

UNCSA Symphony Orchestra with Robert Franz: Shostakovich 5!

Robert Franz, guest conductor
Harry Conn Ngô, guitar

Stevens Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, September 18, 2021• 7:30 p.m.

Presented by

UNC School of the Arts
Brian Cole, Chancellor

School of Music
Saxton Rose, Dean



uncsa.edu/performances

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Uwertura (Overture for Orchestra) (1943) Grażyna Bacewicz
(1909 - 1969)

Concierto de Aranjuez (1939) Joaquín Rodrigo
Allegro con spirito (1901- 1999)
Adagio
Allegro gentile

Harry Conn Ngô, guitar

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 5 in D Minor (1937).....Dimitri Shostakovich
Moderato — Allegro non troppo (1906 - 1975)
Allegretto
Largo
Allegro non troppo

BIOGRAPHIES

Acclaimed conductor, **ROBERT FRANZ**, recognized as “an outstanding musician with profound intelligence,” has held to three principles throughout his career: a commitment to the highest artistic standards, to creating alliances and building bridges in each community he serves, and a dedication to being a strong force in music education. As music director of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, associate conductor of the Houston Symphony and artistic director of the Boise Baroque Orchestra, he has achieved success through his focus on each of these principles.

2021 marks his debut with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and upcoming guest conducting engagements include Tulsa’s Signature Symphony and returns to the Louisville Orchestra and the Austin Symphony. His appeal as a first-rate conductor and enthusiastic award-winning educator is acclaimed by critics, composers and audiences of all ages. Composer Bright Sheng praised Franz for his “extremely musical and passionate approach towards music making.” Franz is in increasing demand as a guest conductor, having collaborated with the Cleveland Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and Italy’s Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina. His versatility has led to performances with a wide array of artists including James Galway, Joshua Bell, Rachel Barton Pine, Chris Botti, Idina Menzel and Judy Collins, as well as his work with composers such as John Harbison, Jennifer Higdon and Jordan Pal. An eloquent speaker, Franz recently presented a TEDx Talk entitled Active Listening and Our Perception of Time.

In his eighth season as music director with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Franz was recognized by The Windsor Endowment for the Arts with its Arts Leadership Award. Faced with the challenge of maintaining a vital arts presence in the face of a pandemic, highlights of the 2020/2021 season included two curated digital concert series that he led and hosted. Recent collaborations include the Windsor International Film Festival, Art Gallery of Windsor, Windsor Public Library, Canadian Historical Aviation Association and the University of Windsor.

Franz serves as artistic director of the Boise Baroque Orchestra where he curated and led two digital concert series during the 2020/2021 season. Under his leadership, the orchestra has collaborated with Grammy-winning tenor Karim Sulayman and will undertake its first commercial recording project of classical oboe concerti for Centaur Records featuring rising star oboist Bhavani Kotha.

This season, Franz celebrates his 13th year as associate conductor of the Houston Symphony where he was recently honored with the Raphael Fliegel Award for Visionary Leadership to celebrate his immense success in advancing the organization's education and community engagement activities. The 2020-2021 season featured Franz leading the North American premiere of Author Dan Brown's musical children's book, "Wild Symphony."

As co-founder and conductor of the Idaho Orchestra Institute, now in its fifth year, Franz takes young musicians on an exploration of major orchestral repertoire that explores the complete musician.

In addition to his current posts, Franz served as music director of the Boise Philharmonic from 2008-2016 and the Mansfield Symphony (OH) from 2003-2010. When not on the podium he can be found on the slopes, skiing slowly and carefully, stretching in a yoga class, and non-competitively trying his hardest to win at a game of cards with his family.

HARRY CONN NGÔ began his musical journey and love of the guitar at a young age. Starting at eight years old, Ngô studied in Vietnam at the Hanoi Children's Palace, followed by the Hanoi College of the Arts, and finally at the Vietnam National Academy of Music. At 15 years old, Ngô traveled to the United States to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy. In 2016, he enrolled in the high school music program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) as a junior studying under acclaimed classical guitarist Joseph Pecoraro. Ngô is now in his undergraduate senior year in the UNCSA School of Music.

Ngô has performed and competed in various countries around the world including Vietnam, Thailand, Germany and the United States. He has won several competitions and festivals including winning second place in the Hanoi Open Guitar Contest and first place in the Altamira Guitar Competition in Bangkok. In the United States, Ngô competed in the Piedmont Classical Guitar Society's Guitar Festival Guitarganza, the Appalachian State Guitar Festival, placing first in both competitions, as well as winning both the 2019 Greensboro's Euterpe Music Club Scholarship Competition and the 2021 UNCSA Concerto Competition.

In 2021, Ngô became a certified Suzuki guitar teacher. Following in the footsteps of a family of teachers and educators, he takes great care and pleasure in using his skills and knowledge to serve the community around him through community engagement programs such as ArtistCorps at UNCSA.

UNCSA Symphony Orchestra

Robert Franz, guest conductor

Violin

Luca Kevorkian,
Concertmaster
Roni Shitrit,
Associate Concertmaster
Raphael Papo,
Assistant Concertmaster
Marta Đorović,
Principal Second
Ruth Kelley,
Assistant Principal Second
Ashley Abraham
Sophie Anderson
Heather Blake
Christina Demetropoulos
Ellie Dixon
Kennedy Graves
Finnian Long
Rosemarie Nelson
Jose Olea Vico
Zachary Olsen
Christine Park
Isabelle Parker
Addy Quinn
Keely Reitman
Zandra Sain
Matthias Semrau
Austen Speare
Nate Thomeer
Carlos Torres
Bella Ward
Ada Walker
Clara Weigele
Nicolas Williams
Austin Zhong
Yaruo Zhouxianjun

Viola

Laurence Brooke,
Principal
Marija Sesselgyte,
Assistant Principal
Joshua Forbes
Amanda Harrell
Jui Fan Lin
Xue Mei
Ella Paschal
Julian Smart

Yujie Wang
Cydney Williams
Dawson Yow

Cello

Sophie Lyman,
Principal
Johanna Di Norcia,
Assistant Principal
Noah Allemeier
Jake Anderson
Andrew Cho
Sam Mihavetz
David Shim
Emma Smith
Carlene Soderberg
Sam Tripp
Evan Vorhis
Elijah White

Double Bass

Emery Wegh,
Principal
Payton Baysinger,
Assistant Principal
Eliana Arnold
Lucas Caceres
Sean Darney
Gavin Hardy
Zane Hollomon
Simon Vazquez-Carr
David Wintermute
Laurel Young

Flute

Bacewicz

Kayla Cieslak (*piccolo*)
Elizabeth Saller
Emily Osborne

Rodrigo

Kayla Cieslak
Emily Osborne

Shostakovich

Isabel Aviles (*piccolo*)
Jaron Deming
Sydney Horner

Oboe / English Horn

Bacewicz

Maggie Williams
Kayla Bull

Rodrigo

Maggie Williams
Kayla Bull (*English horn*)

Shostakovich

Kaylin McClafferty
Maggie Williams

Clarinet

Bacewicz

Clara Ruiz
Trent Smart
Casey Mcguire (*bass*)

Rodrigo

Clara Ruiz
Trent Smart

Shostakovich

Clara Ruiz
Trent Smart
Kania Mills (*alumna*) (*E-flat*)

Bassoon

Bacewicz

Brianna Cantwell
Winfred Felton

Rodrigo

Winfred Felton
Emily Mastenbrook

Shostakovich

Kayleigh Bagley
Winfred Felton
Brianna Cantwell (*contra*)

Horn

Bacewicz

Elijah Barclift
Myles Moore
Cameron Pollard
Gabrielle Figueroa-Diaz

Rodrigo

Cameron Pollard
Myles Moore

Shostakovich

Logan Fischer
Elijah Barclift
Cameron Pollard
Myles Moore
Benjamin Weber (*alumnus*,
assistant principal)

Trumpet

Bacewicz

Emily Mudra
Zichao Liu

Rodrigo

Zichao Liu
Emily Mudra

Shostakovich

Sam Natvig
Emily Mudra
Zichao Liu

Trombone

Bacewicz

Thomas Holladay-Muñoz
Mason Waterman
Darien Baldwin (*bass*)

Shostakovich

Elijah Van Camp-Goh
Devin Cawley
Darien Baldwin (*bass*)

Tuba

Nelson Pardo

Harp

Grace Ludtke

Piano / Celesta

John Breen

Percussion (*seating rotates*)

Benjamin Burson
Michael Cornwell
Sebastian De Waart
Garrett Strauss
Dante Thomas

Production / Operations

Graduate Assistants

Tristen Craven
Emily Mastenbrook
Sam Natvig
Jose Olea Vico

Ensembles Library Graduate Assistants

Kayleigh Bagley
Kayla Bull

Ensembles Faculty / Staff

Mark A. Norman, *Director of Instrumental Ensembles*
Ken Wilmot, *Director of Artistic Operations*

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THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

UNCSEA MANIFESTO

We Believe

Artists enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **arts education** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **artistic training** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

Arts organizations improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

UNC School of the Arts nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Hooked! Twin Inspirations for Piano Quintet

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Watson Chamber Music Hall

Dimitri Vorobiev, piano; Kevin Lawrence, violin
Ulrich Eichenauer, viola; Brooks Whitehouse, cello
Paul Sharpe, double bass

When Schubert wrote the “Trout,” he and the benefactor who commissioned the piece were drawing inspiration from Hummel’s Piano Quintet, Op. 87, a piece that at that time was unique in its unusual instrumentation for piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass. “The Hummel” employs the same virtuosity, fire and elegant Viennese charm of its more famous offspring. The work is paired with a piece that Schubert’s “Trout” inspired: Ellen Taafe Zwilich’s engaging, jazzy and recently composed Quintet for Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass.

Louise Toppin in Recital

Thursday, September 23, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Watson Chamber Music Hall

Coloratura soprano Louise Toppin performs a recital of art songs and spirituals of the African Diaspora featuring works by women composers such as Margaret Bonds, Harriette Davison and Rosephanye Powell; and a world premiere song cycle, “For Terry,” by Maria Corley. Also included in the program are compositions by the celebrated composer Adolphus Hailstork.

Louise Toppin launched the African Diaspora Music Project (ADMP) in 2019, and it now contains 4,000 songs by composers of African descent. Currently a professor at University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, Dr. Toppin is also known for her extensive operatic, orchestral and oratorio performing career. Joining her for this program will be pianist John O’Brien, a member of East Carolina University’s music faculty.

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