



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2022/23 SEASON

Lunar New Year Celebration

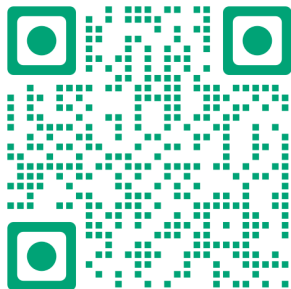
Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Strauss Performing Arts Center

Alejandro Gómez Guillén, conductor | Adam Bassing, actor | Biannah Peji-Palm, actor |
Wai Yim, actor

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program is a
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the orchestra, guest
artists, and the
music, download the
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mobile device.



AN-LUN HUANG

Saibei Dance from Saibei Suite No. 2, Op. 21

LI HUANZHI

Spring Festival Overture

EDWARD ELGAR

The Wand of Youth, Suite No. 1
Mvt. VII. Fairies and Giants

EDWARD ELGAR

Enigma Variations, Op. 36, VII. Troyte Presto

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

Slavonic Dances, Op. 72, No. 7

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Petite suite, Mvt. 1 En Bateau

WOLF-FERRARI

Overture to Il Segreto Di Susanna

EDWARD ELGAR

Overture from The Wand of Youth,
Suite No. 1

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Variations on a Theme of Haydn, Op. 56a, Var. VI

MAURICE RAVEL

Suite from Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)
Mvt. 1, Pavane of the Sleeping Beauty

CHEN YI

Celebration

*program subject to change

Featured Artists



Alejandro Gómez Guillén, conductor

Conductor and violinist Alejandro Gómez Guillén is passionate about sharing music in a way that is compelling, uplifting, and educational. Recently named the Omaha Symphony's assistant conductor beginning in November 2022, he will complete his sixth season as artistic director and conductor of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, with which he recently led the Indiana premiere of Florence Price's Fourth Symphony to local acclaim. He completed a successful tenure as associate conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, leading multiple community classics, pops, outdoor, bilingual and educational concerts, including collaborations with artists such as Time for Three and mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte. He is also music director of Denver's Sphere Ensemble which explores the intersection of masterpieces of string ensemble music with multi-part

custom arrangements from piano pieces, pop, rock and world music masters. The group's recordings are available through all music streaming platforms. Alejandro also serves as acting concertmaster/principal second violin of the West Texas Symphony and violinist of the Permian Basin and Chasqui Quartets, and he has also served as Freeman conducting fellow with Chicago Sinfonietta, associate conductor of Boulder Symphony and music director of Cantabile.

Recent activities include serving as cover conductor for the symphonies of Indianapolis with Jun Märkl and Carlos Kalmar, Fort Worth with Robert Spano, Ruth Rheinhardt, and Andrew Grams, Dallas with Matthew Halls, planned performances with the Chicago Sinfonietta (cancelled due to the pandemic), and leading Tulsa's Signature Symphony, Orquesta Filarmónica de Bogotá, Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale, SingFest Hong Kong, Bogotá's Javeriana University, Bloomington Bach Cantata Project, and Midland Festival Ballet. He appeared as part of the Oregon Bach Festival conducting masterclass with public performances of Bach's B minor Mass, St. John Passion, and the Christmas, Easter, and Ascension Oratorios. Additional activities include the Bloomington Early Music Festival, Tonos del Sur, Weimarer Bachkantaten Akademie, Junges Stuttgarter Bach Ensemble, ¡Canta, Bogotá Canta!, Santander Choral Festival, Cabrillo Festival, Tonos del Sur at Berkeley Festival, Permian Basin Opera, a fellowship with SphinxConnect, and a residency in his native Colombia with Batuta.

Featured Artists

Committed to working with young artists, Alejandro has served as assistant professor of music at Colorado Mesa University where he taught violin, viola, courses in symphonic literature, string pedagogy and chamber music, as well as conducting the chamber and symphony orchestras. He served as music director of the Colorado Youth Philharmonia and has led performances with Off Broadway School of Fine Arts in Boulder, Javeriana University Symphony Orchestra, Spokane Youth Symphony, University of Colorado Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and Falcon Music Camps at the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Alejandro enjoys leading Mozart and Haydn concertos from the violin in recent and upcoming seasons. He was concertmaster of Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, Amherst Early Music Festival, and Junges Stuttgarter Bach Ensemble, with which he toured Germany and Italy including performances at Rheingau Music Festival and Berlin Philharmonie. He also returned to Oregon Bach Festival as a member of the Berwick Academy for Historical Performance.

Alejandro had a rich musical upbringing as a chorister and violinist in his native Colombia. Following a move to the United States he pursued a Bachelor of Music in violin performance from Texas Christian University and Master of Music degrees in conducting and violin performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He holds a DMA in orchestral conducting from the same institution, and his doctoral research includes a critical edition of Colombian composer Jorge Pinzón's violin concerto, and a guide using selected dances from Bach's orchestral suites in their original form for developing orchestras through a historically informed approach to playing on modern instruments. His mentors include Gary Lewis, Helmuth Rilling, Matthew Halls, and Mei-Ann Chen.

When not playing, leading ensembles, or reveling in the music of Bach, Alejandro enjoys singing, trail running, and making music with his wife, violinist Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Cranor and their Duo Anthracite.



Adam Bassing, actor

Adam Bassing is excited to share the stage with the Omaha Symphony. As a local actor, he's recently appeared in *Holiday Lites* and *Fireside Tales* (Brigit St Brigit), *The Emperor and the Fool* (Big Damn Door Festival-BLUEBARN), and *The Last Supper* (SNAP). He received his BA in English from UNO and his PharmD from UNMC.

Featured Artists



Biannah Peji-Palm, actor

Biannah Peji-Palm (she/her) has been performing for as long as she can remember. She was born and raised in Quezon City, Philippines, and started dancing ballet, playing the organ, and singing at different performance spaces at the age of 5. She joined a touring performing arts group after graduating high school and travelled to Europe, Japan, and around the U.S. performing and teaching music. She finished her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Business with Midland University and now works for The Rose Theater as Rose Studios Manager, sharing her love for performing arts education with youth and their families.

Locally, she has performed on The Rose Theater stage as Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music* and most recently as Gabrielle in *Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. She's delighted to keep sharing her love for performing and storytelling with the Omaha community and always grateful for every opportunity to do so.

Let's celebrate the Year of the Rabbit and greet the season, often known as "Spring Festival," with works by Chen Yi, Li Huanzhi, Kabalesky, and Dvořák! The concert will explore each animal of the Chinese Zodiac and their characteristics with special excerpts that reflect each one's significance. This concert will also include crafts and an instrument petting zoo!

Scan the QR code for more information on today's program!

This printed program is a condensed version.

For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the full program notes, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

