

GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

CSU UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

FINNISH

AND FABULOUS FINALS

CONDUCTED BY

WES KENNEY

WITH 2018 CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALISTS

DMITRI ASCARRUNZ (VIOLIN),

SICONG ZHOU (PIANO),

KATE GELSINGER (CLARINET) AND
OMAR CALIXTO (CLARINET)

FEBRUARY 7, 7:30 PM



Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

CSU UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FINNISH AND FABULOUS FINALS

WES KENNEY, Conductor

CSU SYMPHONY CONCERTO COMPETITION

JULES CONUS

(1869-1942)

Violin Concerto in E minor

(1896)

I. Allegro Molto

Dmitri Ascarrunz, Violin

FRANZ KROMMER

(1759-1831)

Concerto for Two Clarinets, op. 91

(1815)

II. Adagio

III. Alla Polacca

Kate Gelsinger and Omar Calixto, Clarinet

ROBERT SCHUMANN

(1810-1856)

Piano Concerto in A minor, op. 54

(1845)

II. Intermezzo: Andantino grazioso

III. Allegro vivace

Sicong Zhou, Piano

INTERMISSION

JEAN SIBELIUS

(1865-1957)

Symphony no. 1, op. 39

(1899)

I. Andante, ma non troppo – Allegro energico

II. Andante (ma non troppo lento)

III. Scherzo: Allegro

IV. Finale (Quasi una fantasia)

PROGRAM NOTES

Symphony No. 1 in E-minor, Op. 39

Jean Sibelius (1865–1957)

As one of the most prolific artists in Finnish history, the impact of Jean Sibelius on the culture of Finland is unrivaled. Sibelius offered a strong patriotic voice for the nation during his lifetime and his music brought the language-divided country together during drastic changes in economy and culture. While a majority of citizens spoke Finnish, others spoke Swedish or other Scandinavian languages. Sibelius is often credited for giving Finland its own voice. After graduating from Helsinki Music Institute, Sibelius moved to Berlin to study music. Although his original dream was to become a premier violinist, he quickly realized composition was his gift. While living in Berlin, Sibelius was too tempted by city living and fell into debt and alcoholism, which resulted in medical issues. He moved to Vienna to search for greater meaning. His time in the imperial city was pivotal. His preference moved toward orchestral music, rather than chamber music. He also began working diligently and became much more aware and critical of his own work. Both self-conscious and self-deprecating, Sibelius yearned for acceptance from his peers and the public. He also was rebellious. He battled between these personalities throughout his life, but ultimately the self-conscious side prevailed and Sibelius plummeted into desolation for the last thirty years of his life.

Sibelius was truly an independent artist. His inspiration came mostly from his home country. The vast open land, snowy landscapes, and forests can be heard throughout all of his music. Symphony No. 1 calls to Finland as the composer paints a vivid picture of the beauty and mystery of the nation's icy terrain, with busy string parts and brilliant brass melodies floating atop the open harmony. The composer began his first symphony in 1889 while in Berlin. The premiere of the work took place April 26, 1899. Obsessed with revision, his insatiable taste for perfection powered him to rework all his compositions throughout his life. The original manuscript of Symphony No. 1 is said to have been burned by Sibelius himself! The first symphony marks the beginning of an orchestral style much different than music composed earlier. Most symphonic works begin with themes that are developed throughout and then restated. In stark contrast, Sibelius gives the listener fragments and hints of what is to come throughout each movement. He presents three important musical figures almost immediately: first the timpani roll, then a clarinet solo, and finally an explosive string entrances. These ideas recur, develop, and thin out simultaneously. The most prominent themes and melodic content appear in the middle of movements. Thematic materials collide, creating an aural experience similar to piecing together a puzzle.

Though Sibelius is remembered mostly for his later symphonies, there is a sense of young aspiration and rebellion in his earliest. Young Sibelius emotes a feeling of unnerving ambition, while balancing traditional style. While he was determined to bring new light to orchestral writing, he remained fearful of disappointing his listeners and the composers who had come before him.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WES KENNEY, Conductor

JEREMY D. CUEBAS, Graduate Teaching Assistant

VIOLIN 1

Ryan Foley, *Concertmaster*
Frangel López-Ceseña, *Asst. Concertmaster*

José Aponte
Dmitri Ascarrunz
Casey Donohue
Katie Gardner
Steven Hsu
Brandon Lin
Josh Steinbecker
Graeson Van Anne
Ryan Wessel

VIOLIN 2

Jeremy D. Cuebas, *Principal*
Corban Green, *Asst. Principal*
Josie Glenn
Rawan Jarrar
Tabitha Lindahl
Gage Nolan
Will Purcelley
Tori Weingarten
Trey Yu

VIOLA

Rosa Cole Avenado, *Principal*
Sarah Chicoine, *Asst. Principal*
Jensen Duckstein-Bargones
Garret Durie
Cris Gade
Kadi Horn
Hailey Moy
Xareny Polanco
Ben Roth
Hailey Simmons
Michael Wells

CELLO

Julius Hochmuth, *Principal*
Norma Parrot, *Asst. Principal*
Joshua Greiner
Logan Griffin
Abigail Nelson
Addison Phillips
Sophia Ressler
Sarah Souders
Paul Walcott

BASS

Zuri Kargbo, *Principal*
Michael Rinko, *Asst. Principal*
Kayley Green
Charlton Hook
Danny Irwin
Stephen Morrison

FLUTE

Katie Miswell, *Principal*
Theresa Bungler
Kaelani McConnell

OBOE

Mylie Payne, *Principal*
Kyle Howe

CLARINET

Lara Neuss, *Principal*
Becca Stapfer

BASSOON

Tony Federico, *Principal*
Noah Beck
Joe Hoffarth

HORN

Ayo Derbyshire, *Principal*
Miranda Deblauwe
Andrew Meyers
Isabel Waterbury
Mackenzie Beeler, *Asst.*

TRUMPET

Thad Alberty, *Principal*
Max Heavner
Karla Rogers

TROMBONE

Will Gamache, *Principal*
Holly Morris

BASS TROMBONE

Dan Morris

TUBA

Heather Ewer

PERCUSSION

Chris Nadeau, *Principal*
Andrew Quinlan
Ian Maxwell
Henry Ives

HARP

Tonya Jilling

BIOGRAPHIES



The 2007 Grand Prize Winner of the Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition, **WES KENNEY** is now in his 15th season as Music Director of the Fort Collins (Colorado) Symphony and Director of Orchestras at Colorado State University. Named in 2004 to an additional post as Music Director of Opera Fort Collins, he currently conducts four to five professional or collegiate operatic productions as well as numerous orchestra concerts and dance performances each season throughout Northern Colorado.

Named Educator of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association in 2008, Mr. Kenney has always sought out opportunities to work with talented young people. He is now in his fifth season as Music Director of the Denver Young Artist Award.

Considered the premiere youth orchestra in the state of Colorado, DYAO made their Carnegie Hall debut to great acclaim in June of 2016. The orchestra has been recognized for its work as ambassadors for Denver. Last November the organization was presented with the Mayor of Denver's award for global outreach. Mr. Kenney has also led that orchestra on a European tour in 2014. He has been a Guest Conductor with the Alabama, New Mexico, and Virginia All-State Orchestras and served as Music Director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra for five seasons.

Mr. Kenney's recent guest conducting activities include the Acadiana Symphony (La), Colorado Music Festival, Lafayette (IN) Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Alabama Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Virginia Symphony, and the Richmond Symphony. International guest conducting includes performances with the Vidin State Philharmonic and Stara Zagora Opera Company in Bulgaria, the Edinburgh (Scotland) Music Festival, and the East China Normal University Symphony in Shanghai. He will guest conduct the Vietnamese National Symphony in Hanoi next January, then return to Asia in February to conduct the Changwon Philharmonic in Busan, Korea.

Former positions include Associate Conductor of the Virginia Symphony, Music Director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra, and faculty conducting positions with the College of William and Mary as well as San Francisco State University.

As a conducting pedagogue, he is a founder of the CSU Summer Master's Degree in Music Education with an emphasis in conducting. Now in its 12th year, the program is designed to help working music educators achieve a graduate degree in three summers without having to leave their positions. He has also taught at the Conductors Institute at Bard College with Harold Farberman and hosted a conducting workshop at Colorado State University for the Conductors Guild, teaching alongside Jorge Mester.

Mr. Kenney is a graduate of the University of Southern California and San Francisco State University and was awarded the prestigious Carmen Dragon Conducting Prize in 1992. Additional studies include a year at the Vienna Hochschule fur Musik, three years as a fellow at the Conductors Institute, several American Symphony Orchestra League and Conductors Guild Workshops, and the Sandpoint Festival. His teachers include Harold Farberman, Hans Beer, Gunther Schuller, Hans Swarovsky and Miltiades Carides.



Passionate about pursuing music professionally, **DMITRI ASCARRUNZ** is currently completing his fourth year at CSU, studying violin performance under Dr. Ron Francois. Frequently praised for a beautiful tone and playing with passion, Dmitri fell in love with the violin when he was eight, listening to a CD of Joshua Bell playing the *Four Seasons* by Vivaldi. Dmitri recalled listening to the recordings, entranced by the fast trills and arpeggios in the music. He said he was also inspired by frequent Colorado Symphony Orchestra performances. "I could feel the music vibrating throughout my body," he said, "It was one of the most thrilling and awe-inspiring experiences of my life to be surrounded and entranced by the music."

There was, however, an unprecedented difficulty Dmitri faced as a young, excited child. "The same year I started violin," he explains, "I was diagnosed with Sensory Processing Disorder, a learning disability where a person has difficulty receiving and responding to sensory information." As a result, Dmitri had trouble finding a teacher who would accommodate for his needs as a student. "Playing the violin forced me to learn how to confront my struggles and cope with my senses. I have learned to grow from challenges that I have faced, and those challenges are what drove me to compete in CSU's concerto competition. Previously, I had seen it as an unobtainable goal. Now, I know that anything is possible."

Dmitri wishes to inspire others to pursue their dreams even if the odds are not in their favor. To him, performing is an opportunity to share a moment with an audience, to move others, and to express his emotions musically. In the future, Dmitri wishes to pursue private teaching, an orchestral music career, and chamber music ensembles. "When I was a kid," he said, "I had a dream of being a soloist, to stand in front of an orchestra and move people with my music. I am glad this dream will come true."



Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, clarinetist **OMAR CALIXTO** is earning his master's degree studying with Dr. Wesley Ferreira. His undergraduate studies include a Music Performance degree, completed at the SUNY Fredonia School of Music in Fredonia, New York. Prior to moving to Fort Collins, Omar studied with teachers Dr. Andrew Seigel and Dr. David Abrams. He regularly performs in the Fort Collins community alongside other graduate clarinet students in the quartet, Quarthot. He has also participated with CSU Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra. Omar thoroughly enjoys the chamber music experience and hopes to one day pursue a career as a chamber musician. As he looks to the future, his aspirations not only include performing, but also teaching. Eventually he would like to hold a teaching position at the university level while maintaining a studio as great as the ones he has had the privilege to be a part of.



A native of Buffalo, New York, **KATE GELSINGER** is a Master's student at CSU where she studies with Dr. Wesley Ferreira. Previously she has received Bachelor's degrees in both Music Education and Clarinet Performance from the Fredonia School of Music where she studied with Dr. Andrew Seigel. As a clarinetist, Kate currently performs with ensembles at CSU and in the Fort Collins community. In the past, Kate spent several years performing with the Fredonia Wind Ensemble and toured with the group twice under the direction of Dr. Paula Holcomb. She is also a co-founder of the clarinet quartet MezzoBlasto, which has performed for professionals such as Quartetto Gelato and John

Mackey. As a teacher, Kate has a passion for sharing music of various styles, genres, and cultures with her students. In the past, she has taught clarinet students of all ages ranging from 9-17 and enjoys every second of it. She has also taught for New Horizons, an organization that provides music education opportunities to adults. This summer, Kate is looking forward to serving on the faculty of the Jr. Lift Clarinet Academy held at CSU. Performing as a finalist for CSU Concerto Competition is her most recent solo achievement and she is honored and privileged to do so.



SICONG ZHOU was born in Nanjing, China and started playing piano at age three. He attended various music festivals world-wide: the "Athenaeum International Academy for the Performing Arts" in Italy, and the "Sommerakademie Neuburg An Der Donau" in 2015 in Neuburg, Germany, where he studied with Russian pianist and pedagogue, Dr. Angela Cholakian. He performed at Shanghai Music Hall in China in 2015, and is now a senior in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at CSU under the tutelage of Dr. Janet Landreth. In his junior year as a Piano Performance major, Sicong was invited to serve as pianist with the graduate student string trio, and together they

performed a number of outstanding chamber music concerts in the spring semester of 2017, in addition to Sicong's numerous solo performances. In August, 2017, Sicong won the silver medal of International Keyboard Odyssey & Festival, U.S.A in Fort Collins.

APPLIED FACULTY

Violin

Ron Francois
Leslie Stewart

Viola

Margaret Miller

Cello

Barbara Thiem

Bass

Forest Greenough

Flute

Michelle Stanley

Oboe

Andrew Jacobson

Clarinet

Wesley Ferreira

Bassoon

Gary Moody

Horn

John McGuire

Trumpet

Caleb Hudson

Saxophone

Peter Sommer

Trombone

Terry Leahy

Tuba / Euphonium

Stephen Dombrowski

Percussion

Eric Hollenbeck

Harp

Courtney Hershey Bress

Piano

Janet Landreth

Organ

Joel Bacon

Voice

Tiffany Blake
John Carlo Pierce
Chris Reed
John Seesholtz

U P C O M I N G P E R F O R M A N C E S

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Aries Composers Festival / Percussion Ensemble	February 11, 6 p.m.	GCH
Aries Composers Festival / Faculty Chamber Music	February 12, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Aries Composers Festival / Electroacoustic Percussion / FREE	February 13, 4 p.m.	ORH
Music in the Museum Concert Series / FREE	February 13, noon and 6 p.m.	GAMA
Guest Artist Concert / Andy Harnsberger, Percussion / FREE	February 15, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
<i>Virtuoso</i> Series Concert / Mendelssohn Trio	February 19, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Voice Area Recital / FREE	February 20, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Jazz Ensembles Concert	February 21, 7:30 p.m.	GCH
Wind Symphony Concert	February 23, 7:30 p.m.	GCH

RALPH OPERA PROGRAM PERFORMANCES

<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	April 4, 6, 7:30 p.m.	GCH
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / FREE	April 5, 10 a.m.	GCH
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	April 8, 2 p.m.	GCH

DANCE PERFORMANCES

Spring Dance Concert	April 20, 21, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Concert	April 21, 2 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone Concert	May 4, 5, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone Concert	May 5, 2 p.m.	UDT

THEATRE PERFORMANCES

<i>Appropriate</i> by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins	February 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 7:30 p.m.	UT
<i>Appropriate</i> by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins	February 18, 25, 2 p.m.	UT
<i>Urinetown, The Musical</i> by Greg Kotis	April 27, 28, May 3, 4, 5, 7:30 p.m.	UT
<i>Urinetown, The Musical</i> by Greg Kotis	April 29, May 6, 2 p.m.	UT
Rockband Project Concert / FREE	May 10, 6:30 p.m.	UT

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