

CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

# *A Pair of Prodigies*



FELIX MENDELSSOHN



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

CONDUCTED BY

*Leslie Stewart*

WITH GUEST ARTIST

*Copper Ferreira, Clarinet*

DECEMBER 5, 2:30 P.M. ORGAN RECITAL HALL



Colorado State University



**CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA**

**Leslie Stewart, Conductor**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 2:30PM**

**ORGAN RECITAL HALL**

**Chorale and Allegro Maestoso from Symphony No. 5**

**Felix Mendelssohn**

(1809-1847)

Arr. by Jim Palmer

**Clarinet Concerto, K. 622**

Allegro

Adagio

Rondo

**W.A. Mozart**

(1756-1791)

**Copper Ferriera, soloist**

## PROGRAM NOTES BY LESLIE STEWART

Today's concert celebrates two of the greatest musical prodigies in the world: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Felix Mendelssohn. Both were born into families which recognized their phenomenal talents at an early age and nurtured their development.

Mozart's father, Leopold, was a professional violinist, composer, conductor and teacher. His treatise on violin playing is still considered an important reference on 18th-century performance practice. He was astonished to hear his 3-year-old son pick out tunes on the clavier and started giving him keyboard lessons. Wolfgang began composing at age 6, the same year that his father started taking him and his older sister Nannerl on tour to perform before royalty and aristocrats throughout Europe.

University of Redlands Music History professor James Keays wrote: "It was almost inevitable that Mozart would write a clarinet concerto, for no other major composer championed the new instrument more than Mozart...This particular work owes its existence to Mozart's friendship with the great clarinetist Anton Stadler, for whom he had earlier written the Clarinet Quintet." The instrument was actually evolving during Mozart's lifetime. He originally started writing the piece for basset horn, then revised it for Stadler's "basset clarinet", and finally the modern clarinet. It was finished in the last year of Mozart's life and was premiered by Stadler just seven weeks before his death at age of 36.

Mendelssohn's father Abraham was not a musician but due to his wealth as a successful banker, he was able to provide his precocious children with an extraordinarily rich education at home in music as well as the other arts, foreign languages and literature. Like Wolfgang, Felix had a talented older sister (Fanny) and both children were encouraged to compose as well as play the piano. There exists a charming drawing of 10-year-old Felix standing on a chair conducting an orchestra that his parents provided for him which performed at Sunday musicales at the family's home. By the time he was sixteen, he had composed four operas, as well as several concertos, string symphonies, cantatas and piano music.

A champion of Bach who worked tirelessly to revive interest in this composer and a great admirer of Beethoven whose Ninth Symphony includes a chorus in the final movement, Mendelssohn decided to quote the Lutheran hymn "Ein feste Burg" in the last movement of his "Reformation" Symphony No. 5. Written to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, this piece celebrates Mendelssohn's Protestant faith. He was only 20 years old when he wrote it.

The original symphony is for full orchestra. We are performing an arrangement for string orchestra by Jim Palmer which begins with the chorale and then quotes fugal material from the last movement. Like Mozart, Mendelssohn had a very productive, but short life. He died at age 38.

# CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Leslie Stewart, Conductor

## FIRST VIOLIN

Chris Snell, Concertmaster  
Charlee Andree  
Casey Lee  
Case Rasmussen

## SECOND VIOLIN

Ellie Cothran, Principal  
Scarlett Garsembke  
Morgan Gardner  
Colt Manseth  
Laurel Ave

## VIOLA

Camryn Nesiba, Principal  
Ianna Debrunner  
Amy Hood  
Noah Kirchen

## CELLO

Cara Guydish, Principal  
Avery Coates  
Emma Hebert

## BASS

Alayna Gilbert, Principal  
Sam Anderson  
Wesley Descauvage

## FLUTES

\*Emily Morton, Principal  
\*Emma Edwards

## CLARINETS

\*Kathlyn Dixon, Principal  
\*Rachel Nieves

## BASSOON

\*Kyle Minthorn  
\*Avery Dotson

## LIBRARIAN

Annie Smith

\*Guest Artist

## **ABOUT OUR SOLOIST**

Clarinetist **COPPER FERREIRA** has enjoyed a professional career that has taken her across North America and overseas. She completed her undergraduate degree at Brevard College (NC), under the tutelage of David Kirby where she attended the prestigious Brevard Music Center in 2002. In 2005, Professor Ferreira completed a Masters in Clarinet Performance at Arizona State University under Dr. Robert Spring, after which she made her international debut at the Xi'an International Clarinet and Saxophone festival in Xi'an, China. She also attained a Masters in Music Theory at the University of Western Ontario in 2007.

Professor Ferreira moved to Canada in 2005, and while there served as principal clarinet with the Stratford Civic Orchestra, the Charlottetown Festival Orchestra in their production of "Anne" and as second and bass clarinetist with Symphony New Brunswick, Symphony Nova Scotia, and the Prince Edward Island Symphony. She also held a position teaching music theory and studio clarinet at Mount Allison University (Canada).

Since relocating to Colorado in 2011, Professor Ferreira has performed regularly with the Colorado Ballet, Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Fort Collins Symphony, Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, Opera Steamboat, Boulder Philharmonic, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, and holds the position of bass clarinetist with the Wyoming Symphony. She has toured Europe as part of the CSU Faculty Chamber Winds, and she also maintains a thriving private clarinet studio of around 20 students who regularly win seats in local, regional, and state-wide honor bands. She appears as performer on several clarinet albums on the labels Summit Records, Potenza Music, and OClassica.

Professor Ferreira is currently a Senior Instructor at Colorado State University, teaching music theory and performing with faculty chamber ensembles, while also fostering an active freelance career in and around the Northern Colorado area.

## **ABOUT OUR CONDUCTOR**

**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, Professor Stewart holds Bachelor and Master degrees in Music Performance from the University of Southern California.



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