

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

University Symphony Orchestra
with the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra

Coming HOME

A Side-By-Side with NoCoYo (Folk Tales and New Worlds)

conducted by Rachel Waddell

*with guest conductor
Daniel Smith, NoCoYo music director*

*and 2025 Concerto Competition winner
Russell Wolfe*

APRIL 27, 2025, 3 P.M.
GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



The Bank
of CSU

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
APRIL 27, 2025 | 3 P.M. | GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL
COMING HOME: A SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH NOCOYO
(FOLK TALES AND NEW WORLDS)

Follow Us on Instagram @CSUOrchestras

Program:

Scottish Fantasy

Max Bruch (1838-1920)

Russell Wolfe, Violin

- I. Introduction: *Grave – Adagio cantabile*
- II. *Scherzo: Allegro*

Overture to Nabucco

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 - 1901)

Daniel F. Smith, Conductor

Symphony no. 9 in e minor

Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

- I. Adagio – Allegro molto
- II. Largo
- III. Scherzo: Molto vivace
- IV. Finale: Allegro con fuoco

THE NORTHERN COLORADO YOUTH ORCHESTRA (NOCOYO)

Daniel F. Smith - Founder / Music Director

Joshua Greiner - Conductor

Drew Mendizabal - Conductor

Cathy Verbyla - Conductor

Prof. Barbara Thiem - Director of Chamber Music

Annie Smith - Administrative Assistant

WOODWINDS:

Isabelle Fortner - Flute 1

Adeline Burrow - Flute 2/Picc

Joyce Chen - Clarinet 1

Ashley Artlip - Clarinet 2

Abby Fernandez - Oboe 1

Elias Bouchard - Bassoon 1

Rachel McReynolds - Bassoon 2

VIOLIN II:

Yuki Chen - P

Anne Ritschard - AP

Cole Perry

Coara Malinski

Xavier Jones

Ke Qu

Diana Bradford

Kacy Larson

BRASS:

Benjamin Sundheim - Trumpet 1

August Willhite - Horn 3

Owen Jensen - Trombone 1

Jake Jackel - Tuba

VIOLA:

Elias Everitt - CP

Herbert Crisman - AP

Addison Oulette

Maise Nettles

PERCUSSION:

Burke Mitchell

Caden Straw

VIOLIN I:

Elsa Andersen - CM

Kurt Hoyer - AP

Nicole Gallego

Isaiah Furuiye

Micah Scherman

Angela Wang

Bennett Kemp

Charlinn Lawler

CELLO:

Sophia Long - P

Louisa Mitchell - AP

Kirsten Lambert

Ethan Straw

Clara Mullins

Gerald Lawler

Annika Everitt

James Russell

Shea Archie

DOUBLE BASS:

Willa Payne - P

Ovella Huddleston - AP

Robert Call

Oliver Gibbons

Willem Steneck

CSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DR. RACHEL WADDELL, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

SAM COOPER, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

* = Graduating Student

FLUTE

Verdi:

Elizabeth Movinsky, *Principal*

Ben Rogers

Bruch:

Elizabeth Movinsky, *Principal*

Madison Tallman

Dvorak

Madison Tallman, *Principal*

Ben Rogers (2nd/Picc)

OBOE

Madina Rashidova, *Principal*

Sophie Haase, Oboe 2/EH

CLARINET

Peter Hansen, *Principal*

Bradley Irwin

BASSOON

Verdi:

Evelyn Underwood, *Principal*

Michael Coffey*

Bruch:

Charlie Beauregard, *Principal*

Evelyn Underwood

BASSOON (cont.)

Dvorak

Charlie Beauregard, *Principal*

Michael Coffey*

HORN

Verdi:

Sophia Marino, *Principal*

Erin Wilson*

Jacob Andersen*

Zoe Huff

Bruch:

Sophia Marino, *Principal*

Erin Wilson*

Jacob Andersen*

Zoe Huff

Dvorak:

Jacob Andersen*, *Principal*

Erin Wilson*

Sophia Marino

Zoe Huff

TRUMPET

Will Hiett*, *Principal*

Lauren Smith

TROMBONE

Hannah Steward, *Principal*

Silas Riep

Andrew Zimbelman, Bass

TUBA

Carson Ross*, *Principal*

PERCUSSION

Stuart Hoskins*, *Principal*

Lucille Harlow

Hannah Engholt

Neo Shaffer

HARP

Katerina Mead, *Principal*

VIOLIN 1

Cesar Reyes*, *Concertmaster*

Russell Wolfe

Ella Batson

Kirby Miller

Li Gomez

Sasha Latham

VIOLIN 2

Kathryn Carlos, *Principal*

Mason England

Lamarana Balde

Melissa Kelley

Haley Rieger

Jordan Olson

Grace Bennet

Shanon Cooper

VIOLA

Shawn Murphy*, *Principal*

Charlie Wootton

Cassidy Hall

Madison Ramonette

Percy Slovut*

Emily Rowe*

Genesis Tyler

CELLO

Axel Gallegos, *Principal*

Amy Effinger

Matthew Fox

Aurora Farrel

Mae Ferry*

Zuzu Davis

Alex Strobel

Cora Larson

Lillian Rogers

BASS

Max Williams, *Principal*

Lucy McHugh

Nick Hailey

Alison Podgorski

Jojo Matibag

Isaac Hermanson

LIBRARIANS

Dr. Ethan Urtz, Head Librarian

Devon Bignell

Cora Larson

SET-UP CREW

Alison Podgorski

Hannah Steward

CSU WOODWIND FACULTY

Dr. Cayla Bellamy

CSU STRING FACULTY

Ron Francois, Violin

Margaret Miller, Viola

Dr. Meredith Blecha-Wells, Cello

Dr. Forest Greenough, Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

Scottish Fantasy

Max Bruch (1838-1920)

German composer Max Bruch wrote his *Scottish Fantasy* in 1880, fourteen years after he completed his first violin concerto. Bruch resented the popularity of his concerto and embarked on a new work for violin and orchestra based on Scottish folk tunes. *Scottish Fantasy* lives between the concerto and fantasia. Its four movements musically portray the writings of Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott. The solo violin, accompanied by a virtuosic harp part, portrays a storyteller, winding through various folk tunes with the cyclic return of “Through the Woods, Laddie” tying them together. The introduction moves seamlessly into the first movement, presenting this memorable, recurrent theme for the first time. In the contrasting second movement, composed as a *Scherzo*, the orchestra offers bagpipe-esque drones while the solo violin provides variations on *Hey, the Dusty Miller*. While we perform the introduction and first two movements for you today, the remaining two movements are also based on Scottish melodies. The sweeping *Andante* offers a poignant rendition of *I’m Down for the Lack O’ Johnnie*, while the final, dance-like movement proudly presents *Scots what hae*. Bruch dedicated the work to the Spanish violinist, Pablo de Sarasate.

— Program Notes by Rachel L. Waddell

Overture to Nabucco

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 - 1901)

While Giuseppe Verdi likely worked on his third opera, *Nabucco*, for a while, he did not complete it until 1841. It premiered at *La Scala* on March 9, 1842, cementing Verdi’s career as an opera composer. The libretto, written by Italian opera composer Temistocle Solera, pulls from biblical inspiration (*2 Kings, Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Daniel*), the 1836 play by Auguste Aniret-Bourgeois and Francis Cornu, and Antonio Cortese’s ballet adaption of that play. *Nabucco* takes place in 587 BC in Jerusalem and Babylon. It follows the plight of the Hebrews and their assault by the Babylonian King, Nabucco. Over the opera’s four acts, we follow the ill-fated love of Israelite Ismaele and Nabucco’s younger daughter, Fenena. In a poignant story of surprise, betrayal, power, and forgiveness, Nabucco discovers new faith and is re-named king of the Israelites by Zaccaria, the high priest.

This overture provides a musical outline of the drama to come, beginning in the low brass with the theme of the Hebrews, representing steadfast faith. *Il maledetto*, the curse of the Israelites against Ismaele for betraying his people, follows. Over the course of the overture and opera, this theme returns through several reiterations, paralleling the transformation of faith over time. After a brief interruption of the opening theme, the overture presents the opera's most famous melody "*Va, pensiero*", a poignant chorus by the Hebrew slaves as they long for their homeland. Though physically enslaved, this chorus offers a bittersweet consolation: the freedom of their thoughts to go wherever they wish, including their homeland. Unallowed to dwell in their sorrow for long, the overture launches forward in a Rossini-esque coda, as *Il maledetto* returns.

— Program notes by Rachel L. Waddell

Symphony no. 9 in e minor
Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in e minor is often subtitled, "From the New World" or "Impressions and Greetings from the New World." Indeed, Dvořák composed his final symphony in New York City from 1892-1893, having relocated to the United States to direct the National Conservatory of Music, founded by Jeanette Thurber. Thurber wanted to create a French-inspired conservatory, funded by the government, and opened to all. Thurber believed in equal access to music education and charged Dvořák with finding the American sound. When Dvořák and his family arrived in the United States on September 27, 1892, they were surprised to find the country less than welcoming, and Dvořák was brandished for his support of African American and Native American music, which he proclaimed as the roots of American folk music and the future of classical music in our country.

This symphony, considered groundbreaking for its cyclic repetition of themes, premiered in New York City on December 15, 1893, by conductor Anton Seidl and the New York Philharmonic. Its four movements center on home, homesickness, and roots, as Dvorak intersperses themes inspired by Native American music and African American spirituals with Czech folk tunes. The symphony seems to search for home by a composer charged with finding ours. Dvořák found temporary solace in the small Czech enclave of Spillville, Iowa, but he was too distraught by the vast landscape to find peace. He ultimately returned with his family to Prague in March 1895.

The first movement begins as a daydream, interrupted by a steamboat (e.g., horn call). One can imagine a more modern scene of a composer's focus continually interrupted by New York

City taxi cabs. What follows are three themes presented in *sonata-allegro* form. The second movement received the title “Going Home” 30 years after its composition when William Arms Fisher set its famous melody to lyrics in 1922. Nevertheless, one cannot help but feel a distance and aching homesickness in this movement’s harmonic relationship to the e minor symphony. Composed in D major, this movement is harmonically as far away from e minor as Dvořák likely felt from his home. Both the second and third movements may be inspired by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s *The Song of Hiawatha*, which follows Native American folklore about Hiawatha, an Onondaga chief (currently the county where Syracuse, New York is located). This movement also draws undeniable similarities to the *scherzo* in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony. Much like Beethoven’s ninth, Dvořák’s final movement recollects each of the prior movements. Its heartfelt emotion and memorable melodies have made it one of Dvořák’s most widely performed and beloved works.

— Program notes by Rachel L. Waddell

The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who make our season possible. To our incredible musicians—your dedication, passion, and artistry continue to inspire us. Thank you for bringing your best to every rehearsal and performance. To our families—your unwavering support and encouragement allow our students to thrive. Thank you for every ride, every reminder, and every word of encouragement. To our teaching staff and conductors—your leadership, mentorship, and commitment to musical excellence shape the future of every young artist in this ensemble. To our administrative staff and volunteers—your behind-the-scenes efforts keep NoCoYO running smoothly. Thank you for your time, talent, and belief in our mission. To our donors and sponsors—your generosity ensures access to high-quality music education and unforgettable experiences for young musicians across Northern Colorado. To our community partners, schools, and venues—thank you for opening your doors and hearts to our students. Your support helps us inspire harmony for tomorrow. And finally, to everyone in the audience tonight—your presence affirms the value of music education in our world. Thank you for celebrating this moment with us.

THE CSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WISHES TO THANK:

Dr. Galit Kaunitz
Mike Solo
Valerie Reed, Peter Muller, and their Team
Jennifer Clary
Nicole Darling
Jim Doser
Dr. Ethan Urtz
Devon Bignell
Cora Larson
Alison Podgorski
Hannah Steward
Sam Cooper

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY MUSIC APPLIED FACULTY

Violin

Ron Francois

Viola

Margaret Miller

Cello

Meredith Blecha-Wells

Bass

Forest Greenough

Guitar

Jeff Laquatra

Flute

Ysmael Reyes
Michelle Stanley

Oboe

Galit Kaunitz

Clarinet

Wesley Ferreira

Saxophone

Peter Sommer
Dan Goble

Bassoon

Cayla Bellamy

Trumpet

Stanley Curtis

Horn

John McGuire

Trombone

Drew Leslie

Tuba/Euphonium

Chris Bloom

Percussion

Eric Hollenbeck
Shilo Stroman

Harp

Kathryn Harms

Piano

Bryan Wallick
Tim Burns

Organ

Joel Bacon

Voice

Nicole Asel
Tiffany Blake
John Lindsey

BIOS:



Russell Wolfe

Russell Wolfe, 20, began taking violin lessons from Erin Webb at the University of Memphis Community Music School when he was three years old. He went on to study under Pak Chung Cheng and Barrie Cooper, and now studies with Ron Francois at Colorado State University, where he is a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance.

In 2022, Russell won his category of the Beethoven Club of Memphis Young Artist Competition. He was a member of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program for eight consecutive seasons where he served various roles including concertmaster and 2023 concerto competition winner. In high school, Russell served as concertmaster of the White Station High School Orchestra and he has attended various orchestras and festivals, including the Memphis Summer Music Festival, Philadelphia International Music Festival, and Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts.

Alongside his musical studies, Russell is pursuing a Bachelor of Mathematics and a Minor in Chemistry. Russell enjoys backpacking, backcountry skiing, and is an avid long-distance runner. He completed his first ultramarathon when he was 15 years old, and has since completed 13 such races.



Daniel F. Smith

Founder & Artistic Director, The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra

Daniel F. Smith is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra, an organization he established in 2020 in response to the challenges facing music education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his visionary leadership, NoCoYO has grown from three socially distanced string ensembles to a nationally recognized program serving over 120 students annually. The organization now includes multiple large ensembles, including The Apprentice Ensemble, The Concert Ensemble, The Symphony Orchestra, and a chamber music program.

Mr. Smith's achievements with NoCoYO have garnered national attention. In 2022, the Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the American String Teachers Association

(ASTA) National Orchestra Festival, placing third in the nation. In 2024, the orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall, premiering *Interstellar Dreams* by Colorado composer Chris Pilsner. NoCoYO is currently preparing for its debut at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles in 2026. In recognition of his work, Mr. Smith was honored as the ASTA String Teacher of the Year in 2021.

A dedicated educator and conductor, Mr. Smith also serves as Director of Orchestras at Loveland High School and Lucile Erwin Middle School, where he oversees a comprehensive program of sixteen ensembles spanning grades six through twelve. His orchestras consistently receive superior ratings at regional and state festivals, and the Loveland High School Chamber Orchestra has qualified for the ASTA State Festival every year under his direction.

Mr. Smith holds degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from Colorado State University. He served for sixteen years as Principal Bassist with the 101st Army Band and has maintained a successful private studio, The Arco / Pizzicato Music Studio, for over two decades. His professional affiliations and collaborations extend throughout Colorado, where he remains an active performer, clinician, and advocate for youth in the arts.

Through his work with NoCoYO and the broader musical community, Mr. Smith continues to champion the mission of *Inspiring Harmony for Tomorrow*, creating transformative musical experiences that nurture young artists and strengthen the future of classical music.



Rachel Waddell

With energy, imagination, and a passion for people, American conductor Rachel Waddell proves an unabashed advocate for the 21st century orchestra. Her leadership across the country demonstrates her innate ability to transform vision into action. Rachel believes by uplifting, celebrating, and reflecting the artistry of our neighbors, orchestras become the creative heartbeat of our communities. Through breathtaking collaborations and an untiring dedication to education, mentorship, and community, Rachel inspires transformative experiences and ensembles.

Rachel serves as the Director of Orchestras at Colorado State University. Rachel's contributions to music education were recognized in 2024, when she was named a quarterfinalist for the 2025 Music Educator Award through the GRAMMYS. She is a popular clinician and guest conductor throughout the country. She conducted the Texas Music Educators Association All State Sinfonietta Orchestra in 2025, and the AA Montana Festival Orchestra in Helena in 2024. Previously she was the Director of Orchestral Activities and Assistant Professor

with the Arthur Satz Department of Music at the University of Rochester in New York. The UR Orchestras gained recognition as a two-time national winner for the American Prize's Vytautas Marjosius Memorial Award in Orchestral Programming in 2019 and 2020. In 2021, they won international acclaim in collaboration with conductor Tiffany Chang and Oberlin Conservatory through a digital performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, named Best Instrumental Performance of 2021 by the LIT Talent Awards.

Rachel maintains a busy profile in the professional and academic worlds. She has conducted orchestras around the world including the *Orchestre Métropolitain*, the Rochester, Las Vegas, Fort Wayne, and Denver Philharmonics, the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, and Cleveland's Suburban Symphony. While serving as the Associate Conductor of the Canton Symphony Orchestra in Ohio, Rachel conducted over 80 performances of classical, pops, and education concerts. She has attended numerous conducting programs including the Dallas Opera's prestigious Hart Institute for Women Conductors, and Mark Shapiro's Conducting Intensive at Juilliard. In August 2022 she made her Vienna debut conducting *Così fan tutte* as part of the Vienna Opera Academy. In July 2023 she made her Canadian debut with the *Orchestre Métropolitain*, after being selected to conduct by Yannick Nézet-Séguin at Le Domaine Forget de Charlevoix.

Rachel's interest in the constantly evolving role and responsibility of orchestras within their communities led her to co-found Conductors for Change, Inc., a 501(c)(3) for anyone reimagining the future of the American orchestra.

Rachel holds a DMA in Orchestra Conducting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a certificate in Music Industry Essentials from the prestigious Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

To learn more about Rachel Waddell please visit www.rachelwaddellconductor.com .

About NoCoYo

Inspiring Harmony for Tomorrow

In the midst of the profound impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic had on the arts, the inception of The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra became a reality, thanks to the unwavering dedication of parents, students, and teachers. With a collective vision for a brighter future for musicians of all ages and abilities in the Larimer County region and beyond, this passionate community emerged to breathe life into the world of music.

In just four seasons, our journey has been marked by extraordinary opportunities. At the close of our inaugural season, we received an invitation to showcase our talent at The American String Teachers Association's National Orchestra Festival. In our second season, we ventured to Atlanta, Georgia, securing a top-three placement in our debut competition. Recognizing the outstanding contributions of our founder, they were nominated and subsequently honored with the ASTA Outstanding String Teacher Award. Three months following our performance in Atlanta, we were invited to grace the stage at the iconic Carnegie Hall in New York in 2024. As we eagerly anticipate future seasons, the thrilling journey of music continues to unfold for our ensembles and musicians.

As time progresses and circumstances evolve, our guiding vision of "Inspiring Harmony for Tomorrow" remains steadfast. Rooted in our commitment to imparting critical life skills, fostering relentless perseverance, and nurturing empathy for all walks of life, we strive to make a lasting impact on our students. Through the transformative power of music education, we aspire to leave the world a little better than we found it, celebrating the universal language that unites us all.

www.nocoyo.org

THE
NORTHERN
COLORADO
YOUTH
ORCHESTRA

Join Us

Disney 2026

AUDITIONS DUE JULY 11TH

APPRENTICE ENSEMBLE - CONCERT ENSEMBLE - SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NOCOYO.ORG // @NOCOYOUTHORCH

LEVEL UP.

The NEW CSU™ Visa® Debit Card.



Show your Rams pride everywhere you go with the all-new CSU Visa® Debit Card – free with any FNBO checking account. New design. Raised detail. Premium finish.

fnbo

The Bank of CSU

fnbo.com/csu

Member FDIC