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Luminous!

Featuring Kristin Lewis, Soprano

Saturday, April 22nd, 7:30pm

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CONWAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Israel Getzov, Music Director

2022-2023
38th
SEASON

Saturday, April 22nd, 2023, 7:30pm
Reynolds Performance Hall, Conway, Arkansas

LUMINOUS! CSO WITH KRISTIN LEWIS

Conway Symphony Orchestra

Israel Getzov, Conductor

UCA Chamber Singers & UCA Opera Theatre Chorus

Frances FONZA & Gregory Church, Directors

Kristin Lewis, Soprano

JoAna Rusche, Mezzo-Soprano

Gregory Church, Tenor

Robert Holden, Baritone

Simon Podsiadlik, Marimba

From *Dichter und Bauer (Poet & Peasant)*: Overture

Franz von Suppé

From *Aida*: Act III Opening & "O patria mia"

Giuseppe Verdi

Chorus, Dr. Holden, Dr. Rusche, Ms. Lewis

From *Cavalleria Rusticana*: Intermezzo

Pietro Mascagni

From *Suor Angelica*: "Senza Mamma"

Giacomo Puccini

Ms. Lewis

From *Carmen*: Orchestral Selections

Georges Bizet

I. Prelude & Aragonaise

II. Entr'acte (Act III)

III. Danse Bohème

—Intermission—

Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra: Finale

Emmanuel Sèjourné

Mr. Podsiadlik

From *Don Carlos*: "Tu che le vanità"

Giuseppe Verdi

Ms. Lewis

From *Nabucco*: Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves

Giuseppe Verdi

Chorus

From *Edgar*: "Addio, mio dolce amor"

Giacomo Puccini

Ms. Lewis, Chorus

From *La Traviata*: Brindisi (Drinking Song)

Giuseppe Verdi

Dr. Church, Ms. Lewis, Dr. Rusche, Dr. Holden, Chorus

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Israel Getzov, Music Director

American conductor Israel Getzov begins his eighteenth season as Music Director of the Conway Symphony Orchestra. He also serves as Music Director of the Little Rock Winds, and Artistic Advisor to the Orquesta Filarmónica de Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia. He previously held the positions of Associate Conductor of the Arkansas Symphony and Principal Conductor of the Tianjin Philharmonic, the resident orchestra of the Tianjin Grand Theater.

Mr. Getzov has conducted orchestras throughout the United States and abroad, including Abilene Philharmonic, Asheville, Symphony, Cleveland Pops, Monroe Symphony, Skokie Valley Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic, Symphony of the Mountains, Tianjin Symphony, Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra, Bolivia Classica, University of Taipei Symphony, and the Encuentro Jovenes Musicos Festival in La Paz. As an opera conductor, he led the world premiere of *The Scarlett Letter* by American composer Lori Laitman, conducted works of Giancarlo Menotti at the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and worked as Staff Conductor for Tianjin Grand Opera in productions for multiple productions.

Mr. Getzov was selected by Leonard Slatkin to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and was chosen by David Zinman for the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival.

Mr. Getzov started the violin at age 3, and later studied viola, piano and percussion. He has performed as an orchestral violinist with many renowned conductors including Barenboim, Boulez, Solti, Mehta and Rostropovich. He was a founding member of the Rockefeller String Quartet, a professional quartet with whom he gave over 200 concerts. Mr. Getzov holds a tenured professorship at the University of Central Arkansas and has given clinics at many conservatories and music schools in the U.S., Asia, and South America. An experienced public speaker, he hosted his own weekly radio program on Arkansas KLRE 90.5FM called "Izzy Investigates" and has performed live as a chamber musician on WFMT and WBEZ in Chicago.



Kristin Lewis

Kristin Lewis, a lyric-spinto soprano, has graced the stages of many of the world's leading opera houses. Noted for her well-focused, majestic sound, rich in overtones and rare blend of piano culture, she has been directed by and among the most illustrious conductors.

A native of Little Rock, Ms. Lewis grew up in a musical family and began singing and performing at an early age. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Central Arkansas under the guidance of Dr. Martha Antolik and a Masters of Music degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, studying with Kay Paschal and Andrew Wentzel. She undertook post-graduate study under the tutelage of Dr. Jonathan Retzlaff and Carol Byers.

Among her many honors, Ms. Lewis was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Divisional Achievement Award for the Visual and Performing Arts from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2015; the Orazio Tosi Prize 2012; and the Artist of the Year Award by the Savonlinna Opera Festival in 2010. She is a two-time National Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition; a winner of the "Internationalen Gesangswettbewerb Ferruccio Tagliavini" and a winner of the "Concorso Internazionale Di Musica Gian Battista Viotti". Ms. Lewis also won the Opera Prize and the Audience Award in the "Concorso Internazionale di Canto Debutto A Merano". Most recently, she was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Central Arkansas.

Throughout her career, Ms. Lewis has been considered a leading Verdian soprano, having performed in the most prestigious opera houses in the world including Teatro alla Scala, l'Opéra de Paris, Berlin State Opera, Arena di Verona, Carnegie Hall, Vienna Staatsoper, Bayerische Staatsoper, Mariinsky Theatre, the Royal Danish Theatre, Hamburgische Staatsoper, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Vienna Konzerthaus, Teatro Massimo Bellini, Teatro Regio

di Parma, and Opéra National de Lyon, in addition to appearing on the far-eastern stages of Korea National Opera Seoul, Hong Kong Opera and NKH Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

Ms. Lewis has several CD and DVD recordings, including the Verdi Requiem at the Opéra Bastille in Paris, France directed by Maestro Philippe Jordan, Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera" from the Teatro Regio di Parma and "Aida" from Teatro alla Scala directed by Maestro Zubin Mehta.

In 2014 and in 2018, Ms. Lewis established the Kristin Lewis Foundation Inc, based in America, and the Kristin Lewis International Association for the Encouragement and Development of Young Artists, based in Vienna, Austria, two independent, nonprofit corporations. The competitive scholarships offered by the Foundation and other resources provided by the International Association serve as means for recipients to further refine their talents toward careers in performance.

Among her other achievements, Ms. Lewis is active in humanitarian work. She is an Ambassador for the Austrian Red Cross; a spokesperson for the organizations Guyco, an African-based organization created to unleash the full potential of youth in Northern Uganda, and AIDS LIFE, the largest charity event in Europe supporting people with HIV or AIDS. She is also a supporter of Animal Care Austria, an animal rescue agency based in Vienna.

Ms. Lewis resides in Vienna, Austria. Her dedication to her calling of opera performance, her passion in humanitarian work, and her commitment in leveraging resources for young, talented artists encapsulate her international travel and image as a global ambassador of the arts, culture and philanthropy.

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Gregory Church

Gregory Church, tenor, makes his CSO debut in this evening's concert. Dr. Church currently serves as the Director of Opera Theatre, and Lecturer of Voice at UCA. Having appeared with orchestras and opera companies throughout the United States, he has performed such opera roles as Jenik in *The Bartered Bride* by Smetana, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, Jean in *Herodiade*, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. His musical theatre performances include Lun Tha in *The King and I*, James in *Shenandoah*, Joseph in Andrew Lloyd-Weber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Mr. Boddy in *Clue: The Musical*, based on the classic board game.

Active on the concert stage, Dr. Church has performed as tenor soloist in *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, *Elijah* by Mendelssohn, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Rossini's *Stabat mater*. He has also performed numerous recitals in the United States, Rome, and Vienna. Upcoming performances include a debut appearance with the Arkansas Choral Society in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*.



Frances Fonza

Frances Fonza is the Visiting Director of Choral Activities at the University of Central Arkansas where she teaches Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, conducting and choral literature courses. Fonza earned a bachelor's degree in music education at the University of Missouri-Columbia, a master's degree in music education, and a doctorate in music education/choral conducting at Florida State University. Dr. Fonza taught choral music at the middle school and high school levels in Kentucky and was the choir director and a sight singing teacher at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington DC. Additionally, Dr. Fonza served as Assistant Professor of Music Education and Director of Choral Activities at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Her responsibilities included teaching music education courses, aural skills, choral conducting, supervising music education interns, and directing the Wittenberg choirs. Choirs under her direction have participated in state, regional, and national music festivals. Fonza is an active singer, clinician, and adjudicator. A frequent guest conductor, she has conducted all state, honor, public school, and church choirs. Her research interests are community partnerships, healthy singing in Gospel music, and tone building strategies used in the choral classroom. She holds professional memberships in the National Association for Music Educators and the American Choral Directors Association.

UCA Opera Theatre

The UCA Opera Theatre has a long, rich history of performing works representing every age of opera history. Conway audiences have seen such operas as this year's production of *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell, *Le nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, and the 2008 world premiere of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter* based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel. Opera Theatre serves a dual function at UCA: to produce and perform world renowned operas for Conway and the surrounding areas, and to train the next generation of singers as they prepare for the next step in their careers. We are excited to collaborate on this evening's concert with the Conway Symphony Orchestra, and to share the stage with UCA Opera Theatre alumna Kristin Lewis. Thank you for supporting the CSO, UCA Opera Theatre, and performances of great classical music in central Arkansas.

UCA Chamber Singers

The UCA Chamber Singers is a highly select ensemble comprised of talented graduate students and advanced undergraduate students. This group performs distinctive and diverse repertoire spanning centuries. The UCA Chamber Singers most recently received the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award, which is given to the top overall music ensemble in the College/University Division, awarded by the The American Prize Arts Organization. During its rich history, the UCA Chamber Singers have been invited to perform at state, regional and national conventions for the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Educators. Recent tours have included performances throughout the Southwestern United States.



Simon Podsiadlik

Percussionist Simon Podsiadlik is a student at the University of Central Arkansas and principal percussionist of the Conway Symphony Orchestra. During his time at UCA, he has performed in a wide variety of ensembles, including the CSO, the UCA Wind Ensemble, the Studio Jazz Ensemble, and the Percussion Ensemble. Additionally, he spent two summers as a percussionist with Carolina Crown

Drum and Bugle Corps, where he performed at various venues throughout the nation. Mr. Podsiadlik is also a member of the Conway-based URSA2 Percussion Duo with fellow CSO musician Mateo Peláez. He is currently pursuing bachelor's degrees in percussion performance and engineering physics, and he instructs the Front Ensemble at Bryant High School. His percussion teachers include Dr. Blake Tyson, Dr. Kae Reed, and Erick Eckstrom. He is honored to join the Conway Symphony Orchestra on-stage as a soloist this evening!

Opera Chorus Ensemble

Gideon Baker

Sarah Barber

Kyla Blickenstaff

Ziye Chen

Jai Collins

Logan Cottrell

Jonathan Cruz

Holley Dantzler

Benjamin Davis

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Mary Rowe

Cohen Scoggins

Jenna Scott

Jennifer Self

Sydney Siler

Larry Smith

Victoria Sparks

Samantha Stover

Patricia Terceros

Paola Ticas

Rebecca Ticas

Cole Weaver

Tianna Thompson Wilson



JoAnna Rusche

JoAnna Rusche, mezzo-soprano, has been praised by Opera News for being “notably sweet-voiced.” She is an alumna of the Academy of Vocal Arts, where she performed the roles of Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni, Fiora in L’amore dei tre re, Tamara in The Demon, and the Second Lady in Die Zauberflöte. With Opera North, she performed the title role in La Cenerentola, where she was hailed as “an effervescent Cinderella” and was praised for managing “Rossini’s florid lines with flair and warmth” (Rutland Herald). As a young artist with Palm Beach Opera, she premiered the role of Sheva Haddas in the world premiere of Enemies, A Love Story and sang the role of Rosina in Il barbiere di Siviglia as an understudy. Ms. Rusche spent three summers at the Caramoor International Music Festival, now Teatro Nuovo, where she was seen as Soeur Mathilde in Dialogues des Carmélites. She is a two-time District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has received second place in the Birmingham Opera Competition and the Heafner-Williams Vocal Competition, first place in the Long Leaf Opera National Vocal Competition.



Robert Holden

Baritone Robert Holden has performed opera, oratorio and recitals internationally for the past 40 years. He has been a member of the UCA voice faculty for 27 years and serves as coordinator of the vocal area. Holden is also the past director of the UCA Opera Theater program. He lives in Conway with his wife, Kendra and has two children and six grandchildren.

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Oksana Pavilionis
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Algis Staskevicius
Patricia Terceros
Leigh Wing
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Nelio Zamorano

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Simon Podsiadlik

*denotes principal

So that everyone may enjoy the music, please turn off all electronic devices.

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The Conway Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by the Arkansas Arts Council,
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7:30 pm

March 2
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April 27
7:30 pm



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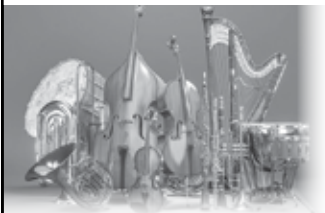
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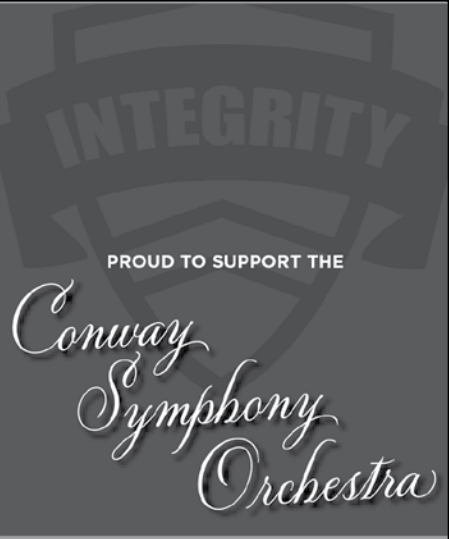
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