# Symphony Orchestra

Dr. David Jacobs, conductor







Vaughan-Williams

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Beall Concert Hall Saturday, March 1, 2014 | 7:30 p.m.



**PROGRAM PERSONNEL** 

Concerto #2 in G major, op. 13 Allegretto moderato

Friedrich Seitz arr. Patty Nicholas (1848-1918)4'

featuring students from the **UO Community Music Institute** 

Sofia Bremer Reina Nagata Emma Clarke Miranda Newman Kenji Ignatius Katie Siegfried Alejandro McClain Serena Strode

Vestiges of a Distant Time (1996, rev. 2003)

David Crumb b. 1962 11'

University of Oregon Chamber Orchestra (UOCO)

Symphony #5

Ralph Vaughan-Williams (1872 - 1958)Preludio Scherzo 42'

Romanza Passacaglia

#### **BASSOON**

Raquel Vargas-Ramirez, principal Kaden Christensen Kathryn Cummings

#### HORN

Margarite Waddell, principal Mara Liechty, principal (Crumb) Amos Heifner Sarah Morrow

#### **TRUMPET**

John Davison, principal Thomas Cushman

#### **TROMBONE**

John Church, principal Nick Ivers Stephen Young, bass

#### **TUBA**

Gavin Milligan, principal

## **TIMPANI**

Adam Dunson, principal

## **PERCUSSION**

Casey Crane, principal

## **PIANO**

Olga Oseth, principal

+= UOCO strings

PERSONNEL PROGRAM NOTES

#### **VIOLIN I**

Michael Weiland+, concertmaster

Bashar Matti+ Noah Jenkins Leslie Nuñez+

Samuel Taylor+ Izabel Austin

Christopher Stark+

Alexis Byers Sophie Lott+

Christopher Ives+, concertmaster

(Crumb)

#### **VIOLIN II**

Holly Roberts+, principal

Amara Sperber+ Anne Wolfe+

Elyse Hudson

Mary Evans, principal (Crumb)

Christine Senavsky+

Emily Schoen Martin Kwon

Chen-Yun Yang

# **VIOLA**

Annissa Olson+, principal

Hannah Breyer+ Christine Tatman Jordan Nelson

Tommi Moore+

Christian Rivaz

Hao Liu

Sean Flynn+

#### **CELLO**

Natalie Parker+, principal

MaKenna Carrico+ Kathryn Brunhaver

Nora Willauer+

Molly Tourtelot

Gabriel Skyms

Jennifer Jordan+

Anjelica Urciel

#### **BASS**

Milo Fultz+, principal

Kyle Sanborn+

Georgia Muggli

Evan Pardi

Sam Miller

Rhys Gates+

Austin Haag

# **FLUTE**

Sarah Benton, principal

Sam Golter

Meghan Naxer, piccolo

#### **OBOE**

Laura Goben, principal

Meghan Zochert,

english horn

## **CLARINET**

Colleen White, principal

Josh Hettwer

#### SEITZ

The manuscript found at the Library of Congress dates the work "Concerto Number Two" as being written in 1893. This manuscript does not call the work a concerto. It refers to the work as a "Schüler-Concert" meaning a children's concert. The manuscript goes on to say the Children's Concert is in G major for violin and piano. The G major, op. 13 is one of Seitz's best compositions. Most of his compositions were for violin and piano for the purposes of teaching children.

Tonight it is being presented in collaboration with the University of Oregon's acclaimed Community Music Institute. CMI provides comprehensive string instrument instruction designed to develop musicianship, exceptional instrumental skill, and a life-long appreciation of the musical arts. Founded in 1993, CMI was initiated as an effort to broaden the UO School of Music's engagement with the community at large, and to provide growth for UO string pedagogy students and community students and parents through long-term mentoship. Through the Suzuki Strings and Chamber Players programs, dedicated faculty and UO student teachers provide individual instruction, group classes, music theory classes, and small orchestra and chamber ensemble experiences to students ages four and older in Eugene and its surrounding communities. To find out more about CMI, including upcoming performances, events, and enrollment, please visit uocmi.org

#### **CRUMB**

On occasion, while traveling to regions where ancient civilizations once stood, I have felt haunted by vestigial spirits from distant times. While exploring such places as old city Jerusalem, or strolling among ancient Mayan ruins, this nebulous feeling of being surrounded by the ghosts of antiquity, whether real or imagined, inspired me to compose the tone poem *Vestiges of a Distant Time*.

Conceptually, the piece evolves out of a simple yet evocative three-chord modal progression introduced near the beginning. To me, this pseudo-Renaissance progression feels ancient and nostalgic; the special sound of the Oboe d'amore is used to enhance this character. The three-chord progression continues to serve as the primary thread of the piece,

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propelling the music forward through strings of sequences that ultimately lead to an effusive dance-like music. Just as this music reaches an exhilarating point of climax, there is an abrupt interruption, marking a return to the melancholy descending line of the opening bars.

Originally commissioned by the Cumberland Valley Chamber Players, a chamber orchestra based in rural Pennsylvania (Wilson College), *Vestiges of a Distant Time* was premiered in April 1996. In fall 2003, I decided to substantially re-orchestrate the work, releasing it in its present version for full symphony orchestra.

#### **VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS**

The first performance of this work, conducted by the composer during the 1943 Promenade Concerts, made an immediate and deep impression on a public burdened by wartime anxieties, who were to find in the calm reassurance of this music a release from grey reality and a foretaste of peace to come. The most common image of Ralph Vaughan Williams is that of the comfortable English pastoralist, and the Fifth Symphony, the most widely performed of his nine, seems on first acquaintance to conform totally to that image, yet beneath the surface there are occasional dark undertows, which well up most clearly in the scherzo's brusque brass punctuations and in the troubled central section of the slow movement. The landscapes that the Fifth explores are by no means as benign as they at first appear, which is perhaps not surprising considering that it is bracketed in Vaughan Williams's symphonic development by two very different works, the violent and extreme Fourth Symphony of 1935, which seems to foreshadow the world-wide conflagration to come, and the Sixth, composed in 1947, which inhabits a world totally numbed by the horror of what that war had produced. Whilst Vaughan Williams wished the work to be judged purely as an abstract musical argument, the symphony is imbued with the mood and underlying philosophy of The Pilgrim's Progress, a work with which the composer had been preoccupied since 1922. Although eventually completed in 1951, by the late thirties he had come to the conclusion that it was unlikely that the opera would ever be finished, and consequently conceived the idea of using some of the material as the basis for this symphony. Vaughan Williams was said to have been

uncertain as to what key title to give the symphony. It begins with an octave C held by the cellos and basses above which two horns play the call in D major, which haunts the movement. The music seems mysterious and withdrawn, with a pervading sense of irresolution and uncertainty, which eventually turns to assurance, culminating in the famous moment when the strings soar out of C minor into E major, a dramatic and moving passage of exultation which has been described as a musical parallel with the sun breaking through the clouds. The short development section makes much play with a three-note figure containing a flattened second before the horn call reappears followed by a mighty affirmation, for the full orchestra dominated by the brass, of the second subject. The recapitulation ends with the distant horn call above the held bass exactly as at the start of the movement. The Scherzo comes second for the first time in a symphony by Vaughan Williams. There are at least five themes, one cantabile, one (for oboe and cor anglais) with a spiteful barb to its jerky rhythm, one lilting like some etherial folk dance, a chorale for trombones, and finally a chirpy woodwind theme. The music is mainly soft, but there are frequent loud interruptions and changes of rhythm. The movement ends as mysteriously as it began, flickering to a swift extinction. It is in the Romanza that most of the Pilgrim music occurs; the cor anglais theme and subsequent passages are all taken from Act 1 Scene 2, but the opera contains nothing as reassuring nor as magnificent as the rich and sonorous restatement of the cor anglais theme by the full weight of all the strings. This great movement can surely be ranked alongside the Larghetto of Elgar's second symphony as one of the high peaks of English romantic symphonic art. The last movement is a Passacaglia, although not a strict one, throughout which there is a sense of journeying towards an appointed goal, which eventually is reached with the return, fervent and affirmatory, of the D major horn call from the beginning of the symphony. The coda is based on the counter melody of the Passacaglia, slightly altered rhythmically and extended, soaring effortlessly to top B as the strings weave and interweave their miraculous counterpoint, before dying down into the silence from which the symphony was summoned. The original dedication, shortened in the printed score to "To Jean Sibelius, without permission" read "Without permission and with the sincerest flattery to Jean Sibelius, whose great example is worthy of imitation".