

CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA



CELEBRATING COLORADO COMPOSERS

**CONDUCTED BY LESLIE STEWART
AND ROB STAHLY, GRADUATE CONDUCTING STUDENT**

WITH MICHELLE STANLEY, FLUTE

MARCH 7, 7:30 P.M. | GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Leslie Stewart, Conductor

CELEBRATING COLORADO COMPOSERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 | 7:30 P.M. | GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL

Alice's Wonderland

David Bobrowitz (b. 1945)

Arr. Cameron Law

Gradients

Kevin Poelking (b. 1988)

Robert Stahly, student conductor

My Cross

Carter Pann (b. 1972)

Dr. Michelle Stanley, flute soloist

Taifu

Chris Pilsner (b. 1986)

NOTES FROM THE COMPOSERS ABOUT THEIR WORKS

Alice's Wonderland / David Bobrowitz (b. 1945)

Arr. Cameron Law

Based loosely on the 1865 novel by Lewis Carroll, this piece captures the fun and mystery of Alice's wonderland experiences. Although the composer's music intentionally does not deal in specifics, we can visualize such characters as White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat, and the other wonderland characters.

Gradients / Kevin Poelking (b. 1988)

Gradients follows the journey of a single grain of stone that has been chipped away from the top of a mountain by the relentless drip of water. As it descends through the peaks, it encounters a variety of ever changing styles as it moves through calming plateaus, sudden drops, and vast bodies of water.

Gradients was awarded 3rd Place in the 2022 American Prize for Composition. It was commissioned by the Cherry Creek School District Honor Orchestra in Denver, Colorado for a concert program inspired by their home state. It was premiered on January 18, 2020 under the baton of Dr. Erik Johnson.

My Cross / Carter Pann (b. 1972)

My Cross was commissioned as a gift to Boulder resident Laurie Hathorn by her husband, for soloist Christina Jennings. The piece is an exploration in *bel canto* writing for an instrument I have been in love with since my first forays as a composer. The technical challenges for the soloist lie primarily in breath control and in maintaining a sustained, beautiful tone throughout. Any meaning behind this music will remain a private, long-suffered trial for the composer to overcome.

Taifu / Chris Pilsner (b. 1986)

"Taifu" is the Japanese word for Typhoon. It wasn't until I was halfway through the piece that I realized how much like a storm it sounded. The ominous music at the beginning leads to an aggressive typhoon of repeated patterns that refuse to lose energy. Frequent modulations and aggressive *subito* fortissimos keep the listener from expecting where the piece will go next while a reoccurring melody and motives provide a cohesive foundation for the music.

"Taifu" was composed for the Windsor High School Symphony Orchestra in 2017.

CSU CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Leslie Stewart, Conductor

Robert Stahly, Orchestra GTA

FIRST VIOLIN

*Angel Bustillos, Co-Concertmaster

*Casey Lee, Co-Concertmaster

Ainsley Burch

Enas Elnaklawi

SECOND VIOLIN

*Patrick Cook, Principal

*Colin LoCascio, Assistant Principal

Hazel Burch

Emily King

+Cheryl Hite

+Jennifer Clary

VIOLA

*Bella Penna, Principal

*Rob Stahly Assistant Principal

Leslie Stewart

Grace Wright-Redard

Katie Koenig

CELLO

*Giselle Brygger, Principal

*Reese Klotz, Assistant Principal

Liv Caskey

Amber Davis

Brie Galante

Tyker Chrenka

BASS

*Hunter Dominguez, Principal

*Wesley Descauvage, Assistant Principal

Sophia Arnold

Carmylla Powers

Quinn Wierdsma

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD

Jane Godfrey

VIBRAPHONE

+Colin Ferry

HARP

+Kathryn Harms

*Denotes string player on Pann

+Denotes guest artist

ABOUT OUR COMPOSERS

KEVIN POELKING

(b. 1988, Downers Grove, IL)

Kevin Poelking began his musical career as an educator, performer, and conductor. While completing his studies in conducting at Colorado State University, Dr. Rebecca Phillips advised Poelking to begin studying with award-winning composer Dr. James M. David. When Poelking made the career switch to composing, he was quickly named a winner or top finalist in several competitions. As his music gained momentum, it caught the attention of Pulitzer-Prize Finalist Carter Pann who invited Poelking to pursue composition studies as a private student. In addition to maintaining his schedule as a regularly commissioned composer, Poelking continues teaching as a member of the Colorado State University music faculty. He also serves as Composer-in-Residence with the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras. Poelking regularly visits and collaborates with ensembles, professionals, and music students. He speaks publicly, guest lectures, and writes about healthy and efficient work habits in the teaching and creative field. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife Caitlin, a respected Physician Assistant professionally recognized for her work in family health and pediatrics.

CHRIS PILSNER

Composer and conductor Chris Pilsner is becoming an established name in the contemporary classical world. In the concert hall, Pilsner's music has been performed by groups as diverse as professional ensembles, universities, high schools, all-state/honor ensembles, and even in Carnegie Hall. He has also been commissioned by/recorded with professional orchestras across the world including the Vienna Synchron Stage Orchestra, Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Session Orchestra and the Budapest Scoring Orchestra. Pilsner's music can also be heard in the world of film where he most recently composed the score to feature length documentary *Finding Daylight* in 2021. As a conductor, Pilsner served as the Director of Orchestras at Windsor High School in Colorado from 2014-2019. Now a full-time composer and conductor, he regularly appears as a guest conductor/clinician with schools, honor bands/orchestras, and other ensembles across the nation. Because of his experience as a teacher, Pilsner is an avid supporter of music education and strives to keep creating new and original works for young individuals across the world. Pilsner holds a Masters of Music in Composition at Central Michigan University where he studied with renowned composer David Gillingham. He also holds two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado in Music Composition and Music Education. Pilsner is a member of ASCAP and proudly self-published through his publishing company Zicato Music.

CARTER PANN

Composer/pianist Carter Pann has written for and worked with musicians around the world, with performances by the London Symphony and City of Birmingham Symphony, the Tchaikovsky Symphony in Moscow, many radio symphonies around Europe, the Seattle

Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, the youth orchestras of New York and Chicago, and countless wind ensembles. He has worked with Richard Stoltzman, the Antares Ensemble, the Capitol Saxophone Quartet, the West Coast Wind Quintet, the River Oaks Chamber Ensemble, the Takács Quartet and many concert pianists. Awards include a Charles Ives Fellowship, a Masterprize seat in London and five ASCAP awards over the years. His numerous albums encompass solo, vocal, chamber, orchestral and wind ensemble music. Pann was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2016. He loves a good game of chess or poker with his students and friends, and currently teaches and conducts the Boulder Altitude Directive contemporary music ensemble at the University of Colorado Boulder.

DAVID BOBROWITZ

David Bobrowitz (b. February 21, 1945) is an American composer who has written and published over 235 works, including pieces for concert band, string orchestra and chorus. He worked as a music educator for the Great Neck Public School System where he taught band, orchestra, string orchestra and jazz band for 30 years. As a performer, he has worked as pianist, bass trombonist and baritonist. He did additional composition studies with Nicholas Flagello and Ludmilla Uhlela and trombone studies with Simon Karasick and Jack Elliot. Bobrowitz earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1967 from The Mannes College of Music and a Masters of Arts in 1968 from Teachers College, Columbia University. As a composer, Bobrowitz had his first major success with the choral work *The Creation* (A Rock Cantata), which he co-wrote with Steven Porter. As a band and orchestra composer, he has written or arranged works for all different levels of difficulty ranging from elementary through professional. His music often incorporates a wide range of styles and sometimes incorporates folk music from different countries. He has done commissions for schools, community bands and music fraternities. His music has been performed and recorded world wide.

CAMERON LAW

J. Cameron Law is an award-winning educator, cellist, conductor, and composer. He recently retired after a 29-year career as Director of Orchestras at Grand Junction High School and West Middle School. Law is in his 30th season as the Principal Cellist of the Grand Junction Symphony. Law is currently the String Editor for Grand Mesa Strings. His compositions and arrangements appear on several state lists, as Editor's Choices in the Pepper Music Catalog, and have been performed at the Midwest Conference in Chicago. His work *Sinapu* was premiered by the Grandview High School Orchestra at the 2015 National ASTA Conference in Salt Lake City. Law spends his summers as the Program Director for the Road Scholar Program at the Aspen Music Festival. He holds a bachelor's degree in Cello Performance with University Honors and Academic Distinction from Colorado State University, and a master's degree in Cello Performance and Teacher Certification from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Jeffrey Solow and Robert Culver. He and his wife Kathy and their dogs Cooper and Patsy Cline enjoy all the outdoor activities Western Colorado has to offer.

ABOUT OUR SOLOIST

MICHELLE BATTY STANLEY is Professor of Music, flute at Colorado State University where she is also the Chair of the Music Department and Director of the LEAP Institute, an arts administration and leadership program. Praised for her “fine breath control and offers subtlety in playing and a strong sense of the long, lyrical lines, Michelle is a performer of solo, chamber and orchestral music. She is a regular international artist and has enjoyed giving masterclasses from China to the U.S.. She has performed in throughout the U.S. and in Russia, Japan, China, France, England, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary and Russia. She is on the faculty of the Interharmony Music Festival in Italy.

Michelle is a regular performer in the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and is principal flute for the Pro Musica chamber orchestra and the Colorado Bach Ensemble. She was the second flutist/piccolo player with the Colorado Ballet Orchestra from 2008-2013. She has presented and performed for the National Flute Convention (2012-2023), performed at the Berkeley Early Music Festival, and spent five seasons as the second flutist with the Colorado Music Festival orchestra.

She has commissioned and premiered over 20 works from composers throughout the United States. Her first CD of newly commissioned chamber music was released by Centaur Records in 2006 and her second recording of French flute music was released by Navona records in 2018. Michelle is the flutist in Quatra Duo, a flute and guitar duo that released an album contemporary flute and guitar on Navona records in 2020.

Michelle received a M.M and D.M.A in flute performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and received a B.A. in Music from the University of New Hampshire. She also attended Trinity College of Music in London where she studied with Anne Cherry.

ABOUT OUR CONDUCTORS

ROBERT STAHLY is an adept and adaptive Northern Colorado based musician. During his 13 years as Director of Orchestras at Longmont High School Robert grew the orchestra program to over triple its size while at the same time increasing the quality and diversity of the ensembles. Active as a performer, he was the Associate Principal Cellist with the Longmont Symphony Orchestra, and is the cellist for the Elevation String Quartet. Robert is attending Colorado State University to pursue a Masters Degree in Orchestral Conducting, studying under Maestro Wes Kenney.

LESLIE STEWART has served on the faculty at Colorado State University since 2006, teaching a variety of classes including applied violin, violin pedagogy, chamber music and undergraduate conducting. She was named Conductor of the Concert Orchestra 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 Fort Collins declared February 20, 2018 to be “Leslie Stewart Day” in recognition of the orchestra’s 10 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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