

C S U C O N C E R T O R C H E S T R A

CONDUCTED BY **LESLIE STEWART**
ANDREW MENDIZABAL, GRADUATE CONDUCTOR

Flights of Fancy



7 P.M. OCTOBER 4, 2020
Griffin Concert Hall



Colorado State University

Flights of Fancy



P R O G R A M

OF GLORIOUS PLUMAGE / RICHARD MEYER (B. 1957)

ANDREW MENDIZABAL, CONDUCTOR

THE LARK ASCENDING / RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

STRING ORCHESTRA VERSION

ARRANGED BY ADAM JOHNSON

RON FRANCOIS, VIOLIN SOLOIST

GRADUATE STRING QUARTET:

NANCY HERNANDEZ RAMIREZ, FIRST VIOLIN

JEAN DENNEY, SECOND VIOLIN

CARLY NELSON, VIOLA

FAITH ROHDE, CELLO

THE LARK ASCENDING BY GEORGE MEREDITH (1828-1909)

He rises and begins to round,

He drops the silver chain of sound,

Of many links without a break,

In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake.

For singing till his heaven fills,

"Tis love of earth that he instils,

And ever winging up and up,

Our valley is his golden cup,

And he the wine which overflows

To lift us with him as he goes.

Till lost on his aerial rings

In light, and then the fancy sings.

Colorado State University Concert Orchestra

LESLIE STEWART, CONDUCTOR

ANDREW MENDIZABAL, GRADUATE CONDUCTOR

FIRST VIOLIN

Casey Lee, *Concertmaster*

Grace Harbo, *Assistant Concertmaster*

Maria Koop

Amanda Muller

CELLO

Lily Pelletier, *Principal*

Cambree Staidl, *Assistant Principal*

Kristin Winger

Ashley Haliw

SECOND VIOLIN

Kiaya Johnson, *Principal*

Cherry Dzur, *Assistant Principal*

Lindsey Blasius

Morgan Gardner

Jennifer Clary

BASS

Amber Sheeran, *Principal*

Michael Atkinson, *Assistant Principal*

TRIANGLE

Andrew Mendizabal

VIOLA

Cydney Alvarez, *Principal*

Noah Kirchen, *Assistant Principal*

Andrew Mendizabal/Leslie Stewart

LIBRARIAN

Andrew Mendizabal

B I O G R A P H I E S

RON FRANCOIS has performed in venues across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Mexico as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. His performances have consistently won the acclaim of notable musicians. "...A fantastic violinist...a big talent," said Abram Shtern — concertmaster of the Kiev State Opera and professor at the Kiev Conservatory. Francois' playing is "...extremely musical. Francois plays with great sensitivity and warmth," said concert violinist Daniel Heifetz "...A wonderful musician...sensitive ensemble player and a brilliant violinist," said Michael Tree from the Guarneri String Quartet.

Founder of the Duo Francois with pianist Silvana Santinelli, the duo was recently awarded the Silver Medal in the 'Duo' and 'Emerging Artists' categories at the Global Music Awards. This prize was awarded for the 2017 release of the Duo Francois' first CD entitled "Mexico City Blues" on the Itinerant Classics label.

Most recently, Mexico City Blues was nominated as a semi-finalist at the American Prize Music Awards in the category of Chamber Music- Professional Division. The finals take place in Spring 2019.

From 2008-2012, Ron Francois served as the violinist for the Mendelssohn Trio and performed numerous concerts in Europe and the United States with this group and in 2010, the *Denver Post* named the Mendelssohn Trio one of Colorado's top chamber music groups. As a member of the Canadian Chamber Orchestra, IMusici de Montreal, Francois toured extensively in Canada and the U.S.A. Francois appears on two CD's with this group on the Chandos Label.

Ron François has also collaborated with some of the world's finest musicians including Boris Garlitsky, former concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra; Martin Chalifour, concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra; Arkady Fomin of the Dallas Symphony; and the Borromeo String Quartet to name a few.

Ron Francois' most influential mentors were concert violinist Daniel Heifetz; Arnold Steinhardt and John Dalley from the Guarneri String Quartet; Elizabeth Adkins, former concertmaster of the National Symphony; David Salness of the Audubon Quartet; Zvi Zeitlin; and Charles Castleman from the Eastman School of Music.

As a teacher and pedagogue, Ron Francois has been in demand since 2004. He has presented numerous masterclasses in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and China. In 2013, he won the "Outstanding Service Award for Teaching" from the American String Teacher Association, Colorado chapter.

Since 2002, Ron Francois has served as the head of the string area and professor of music at Colorado State University.

Professor **MARGARET MILLER** has served as the coordinator of CSU's **GRADUATE STRING QUARTET PROGRAM** since its inception in 2008. Participants in this program serve as principal players in the CSU Symphony, Sinfonietta and Opera Orchestra and receive chamber music coaching from Professor Miller, Dr. Francois and Professor Thiem as well as the internationally acclaimed Borromeo String Quartet. This year's members are:

Originally from Mexico, **NANCY HERNANDEZ RAMIREZ** started her music studies at the age of 13. She obtained her Bachelor of Music Performance degree in 2013 at the University of Veracruz under the guidance of Mikhail Medvid. Nancy has more than twelve years of experience as an orchestra and chamber music musician. She played with many professional orchestras in Mexico including the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra and Boca del Río Philharmonic Orchestra as well as performing throughout France, Germany, Brazil and the United States. In 2020 she graduated with a Masters degree in Music Performance at Colorado State University under the guidance of Ron Francois. Nancy is currently teaching privately in Fort Collins and has recently played with the Cheyenne Symphony.

JEAN DENNEY is performing as a guest artist with the Graduate String Quartet today. She has also recently served as a Guest Concertmaster and soloist with the Health & Wellness Community Orchestra. In addition to an active career as an orchestral musician, freelance violinist, and studio teacher, she serves the Ft. Collins Symphony as Personnel Manager. Ms. Denney earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Violin Performance from Colorado State University where she studied with Will Schwartz. Ms. Denney is a member of the Fort Collins Symphony and Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and has performed with BDT Stage (Boulder's Dinner Theatre), Cheyenne Symphony, Canyon Concert Ballet, Colorado Dance Theatre, Opera Fort Collins, Greeley Chorale, and Larimer Chorale. She has a history of teaching, coaching, and administrating both youth and adult music programs and continues to enjoy working with adult students.

CARLY NELSON is a second-year graduate student studying Viola Performance at Colorado State University. Carly graduated from Azusa Pacific University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance, where she had the opportunity to study with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic as well as musicians from the film music industry. Carly has studied viola privately with Basil Vendryes, Professor of Viola at the Lamont School of Music; Jonathan Moerschel, violist for the Calder Quartet; Gina Coletti, founder of ViolaFest Los Angeles and educator at the Colburn School of Performing Arts; and Margaret Miller, former violist for the Da Vinci Quartet and current professor of Viola Studies at Colorado State University. Carly is currently building her private studio in both Fort Collins and Centennial, Colorado where she teaches violin, viola, and piano.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, **FAITH ROHDE** is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Cello Performance at CSU and studies with CSU Cello Professor Barbara Thiem. Previous teachers include Robbin Chappars, Paul York, Anthony Kaiti, Jason Calloway, Natasha Farny, Dennis Parker, and Regina Mushabac. For four summers, Faith has participated in the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, working with world-renowned conductors in a semi-professional orchestra. She has taught at the Kentucky Christian Strings Camp and has served as a cello sectional coach for the Community Music School hosted by Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. Faith has

performed in masterclasses coached by Ralph Curry from the Cleveland Orchestra, David Louwerson from Ensemble Variance, Bryan Dumm from the Cleveland Orchestra, Martha Baldwin from the Cleveland Orchestra, and Jason Calloway from the Amernet String Quartet.

ABOUT OUR CONDUCTORS

ANDREW MENDIZABAL is a graduate student in instrumental conducting under the guidance of Maestro Wes Kenney. Drew is a native of Las Vegas, Nevada and received his Bachelor of Music Education degree at the University of Nevada- Reno in 2019, where he studied clarinet and conducting under the direction of Dr. Reed Chamberlin and Dr. Jason Altieri. He has received awards for his leadership and musicianship within the UNR music department and his involvement with the University Bands. Drew has conducted and performed with community ensembles, classroom ensembles, and university ensembles alike.

LESLIE STEWART has served as Director of String Pedagogy since 2006 and was named Conductor of the Concert Orchestra at CSU in 2012. Professor Stewart has been Music Director of the Health & Wellness Community Orchestra (a collaboration with Front Range Community College) since it was founded in 2008. In 2013 she honored with the “Outstanding Service Award” by the CSU College of Liberal Arts for her work with this ensemble. The Mayor and City Council of Ft. Collins declared February 20, 2018 to be “Leslie Stewart Day” in recognition of the orchestra’s 10th anniversary season.

Previous academic posts include Old Dominion University where she served as Assistant Professor of Violin and Director of Orchestral Activities beginning in 2000 and received the “Most Inspirational Faculty Member” awards from the College of Arts and Letters in 2006. She has also served on the faculties of Christopher Newport University and the Governor’s School for the Arts (both in Virginia), Chowan College in North Carolina and Dominican College of San Rafael in California.

An active guest conductor and clinician, she has worked with numerous youth symphonies, honor orchestras, and community symphonies throughout the United States, as well as in Germany, Scotland, and Brazil. Her former music directorships include the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra (Birmingham, Alabama), Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra (San Rafael, California) and Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia (Norfolk Virginia). A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Ms. Stewart holds Bachelor and Master degrees in Music Performance from the University of Southern California.



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