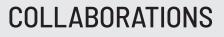




PROGRAM

Fanfares from Libuse **SMETANA** Arr. Vaclav Nelhybel GRAINGER The Power of Rome and the Christian Heart Kristen Lawrence, organ MICHAEL MARKOWSKI Brooklyn Air MICHAEL MARKOWSKI City Trees ~INTERMISSION~ LARRY TUTTLE The Information Age (World Premiere) HINDEMITH Symphonic Metamorphosis Arr. Keith Wilson Mvt. 1: Allegro Mvt. 2: Turandot (Scherzo) Mvt. 3: Andantino Mvt. 4: March



Monday, Mar. 11, 2024 @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore, conductor Kristen Lawrence, organ Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Hans and Valerie Imhof, S.L. and Betty Huang, Patrick Chen, and Elaine Sarkaria for their generous support of this program and the entire PSYE organization. Your dedication to nurturing young talent is truly the cornerstone of our success and growth.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

ABOUT PSYWE

Established in 2007, the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble (PSYWE) has quickly become the premier youth wind ensemble in Orange County, California. As one of only a handful of youth wind ensembles connected to a group one professional symphony orchestra (Pacific Symphony) in the United States, PSYWE is a high-level, pre-professional wind ensemble for dedicated and talented high school wind, brass, and percussionists from throughout Southern California.

Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore • Music Director Jonathan Bergeron • Youth Wind Ensemble Manager

FLUTE

Amy Choi, principal Ceren Altintas Siyu (Chelsea) Jiang Jia Kim Nicole Kim Antonia Park Lauren Peng Hyeyun (Hannah) Rhim Ouyue (Alice) Yu Emily Zhao

OBOE

David Wong, principal Joshua Lee Teadora Grimberg

CLARINET

John Yang, principal lan Cho Luc Eldridge, alumni Matthew Hsieh Seongwon (Wonny) Jang Matthew Kim Kaden Lee Ken Liu Daniel O'Grady Nicholas Park Euan Park Meitong (Annie) Song Garrett Walker Sean Yu

BASS CLARINET

Steven Ngo, *principal* Dylan Rosen

BASSOON

Shannon Liu, *principal* Sohrab Zarin

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Thomas Zhao, principal River Bridson Noah Chang Megan Chou Edward (Ben) Curley Vincent Nguyen Luke Toner Jared Wang William Wu

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Edward Kim, *principal* Sophie Nguyen

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Jacobo Herrara Monteon, principal

HORN

Andrew Fung, principal lan Cheng Yujia (Aurora) Li Devon Pope Michael Prunean Cameron Rhees Viget Vuong Samuel Wang

TRUMPET

Myles Sanjuro, principal Matthew Huerta Matthew Morikawa Jayden Peng Ian Yoon Bryson Young Eric Zhu

TROMBONE

Licheng (Jerry) Xu, principal Marie Bocanegra Kecheng (Kenneth) Gong Sierra Greany Caroline Hsu Kaden Kwak Parker Medvitz

BASS TROMBONE

Harrison Chiang, *principal* Ryan Kim

EUPHONIUM

Hsin-Ju (Lucy) Wu, principal Tehmina Zarin

TUBA

Bishop Plaza, *principal* Yosef (Violet) Dif

PERCUSSION

Audrey Lee, co-principal Savannah Tweedt, co-principal Matthew Blam Momoka Hayashibe Oliver Shiwota David Wong

PIANO

Ziyuan (Steven) Mo, principal

HARP

Amber Chui, principal

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Arnold O. Beckman High School Capistrano Valley High School Crean Lutheran High School Cypress High School **Diamond Bar High School** Eleanor Roosevelt High School Fairmont Preparatory Academy Fountain Valley High School Irvine High School Legacy Magnet Academy Los Altos High School Marina Highschool Mission Viejo High School Northwood High School Orange County School of the Arts Portola High School Richard Gahr High School Sage Hill School San Marcos High school Santa Monica High School Santiago High School University High School

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gregory Xavier Whitmore is Conductor of the University Symphonic Winds at California State University Fullerton

(CSUF). In addition to this artistic responsibility, Dr. Whitmore is an Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education and serves as Area



Coordinator of the CSUF Music Education Department. Dr. Whitmore is also in his 10th season as Music Director of the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, one of only a handful of youth wind ensembles connected to a group one professional symphony orchestra (Pacific Symphony) in the United States.

Dr. Whitmore's previous appointments in higher education include tenure as Director of Bands at Irvine Valley College (Irvine, CA), Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, CA), and College of the Desert (Palm Desert, CA). Prior to his work in higher education, Dr. Whitmore spent 13 years as Director of Bands at Cathedral City High School (Cathedral City, CA).

A proud Midwesterner and native of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. Whitmore earned his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from The University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance. While a student at Michigan, Dr. Whitmore performed in the University of Michigan Symphony and Concert Bands; and led the University of Michigan Marching Band as "Michigan's Man Up Front" – Drum Major – from 1999 to 2001 – becoming the second Black Drum Major in the history of the University of Michigan. Dr. Whitmore received his master's degree in music with an emphasis in wind conducting from California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Whitmore holds a master's degree, and a doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University (Teachers College) in the city of New York.

A Second Place Winner of the 2017 American Prize in Conducting, Dr. Whitmore has conducted ensembles around the world in such notable concert venues as The Golden Hall of The Musikverein (Vienna), The Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), The MuTh (Vienna), Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall (Costa Mesa), Symphony Hall (Chicago), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (New York City), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), Meng Hall (Fullerton, California), Holy Trinity Church (Stratford, England), St. John's Smith Square (London), Chateau Vaux le Vicomte (Paris), and Heidelberg Castle (Germany). Under Dr. Whitmore's direction, the Cathedral City High School Symphony Band was selected to perform as the showcase ensemble during the 2008 California Band Directors Association Annual Convention. Dr. Whitmore is a conductor for the World Strides Honors Performance Series.

With a research interest in music educator values as operationalized into pedagogy, in addition to investigating the concert band as an artistic medium; Dr. Whitmore has presented research at music education symposia in the United States and abroad. Dr. Whitmore's research has been published in Visions of Research in Music Education. Dr. Whitmore has been recognized in four editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and he has been included in the 2005-06 Edition of the National Honor Roll's *Outstanding American Teachers*. Dr. Whitmore was selected to represent the State of California by School Band and *Orchestra Magazine* in the 2008 edition of *"50 Band Directors Who Make a Difference."*

Dr. Whitmore belongs to professional organizations that include College Band Directors National Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, The National Association for Music Education, Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, and the California Music Educators Association. Learn more about Dr. Whitmore at gwhitmore.com

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Classically trained pipe organist Kristen Lawrence has been called the Queen of Halloween for writing and producing elegant, fun, and melodic music for the Halloween season—but enjoyed all year by fans.



Rue Morgue Magazine's music

editor described Lawrence's music this way: "With sweeping string arrangements, handsome lyrics and layers of her own graceful voice, Lawrence spins ethereal tales with a balance of macabre elements and kid-friendly whimsy ... that give her creations an instantly classic, fun-for-all-ages feel."

Lawrence's music and lyrics are unique and eclectic, colored by the diversified influences of Bach, Tori Amos, Loreena McKennitt, Elfman & Bartek, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Nightwish. Kristen incorporates these folk, classical, and rock genres to create her Halloween Carols.™ If Christmas has its carols, why not Halloween!

In addition to her original compositions, Lawrence has researched traditional folk songs and arranged them for organ. Her two versions of the English "Souling Song" are based on the older roots of Halloween traditions—one from pagan Samhain and the other from the Christian tradition of soul cakes that evolved into trick-or-treating. Her two versions of the American folk tune "Ghost of John" are loved by kids and their parents who sang it in grade school. Because of this research, Lawrence was asked to write about the music of Halloween for Halloween history expert Lesley Bannatyne's book, Halloween Nation: Behind the Scenes of America's Fright Night. An accomplished musician, she has been guest organist for Halloween Spooktaculars as well as many of Pacific Symphony's family programs, writing an accompanying Jurassic Park organ score for their Dinosaurs! program to highlight the 4322-pipe "monster" concert organ.

Lawrence was also commissioned to compose organ music to accompany the Lon Chaney silent film classic, *Phantom of the Opera*, playing her counterpointed themes live on the oldest pipe organ in Orange County. Her musical setting of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" for strings and organ reflects her serious analysis of Poe's famous poem and has been called "exquisite" by Poe scholars. It has been featured for the National Endowment of the Arts' *THE BIG READ: Short Stories and Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe*.

A Keyboard Magazine review, reporting about Lawrence's elegant use of pipe organ, harpsichord, piano, and vocals in her Halloween carols, foretold a spooky coincidence by stating, "If the Halloween Town of Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas had a resident keyboardist, it would be Kristen Lawrence." Who would have guessed that the planets would align so that Steve Bartek-orchestrator for Nightmare and other Danny Elfman film music—would be playing guitar with Kristen's latest music projects! Spooky good, indeed! Some of these most recent songs show the "rock" side of Kristen, and feature special quest performers Steve Bartek (Danny Elfman, Oingo Boingo), John Avila (Oingo Boingo), Jeff Friedl (Devo, A Perfect Circle), MB Gordy (Doobie Brothers), Monte Pittman (Madonna), and other magical musicians.

Michael Markowski (b. 1986) received his bachelor's degree in film practices from Arizona State University; he graduated magna cum laude in 2010. His *City Trees*, composed in 2012, reflects how, in his own words, "these trees have learned how to brave the concrete



jungle, and it gave me solace knowing that they had flourished in such a challenging environment."

Composer and performer **Larry Tuttle** studied piano and double bass since childhood and has frequently performed with various orchestras. Tuttle calls his 2024 piece *Information Age* a "symphonic invention," which according to the composer is



"a musical portrait of a fast-moving, hyper-active futuristic society, overflowing with melodies and intricate passage-work."

Composed in 1943, **Symphonic Metamorphosis after Themes by Carl Maria von Weber** by **Paul Hindemith** (1895-1963) is based on music by Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826). The piece uses a Chinese melody Weber encountered in Jean-Jacques



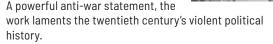
Rousseau's Dictionaire de Musique (published in 1767).

PROGRAM NOTES

Widely considered the "father" of Czech music, **Bedřich Smetana** (1824-1884) became a symbol of the "sound" of Czech music, and even the entire Czech nation itself. *Libuše* is the composer's fourth opera. The opera's title character Libuše is the queen of Bohemia;

the **fanfares** are used in her formal royal procession.

Born in Australia, **Percy Grainger** (1882-1962) was one of the 20th century's most idiosyncratic composers. Grainger's magnum opus, *The Power of Rome in the Christian Heart* draws on music composed between 1918 and 1943.



Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.