



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2022/23 SEASON

Four Dances from Estancia

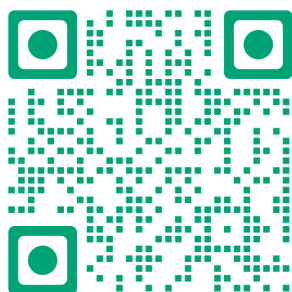
Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Strauss Performing Arts Center

Joseph Young, conductor | Jason Stromquist, trombone

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This printed program is a condensed version. For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the music, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



DAG WIRÉN

Serenade for Strings, Op. 11

- I. Preludium
- II. Andante espressivo
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Marcia

LAUNY
GRØNDAHL

Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra

- II. Moderato assai ma molto maestoso
- II. Quasi una legenda. Andante grave
- III. Rondo. Allegretto scherzando

Jason Stromquist, trombone

SILVESTRE
REVUELTAS
Arr. Erich Kleiber

Redes Suite

ALBERTO
GINASTERA

Four Dances from *Estancia*, Op. 8a

- II. Los trabajadores agrícolas (The Land Workers)
- II. Danza del trigo (Wheat Dance)
- III. Los peones de hacienda (The Cattlemen)
- IV. Danza final (Malambo—Final Dance)

*program subject to change

Featured Artists



Joseph Young, conductor

Praised for his suavely adventurous programming, Joseph Young is increasingly recognized as “one of the most gifted conductors of his generation.” Joseph is Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony, Artistic Director of Ensembles for the Peabody Conservatory, and Resident Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra–USA at Carnegie Hall. In recent years, he has made appearances with the Saint Louis Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Bamberger Symphoniker, New World Symphony Orchestra, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música, and the Orquestra Sinfonica y Coro de RTVE (Madrid), among others in the U.S. and Europe.

In his most recent role Joseph served as the Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony where he conducted more than 50 concerts per season. Mr. Young also served as the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, where he was the driving force behind the ensemble’s artistic growth. Previous appointments have included Resident Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony, and the League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow with Buffalo Philharmonic and Baltimore Symphony.

Joseph is a recipient of the 2015 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award for young conductors, an award he also won in 2008 and 2014. In 2013, Joseph was a semi-finalist in the Gustav Mahler International Conducting Competition (Bamberg, Germany). In 2011, he was one out of six conductors featured in the League of American Orchestras’ prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview.

Joseph completed graduate studies with Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar at the Peabody Conservatory in 2009, earning an artist’s diploma in conducting. He has been mentored by many world-renowned conductors including Jorma Panula, Robert Spano and Marin Alsop, with whom he continues to maintain close relationships.



Jason Stromquist, trombone

Jason Stromquist was born into a musical family in Powell River, British Columbia. Initially taught by his father, who was the local band director, he enjoyed success in local and provincial competitions. In 1998 Jason moved to Hood River, OR, where he completed high school and began studying with Robert Taylor, 2nd Trombone at the Oregon Symphony. After spending two years studying music at Portland State University, Jason moved to New York City to further his study with David Finlayson, New York Philharmonic, at the Aaron Copland School of Music.

After graduating with a Bachelors of Music Performance in 2003, Jason started his professional career as Acting 2nd Trombonist of the Oregon Symphony in the spring of 2004. Currently Jason is the 2nd Trombonist with the Omaha Symphony, a position he has held since 2004. In addition to his commitment to the Omaha Symphony, Jason is an active freelance trombonist and private teacher.

Program Summary



Serenade for Strings, Op. 11

Dag Wirén

Born: Striberg, Sweden, October 15, 1905

Died: Danderyd, Sweden, April 19, 1986

Composer Dag Wirén once confessed that his aim was to entertain, to create music that pleased the listener. His *Serenade for Strings* certainly does that; humming energy zips throughout all four movements with easy melodies that float overtop like fluffy clouds on a particular gorgeous day. It's not style over substance, though; Wirén's neo-classical sensibilities allow for moments of shadow and introspection throughout and especially in the second and third movements, where lines endlessly unfold over thoughtful accompaniment. Wirén's *Serenade* is a confection, but one that you'll remember long after its last note.

Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra

Launy Grøndahl

Born: Copenhagen, Denmark, June 30, 1886

Died: Copenhagen, Denmark, January 21, 1960

Composer and conductor Launy Grøndahl was a commanding presence among 20th-century Danish musicians. His list of accomplishments includes being a fine violinist, the founder of the Society of Young Composers in Denmark, head of the Danish State Radio Orchestra turned Danish National Symphony, and a trusted interpreter of the music of Carl Nielsen, Denmark's native son. His *Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra* was composed in 1924 and is a lush, romantic example of how to showcase the best of the instrument in the spotlight – in this case, Omaha Symphony 2nd Trombone Jason Stromquist.

***Redes* Suite**

Silvestre Revueltas

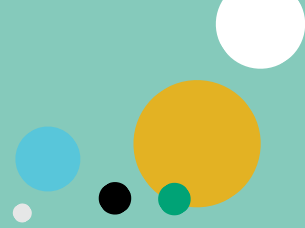
Born: Santiago Papasquiaro, Mexico, December 31, 1899

Died: Mexico City, Mexico, October 5, 1940

Silvestre Revueltas' creative life as a composer was far shorter than his 40-year life span might suggest. Though he demonstrated a musical gift as a violinist in childhood, and began serious study in Mexico City at age 13, it was not until the final decade of his life that he truly focused his energy on composition, stimulated and encouraged by Carlos Chávez, his mentor.

Unfortunately, those years were also marked by the scars of childhood poverty and alcohol addiction, and Revueltas ultimately died of pneumonia in 1940, robbing the world of an important, still developing compositional voice. His mark remains, however, on Mexican music, especially his incorporation of a strong social conscience and his support of workers' and artists' rights. He composed the music for the film *Redes* ("Nets"), a semi-documentary, that followed the story of a poor fishing community in a desperate battle against powerful businesses, unions, and entrenched politicians. Conductor Erich Kleiber constructed a 15-minute suite from the hour-long score, highlighting Revueltas' true gift in orchestration and his love for his country.

Program Summary



Four Dances from *Estancia*, Op. 8a

Alberto Ginastera

Born: Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 11, 1916

Died: Geneva, Switzerland, June 23, 1983

Alberto Ginastera was an Argentinian composer known for combining indigenous musical motifs with advanced 20th century techniques. Born and trained in Buenos Aires, he established himself as both a composer and teacher and is best remembered for the vivid scenes of Argentina that he created for his ballet, *Estancia*. Showcasing the vast, open fields of the Argentinian pampas, Four Dances depicts four different but equally technicolor parts of life as a cattle rancher. As Ginastera wrote, "Whenever I have crossed the pampas or have lived in it for a time, my spirit felt itself inundated by changing impressions, now joyful, now melancholy, some full of euphoria and others replete with a profound tranquility, produced by the limitless immensity and by the transformation that the countryside undergoes in the course of a day." It is impossible to listen to and not feel, however briefly, the touch of those grasses under your own hands. Enjoy.

(c) Steven Lowe & Dani Meier

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

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