



Artists | Celtic Journey

Ernest Richardson, conductor/co-creator

Susanna Perry Gilmore, fiddle/co-creator

William Coulter, guitar/leader/co-creator

Tomáseen Foley, Irish storyteller

Brian Bigley, Irish pipes and whistles

Samantha Harvey, accordion/dancer

Ross Hauck, singer

Garrett Coleman, dancer

Catlin Golding, dancer

**Artists subject to change.*

Ernest Richardson, conductor/co-creator

Conductor, composer, arranger, violist, organizational leader and inspirational speaker, Ernest Richardson joined the Omaha Symphony during the 1993/94 season. Since then, he has cast the vision for and led in the development of the Omaha Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs. He has helped develop the symphony's video/live music productions and has encouraged and supported countless young musicians in the Omaha area. In addition to his artistic leadership in the creation of the annual sold-out Christmas Celebration production, he leads the Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and the Movie Music series as the Omaha Symphony's Principal Pops Conductor, a title he acquired in 2015. The highly successful and innovative Family series was created under his artistic leadership, and he is one of the visionary forces behind the Symphony Joslyn series.

As chief architect of the Omaha Symphony's education and community engagement programs, Richardson has been at the forefront of crafting the vision for the programs and their impact on the community. The pivotal point in his leadership can be traced to the first education report written in the beginning of his tenure with the Omaha Symphony. The report paved the way for the structure, function, and programming of the Education Department, leading to innovations in all programming including the creation of Choral Collaborative, Celebrate Creativity, the Family series, and Mission Imagination.

In Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Richardson serves as music director of the Steamboat Symphony. Under his leadership the organization has grown from a community

orchestra to a resident professional orchestra. As one of the up and coming orchestras in the Front Range of Colorado, the Steamboat Symphony attracts the area's finest musicians. Audiences continue to grow with each concert heralded with standing ovations and standing room only houses.

Since 1997, Ernest Richardson has served as the founding artistic director and CEO of the innovative Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory. From its inception, four foundational principles: the passionate, persistent pursuit of perfection; vision-directed leadership; the musician as athlete; and in all things – balance, catapulted the program to international attention. It has attracted the finest faculty and leading young musicians from around the world. Graduates from the program teach, perform, and lead arts organizations throughout the country and the world.

An accomplished composer and arranger, Richardson's Three Scenes for Chamber Orchestra was debuted by the Omaha Symphony in 2011. His works are also featured in the Christmas Spectacular production and on many education and outreach programs. His compositions and arrangements for orchestra have been performed by the Phoenix Chamber Players, the Phoenix Symphony, the Steamboat Symphony, and throughout the United States. Commissions for voice and chamber ensemble have been performed by Opera Omaha and the Omaha Symphony, and have been featured on the Omaha Chamber Music Society concert series. His credits also include a broadcast performance of his Fall of a Man-made Star composition on Boston's WGBH. Richardson enjoys working with young musicians. He served as music director and principal conductor for the Santa Barbara Music and Arts Conservatory in Santa Barbara, California, and has been guest conductor and clinician for regional and all-state orchestras in Arizona and Nebraska, the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra, Omaha Area Youth Orchestras, Steamboat Symphony, Santa Barbara City College, as well as festivals in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the University of Georgia. He has guest conducted with the Florida Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Opera Omaha, Fort Collins Symphony, Battle Creek Symphony, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, and the Cheyenne Symphony.

Richardson's achievements in Omaha were foreshadowed by his success with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, where he began his conducting career. He founded and served as music director and conductor for the Phoenix Chamber Players (1987) and the Phoenix Symphony Baroque Ensemble (1989). Richardson came to the Phoenix Symphony as a violist in 1984, appearing later as a soloist and acting associate principal. In 1990, his talents were added to the Phoenix Symphony String Quartet. While with the Phoenix Symphony, Richardson served as the musicians' ICSOM representative, the chair of the Orchestra Committee, volunteer coordinator, and acting director of operations for the organization.

Richardson began studying the violin at the age of three with his father, Dr. Vernal Richardson. He continued his string education at Indiana University with Tadeusz

Wronski, later concentrating on the viola at the University of Michigan with Donald McInnes. He studied conducting with Samuel Krachmalnick and Gustav Meier. While attending the University of Michigan, he studied composition with William Albright and William Bolcom.

An avid fly fisherman, Richardson can be found on trout streams in Colorado and the local municipal lakes in Omaha. He has also earned a black belt in tae kwon do. He lives in Omaha with his wife and children.

Susanna Perry Gilmore, fiddle/co-creator

Susanna Perry Gilmore joined the Omaha Symphony in 2011 as concertmaster, a position she previously held for fifteen years with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her orchestral role, Ms. Gilmore enjoys a multifaceted career as a solo artist and chamber musician in performances across the nation. Hailed as a player who is both “thrilling and sensitive” by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, “luminous and hypnotic” by the *Omaha World-Herald*, and “authentic with exquisite good taste” by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Gilmore has frequently been heard on National Public Radio in chamber ensembles on shows such as *Performance Today*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and *America’s Music Festivals*.

As a soloist Ms. Gilmore bookends the Omaha Symphony 2015-16 season, performing Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 2 on the opening Symphony Joslyn Series in September and *Scheherazade* on the final MasterWorks concert in June. The *Celtic Journey* pops program marks her Celtic fiddle debut in Omaha. Other recent solos with the symphony include Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* (May 2015), Erich Korngold’s Violin Concerto (September 2014), Ravel’s *Tzigane* (January 2015), and Mozart’s Violin Concerto in A Major (February 2014). Since 2014, she has been a frequent guest violinist/fiddler with the Cleveland baroque orchestra Apollo’s Fire, recording two CDs: *Sugarloaf Mountain and Appalachian Journey* (released June 2015), which features her performing Celtic and Appalachian fiddle, and *Sephardic Journeys: the Wanderings of the Spanish Jews* (release in 2016). Versatile in diverse styles, Ms. Gilmore was also the soloist for the European premiere of Jennifer Higdon’s *The Singing Rooms* for solo violin, choir, and orchestra in Paris, France (July 2014).

During her tenure in Memphis, Ms. Gilmore was frequently featured as a soloist, including performances of the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major and Sinfonia Concertante, Alban Berg’s Violin Concerto, Max Bruch’s *Scottish Fantasy*, J.S. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti, Karl Amadeus Hartmann’s Concerto Funèbre, Antonio Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*, Erich Korngold’s Violin Concerto, and Jennifer Higdon’s *The Singing Rooms*. She was twice named Premier String Player by the regional chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, served as Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Violin at the University of Memphis, taught and performed as the Valade

Violin Fellow at Interlochen Arts Camp, Sewanee Summer Music Festival, the Hot Springs Music Festival, and the Grand Canyon Music Festival, and was a fellow at the Tanglewood and Norfolk Music Festivals. In addition, Ms. Gilmore played a fundamental role in creating and directing a new music series for the Memphis Symphony, Opus One, which garnered national attention for its creative collaborations between symphony ensembles and jazz, rock, folk, blues, and hip-hop artists from the Memphis community in non-traditional venues.

Ms. Gilmore's performance abilities have also led to her involvement in a wide variety of other programs. In October 2008, she collaborated with the Tennessee Shakespeare Company to compose, arrange, and perform Celtic music for a production of *As You Like It*; she also arranged and adapted the music of Béla Bartók for an October 2009 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She appeared in both dramatic and musical roles in the movie *Narcissus*, filmed on location in Lithuania and premiering in the spring of 2012.

Ms. Gilmore earned her Bachelor's degree in music from Oxford University, England. As a post-graduate, she spent a year in the Advanced Solo Studies Program at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she studied with violinist Yfrah Neaman; she then received her Master's degree in Violin Performance from New England Conservatory in Boston under the instruction of James Buswell. Prior to her studies in England, Ms. Gilmore studied with Christian Teal at the Blair School of Music and Mimi Zweig at Indiana University.

When not working as a classical violinist, Ms. Gilmore spends time with her two daughters, Katy and Zoe. She performs on a 1776 Joseph Odoardi violin.

William Coulter, guitar/leader/co-creator

Music Director William Coulter is an internationally acclaimed master of the steel-string guitar. In 2005, he won a Grammy for a track he contributed to a solo guitar compilation of Henry Mancini tunes, called *Pink Guitar*. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for 25 years. The most recent of his seven CDs on the Gourd Music label is the acclaimed solo album, *The Road Home*.

Tomáseen Foley, Irish storyteller

Storyteller/director Tomáseen Foley was born on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland. Each year from Thanksgiving until Christmas, his show *Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas* plays to critical acclaim and packed concert halls around the U.S. *Tomáseen Foley's Irish Times* tours throughout the remainder of the year. The Oregon Cabaret has developed a hit musical from his story *Parcel from America*. He has released two CDs: *A Celtic Christmas: Parcel from America*, and a live recording, *The Priest and the Acrobat*. Rego Irish Records says, "He is

a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture."

Brian Bigley, Irish pipes and whistles

Growing up near Cleveland, Ohio, Brian was enthralled by the music and dance that came from his neighbor's house across the street. So, at the age of eight he began studying the uilleann pipes with Achill Island piper Michael Kilbane and taking dance lessons with Bobby Masterson.

Since then, Brian competed with distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships twice, and placed first in Senior Piping at the Midwest Fleadh Ceol. He has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe as a piper, flute player, whistle player, and dancer. He has appeared with the Chieftains at Carnegie Hall, Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*, Apollo's Fire in their "Countryside Concerts," The Contemporary Youth Orchestra as a soloist for the performance of "Symphonic Led Zeppelin," The Parma Symphony as a soloist for the performance of "The Brendan Voyage," legendary Piper Paddy Keenan, et al.

Not only does he play the pipes, but he also makes them, having apprenticed with Seth Gallagher and Patrick Olwell.

Brian lives near Cleveland with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and son, James.

www.brianbigleymusic.com

Samantha Harvey, accordion/dancer

Samantha Harvey is an award-winning accordionist, pianist, and step dancer. She has performed throughout the world including gigs in the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Japan, Taiwan, and Italy with acts such as *Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas*, *Téada, Ireland the Show*, and *Irish Christmas in America*. Samantha also enjoys the more intimate performance setting with her accordion and mandolin duo - Sam 'n' Ash. In addition to the accordion, Samantha performs and teaches Irish dancing and is an An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha-certified T.C.R.G. dance teacher, having trained with the world-renowned Claddagh School of Irish Dance.

Ross Hauck, singer

Tenor Ross Hauck has collaborated with Tomáseen Foley, Bill Coulter, and Susanna Perry Gilmore on Celtic concerts in Cleveland over the past few years, and he is pleased to make his Omaha debut with such wonderful colleagues. Mr. Hauck's career is noted for its versatility, spanning early music, new compositions, oratorio, opera, and folk. His recent concert appearances include the symphonies of Baltimore, Seattle, Phoenix,

Kansas City, Grand Rapids, and Lincoln. He has toured the Chautauqua festivals in concerts of folk music and is featured on the recent American folk CD *Sugarloaf Mountain*, with Apollo's Fire. Mr. Hauck lives in Seattle with his wife and four children. Their oldest son is named Daniel ("Danny boy").

Garrett Coleman, dancer

Traditionally trained in Irish Step dance as a child, Garrett has consistently found himself drawn to types of dance that are rhythmically innovative and that push the boundaries of athleticism through dance. In addition to Irish Step, he has trained in hip hop, tap, and contemporary movement. Following a successful career in the competitive Irish dance circuit, in which he won two solo World Championship titles and numerous other national and international titles, Garrett has toured professionally with Riverdance and Trinity Irish Dance Company. He has choreographed performances for cityLive! Productions of Pittsburgh and has performed with musical acts like Cherish the Ladies, The Chieftains, and Gaelic Storm. He has twice been named one of the "Top 100 Irish Americans" by Irish America magazine. He also performed at the Kennedy Center in 2006 as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and is a National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts award winner (top 2% of artistic talent in the United States).

Garrett's experience as a dancer and choreographer in the urban environment has honed his artistic vision and acted as inspiration toward Hammerstep, a progressive dance & production company he co-created with the former principal male dancer for Riverdance, Jason Oremus, in 2009. Hammerstep aims to bring dance to the public in fresh and provocative ways, integrating Irish, tap, hip hop, African stepping, and martial arts, while presenting the new form through non-traditional formats, unique collaborations, and with diverse communities. Following successful international performances from NYC's Lincoln Center to London's Palace Theatre, Hammerstep's performance on NBC's *America's Got Talent* went viral, and the company recently released a short film, *INDIGO GREY: The Passage*, scored by Grammy-winning artist Amy Lee, Dave Eggar, and Chuck Palmer, officially selected by 25 international film festivals, and winner of seven awards and counting. The film is based on INDIGO GREY, a digitally immersive walkthrough experience set in the dystopian 'Sixth Borough' of future NYC, currently in pre-production at the New Museum and opening to audiences in 2017. For more information, check out www.hammerstep.com or www.indigogrey.nyc.

Catlin Golding, dancer

Having begun Irish dance lessons at age seven, Caitlin Goulding has been dancing for the past 20 years. She began her studies with the Broesler School of Irish Dance in Baltimore, Maryland, and throughout her 14-year competitive career won many titles. Her most upstanding accolades include five-time Southern Region Champion, top three North American Champion, top ten World Champion, top three Great Britain Champion, and top ten All Around Champion. After receiving her degree in social work from the

University of Maryland, Caitlin began to pursue her professional dance career. On her first audition in London, Caitlin was the only American selected to tour in the return of Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, kicking off in Belgium. From there she continued touring with *Lord of the Dance* and *Feet of Flames* globally. In addition, she became lead soloist and dance captain with *Spirit of Ireland*, *Dance of Desire*, and *Battle of the Dance* and had the honor of performing with legendary musicians Cherish the Ladies and The Chieftains at the Kennedy Center, Meyerhoff, Milwaukee Symphony, and Tucson Symphony, among others. Now fresh off of Broadway with *Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games*, Caitlin is thrilled to perform alongside her other half, Garrett Coleman, with the Omaha Symphony.