

## ABOUT FIREWORKS

Fireworks tours throughout the United States each year and has appeared at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall, The Library of Congress, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and The Chautauqua Institution to rock and jazz clubs such as (le) Poisson Rouge, The Knitting Factory, and Tonic. The ensemble has made numerous radio and television appearances, including Minnesota Public Radio, WNYC, and NBC's "The 10 Show." Passionate about its work with young people and dedicated to reaching new audiences of all ages, Fireworks devotes a large part of its time each year to educational activities. The ensemble's workshops, master classes, and residencies have reached thousands of students throughout the country. Fireworks has participated in Chamber Music America's Residency Partnership Program, Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections program, and is a frequent ensemble-in-residence at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium. Fireworks records for the Entertainment One label.

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**Season 113, Program 35**

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# SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

**UO VANGUARD SERIES**

**FIRE  
WORKS**  
ensemble

**Robert Burkhart**  
cello

**Brian Coughlin**  
bass

**Alex Hamlin**  
clarinet & saxophone

**Pauline Kim**  
violin

**David Mancuso**  
percussion

**Adam Marks**  
piano & accordion

**Gyan Riley**  
guitar

**Beall Concert Hall**  
Saturday, February 22, 2014 | 8 p.m.



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| Candide Overture (1956)                                   | Leonard Bernstein<br>(1918 – 1990)                               |
| The Housatonic at Stockbridge (1914)                      | Charles Ives<br>(1874 – 1954)                                    |
| Three Preludes (1926)                                     | George Gershwin<br>(1898 – 1937)                                 |
| 1. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso                           |  |
| 2. Andante con moto e poco rubato                         |  |
| 3. Andante ben ritmato e deciso                           |  |
| Bluegrass Breakdown (1947)                                | Bill Monroe<br>(1911-1996)                                       |
| Ah, May the Wild<br>Rose Live Always (1850/1896)          | Stephen Foster<br>(1826-1864)<br>Edward MacDowell<br>(1860-1908) |
| Rhode Island (1799)                                       | Traditional  |
| Working Fire<br>(Variations on a Sacred Harp Tune) (2008) | Robert Kyr<br>(b. 1952)  |
| Four Symphonic Dances<br>from “West Side Story” (1961)    | Leonard Bernstein  |
| 1. Rumble   |  |
| 2. Cool Fugue   |  |
| 3. Scherzo  |  |
| 4. Mambo  |  |

An amplified chamber band with a repertoire that encompasses contemporary chamber music, Frank Zappa’s instrumental rock, traditional Americana, classic cartoon music, ambient techno, and reinventions of 20th-century orchestral music (to name a few), Fireworks offers a fresh perspective on chamber music for a new generation of listeners. Founded in 2000 by composer/bassist Brian Coughlin, Fireworks was one of New York City’s first indie-classical bands. Fireworks burst onto the music scene with its rock-inspired version of Stravinsky’s orchestral masterpiece, *The Rite of Spring*. Called “adventurous and ahead of the curve,” “classically-trained but musically fearless,” and “the bridge between the contemporary classical new music ensemble and the mainstream popular audience,” Fireworks quickly drew the attention of critics and a national audience. Over its ten-year history, the ensemble has expanded its repertoire with collections of compositions and arrangements that combine music from a vast palette of styles and time periods into cohesive musical experiences. Fireworks’ programs such as *Dance Mix* (700 years of dance music from around the world), *Cartoon* (music and video inspired by the golden age of animation), *American Tapestry* (great American folk, rock, jazz, and classical masterpieces), and *None of the Above* (the virtuosic instrumental music of Frank Zappa), have established the group as one of the country’s most vibrant and creative young ensembles.

— INTERMISSION —

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| America (2007)                            | Brian Coughlin<br>(b. 1973)       |
| Jumpin' Punkins (1941)                    | Mercer Ellington<br>(1919 – 1996) |
| Madeleine                                 | Traditional                       |
| Honky Tonk Train Blues (1927)             | Meade “Lux” Lewis<br>(1905-1964)  |
| Check the Rhyme (1991)                    | A Tribe Called Quest              |
| Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair | Traditional                       |
| Gideon (2005)                             | James Olliges, Jr.<br>(B. 1977)   |
| Hallelujah (1835)                         | William Walker<br>(1809-1875)     |
| Hallelujah (1984)                         | Leonard Cohen<br>(b. 1934)        |
| Hoe-Down (from “Rodeo”) (1944)            | Aaron Copland<br>(1900-1990)      |

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The journey takes the listener across the country and through time, visiting a wide range of musical styles, all presented in Fireworks’ unique interpretations. Jazz and blues, from the railroad rhythms of stride piano to the sounds of the swing era big band, rub shoulders with Appalachian bluegrass and country rock. Early American folk songs are juxtaposed with hip hop. In the field of concert music, Fireworks traces the development of America’s national style from the raw, earthy spirituality of the shape note music of Colonial New England to the genteel tunes of Stephen Foster and Edward McDowell, the early 20th century orchestral masterpieces by Aaron Copland and Charles Ives, and recent works by Brian Coughlin and Robert Kyr.

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