

UNCSA String Ensembles with alumna guest artist Lady Jess

Lady Jess, violin
Kevin Lawrence, violin
UNCSA Alumni String Quintet
Karen Ní Bhroin, conductor

Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.

Presented by

UNC School of the Arts
Brian Cole, Chancellor

School of Music
Saxton Rose, Interim Dean



uncsa.edu/performances

UNCSA String Ensembles with alumna guest artist Lady Jess

from Five Pieces for String Orchestra, Op. 44 (1927).....Paul Hindemith
Slow (1895 - 1963)
Slow & Fast
Lively

Adagio for Strings (1936).....Samuel Barber
(1910 - 1981)

Bartok Ensemble

Karen Ní Bhroin, conductor

*Violin 1: Austen Speare (concert master), Nick Williams,
Ada Walker and Ruth Shumway*

*Violin 2: Elena Rang (principal), Christina Demetropoulos
and Addy Quinn*

Viola: Jui-Fan Lin (principal) and Brynn McKay

Cello: Jojo Di Norcia (principal), Noah Allemeier and Emma Smith

Double Bass: Payton Baysinger (principal) and Simon Basquez-Carr

“A Conversation with Lady Jess:
UNCSA Guest Artist and
2020 Alumni Artpreneur of the Year Award Recipient,”
with Brian Cole, UNCSA Chancellor

from Symphonie Concertante in G Major.....Joseph Boulogne
for Two Violins and Orchestra, Op. 13 (1778) (1745 - 1799)
Allegro

Lady Jess, violin

Kevin Lawrence, violin

UNCSA Alumni String Quintet

Fabrice Dharamraj (B.M. '96) and Charles Shafer (B.M. '10), violin

Matthew Darsey (B.M. '09), viola; Eli Kaynor (M.M. '16, P.A.C. '17), cello

Christian Gray (H.S. '10), double bass

UNCSA 2020 Alumni Artpreneur of the Year Award Presentation

*from Violin Concerto in G Major, Op. 2, No. 1 (1773)..... Joseph Boulogne
Allegro*

Lady Jess, violin

Karen Ní Bhroin, conductor

UNCSA Alumni String Quintet

Fabrice Dharamraj and Charles Shafer, violin

Matthew Darsey, viola; Eli Kaynor, cello

Christian Gray, double bass

with current student-artists in the School of Music

Becca Chadwick and Robbie Burleson, oboe

Bruce Brewster and Logan Fischer, horn

BIOGRAPHIES

LADY JESS, née Jessica McJunkins, received her Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) in 2009, and she currently performs in New York City and Los Angeles. Lady Jess leads strings under the baton of Darin Atwater's Soulful Symphony in Baltimore, is co-artistic director and concertmistress of the Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra (UPCO) in New York City, is a regular Los Angeles session musician, and is a soloing member of Beyoncé K Carter's band. Her artist credits include collaborations with Stevie Wonder, The Roots, J. Lo, Max Richter, Alicia Keys, Hans Zimmer, Diana Ross, Spike Lee, One Direction, Terence Blanchard, Jon Batiste, Will Downing, Jay Z, Solange and more. TV credits include "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon" with The Roots, "Saturday Night Live," NPR's "Tiny Desk" and more.

Recent projects include the Emmy-nominated documentary "Homecoming: A Film by Beyoncé" with accompanying live album, the "On The Run II Tour" with Beyoncé and Jay-Z, recording and arranging strings while on tour with the Carter's, for the Grammy-nominated joint album "Everything is Love" and the recently released soundtrack to Disney's "The Lion King" with Hans Zimmer. As a session musician in Los Angeles, she can also be heard on the soundtrack of "Charlie's Angels," "It II" and more. Lady Jess also performs with the Hollywood Bowl orchestra, most recently for performances of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" and Disney Pixar's "Coco" live. She is also a frequent soloist at "The Moth" on NPR.

Lady Jess is passionate about the immediate and continual diversification of the stage and studio. She has collaborated with Solange, Lauryn Hill, Chloe X Halle, The Roots, Frank Ocean, Wordless Music Orchestra, Questlove Gomez, Anderson Paak, De La Soul, Yolanda Adams, Kelsey Lu, Carrie Mae Weems, Alicia Hall Moran, Harlem Chamber Players and more. In 2017, Lady Jess was responsible for hiring string ensembles for performances with Solange at Radio City Music Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, The Greek (Berkeley, CA) and the Kennedy Center. During the 2019 grand opening of The Shed, the architecturally ambitious new art space in New York City, Lady Jess contracted three ensembles

for a commission developed by Quincy Jones. Her players can be seen onstage at “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon,” and “The Late Show with James Corden.”

As an educator, Lady Jess was head teacher and 2016 Teacher of the Year with the Harmony Program (HP), New York. She coordinated sites in Chinatown and midtown Manhattan, and currently sits on the HP junior board. From 2011-2017, she apprenticed with Roberta Guaspari and maintained her own studio at the Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, serving sites in central and East Harlem. She is currently a teaching artist with the Harlem Chamber Players.

KEVIN LAWRENCE, has consistently elicited superlative responses for his performances in major musical centers of the United States and Europe. He has appeared in recital at the National Gallery of Art in Washington; Merkin Hall and Lincoln Center in New York; in Chicago, Houston, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Rome, Prague, St. Petersburg and Moscow. Lawrence has premiered works by contemporary American compositional voices Laura Kaminsky, Judith Shatin, Lawrence Dillon, Michael Rothkopf and Evan Chambers. His recordings of American sonatas and chamber music on the New World and Bridge labels won significant critical recognition and were named as Critics Choice by American Record Guide.

Lawrence studied with Ivan Galamian and Felix Galimir at the Juilliard School and with Josef Gingold at the Meadowmount School in Westport, New York. In 1980, Galamian appointed Lawrence to the Meadowmount faculty, where he went on to teach for 14 years. Afterward, he became dean and then artistic director of the Killington Music Festival in Vermont. He is the founder and director of Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, which will hold its seventeenth season on the campus of University of Vermont next summer. Lawrence has given master classes throughout the United States and in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, Costa Rica, China, Thailand and Korea. Since 1990, he has served as a faculty member of UNCSA, where he was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007.

KAREN NÍ BHROIN is from Co. Wexford, Ireland and is one of Ireland's leading young conductors. She holds the position of associate conductor/visiting professor at UNCSA.

Ní Bhroin was announced as the new assistant conductor for the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra beginning with the 2020-2021 season. She is also the music director for the Winston-Salem Symphony's Youth Orchestra Program. In 2019, Ní Bhroin was appointed assistant director of the Akron Symphony Chorus (Ohio) and she made her debut with the Akron Symphony Orchestra in 2020.

Ní Bhroin was RTÉ Conductor in Training from 2016-2018 working with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and RTÉ Philharmonic Choir in Dublin, Ireland. Here she worked with chorus master Mark Hindley and the RTÉ Philharmonic Choir as well as with RTÉ principal guest conductor Nathalie Stutzmann.

During the summer of 2019, Ní Bhroin served as assistant conductor at the National Music Festival USA with conductor Richard Rosenberg. That same year she attended the Dartington International Summer School to study advanced conducting, and during 2018, she was a Britten-Pears Young Artist under Marin Alsop at Snape Maltings, UK.

Ní Bhroin is a graduate of Ireland's Trinity College Dublin (2013) and Ohio's Kent State University (2020), where she held the position of graduate assistant orchestral conductor with Jungho Kim while pursuing her masters in orchestral conducting.

DEAN'S COUNCILS FOR UNCSA

The Dean's Councils support each of UNCSA's five arts schools – Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. Dean's Council members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, work closely with the Dean to advance that school's mission and fundraising priorities, and enjoy a deeper relationship with the Dean and students of the school. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of committed individuals, please contact Vice Chancellor for Advancement Ed Lewis at 336-770-3330 or lewise@uncsa.edu.

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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.

UNCSA 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

UNCSA Piano Studios in Recital

Friday, November 20, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.
Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall

Students from the piano studios perform their fall recital.

“The Nutcracker” Livestream and On-Demand Events

The production will open with “The Nutcracker” Opening Night Scholarship Benefit on December 12, a fundraiser for student scholarships at UNCSA.

Beginning December 17, “The Nutcracker” will be widely available for free to watch on demand throughout the holiday season.

The timeless tale of “The Nutcracker” steps into the present in the world premiere of the popular annual holiday tradition newly created for film. The schools of Dance, Design & Production, Filmmaking, and Music will collaborate for the first time to create a 30-minute version of the beloved classic adapted for the screen.

Directed by Interim Dean of Dance Jared Redick with all-new choreography by School of Dance faculty member Ilya Kozadayev, the production honors the memorable story while reflecting modern sensibilities. Rosemary Harris, award-winning actor and wife of the late UNCSA founder John Ehle, delivers a brand new narration written for the film, while Guest Conductor Karin Hendrickson leads the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra performing excerpts from the original orchestration of Tchaikovsky’s iconic score; the musicians will be featured on screen. Additional guest artists will be announced at a later date.

To achieve the illusion while remaining safe, the cast of student dancers will be filmed in the largest soundstage at UNCSA. Visual effects and CGI, designed and developed by Filmmaking students, will bring the story to life. Sound designers and editors from Filmmaking will work with Design & Production and Music students to record the soundtrack.

UNCSA

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