2023-24 39TH SEASON

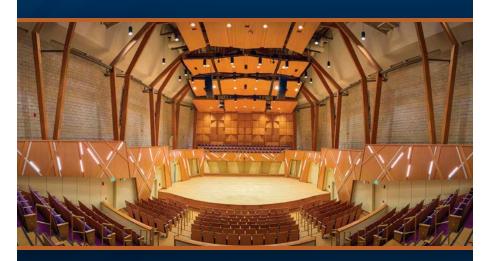


PRESENTS

THE CSO'S

WINDGATE DEBUT CONCERT

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FEATURING BRENT FATHERLY, CLARINET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023, 4 PM

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39th SEASON

Sunday, October 29th, 2023, 4:00 pm Windgate Center for Fine and Performing Arts Concert Hall, Conway, Arkansas

THE CSO'S WINDGATE DEBUT CONCERT

Conway Symphony Orchestra

Israel Getzov, Conductor
Brent Fatherly, Clarinet
Chris Fritzges, Actor
Scott Meador, Digital Media Coordinator

Clair de Lune (arr. André Caplet)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

(1844-1908)

Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- 1) Alborada
- 2) Variations
- 3) Alborada
- 4) Scene and Roma Song
- 3) Asturian Fandango

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 – First Section

Oscar Navarro (b. 1981)

Brent Fatherly, Clarinet

Arturo Márquez

Conga del Fuego Nuevo

(b. 1950)

-INTERMISSION-

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

- 1) Morning Mood
- 2) Death of Åse
- 3) Anitra's Dance
- 4) In the Hall of the Mountain King

Chris Fritzges, Actor

Digital Media from the students of Prof. Meador

Finlandia, Op. 26

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

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Israel Getzov, Music Director

American conductor Israel Getzov begins his ninetheenth 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. 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 of La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Rigoletto, Bluebeard's Castle, and Oedipus Rex.

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.



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Brent Fatherly Clarinet

Brent Fatherly is both an accomplished clarinetist and composer. He completed dual undergraduate degrees in Music Education and Music Composition followed by a Graduate Certificate in Clarinet Performance at the University of Central Arkansas. Currently, he is pursuing a master's in music

composition at Southern Methodist University. He has composed a variety of works for both large and small ensembles, as well as solo pieces. His works have been performed by several chamber ensembles as well as the University of Central Arkansas Wind Ensemble.



Chris Fritzges

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chris has been a full-time educator at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway since 2002, where he teaches acting, voice and movement, and directs as an associate professor. He is a member of Actor's Equity Association and is an advanced actor combatant within the SAFD. Trained as an actor, Chris

has been performing for audiences for over thirty years. Over the last several years, he has performed regularly with the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre and has been active in many other film, television, and radio projects in the region.



Scott Meador, professor of Art & Design

Scott Meador is a professor of Art and Design at UCA with a background in computer graphics, theatrical design, and fine art. He teaches multiple forms of animation and interactive media and fine art foundations. Professionally, Scott contributes to live events-oriented projects including 3D

animation and motion graphics for recording artists' concert tours, projection mapping events, and concert set design and visualization.

Visuals for Peer Gynt by students under Professor Meador's supervision

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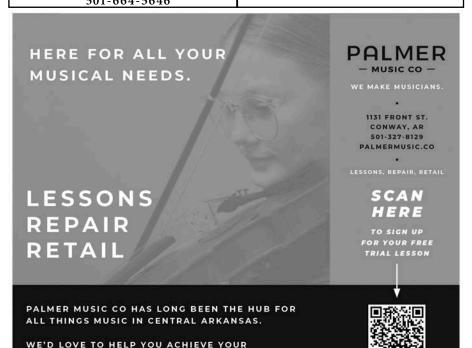
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"Clair de lune" From *Suite bergamasque* Orch. André Caplet

Claude Debussy 1862-1918

Debussy composed the *Suite bergamasque* in 1890 while he was still fairly unknown and published it after extensive revisions only in 1905. By that time, after *L'après-midi d'un faune*, *Pelléas et Mélisande* and the String Quartet, he had become famous – or notorious. The Suite belongs to a tradition of French keyboard music dating back to the eighteenth century with the keyboard works of the Couperin family and especially Jean-Philippe Rameau. These are short pieces evoking a mood, an image or even the personality of a specific individual. Like so many of Debussy's subsequent works, they are deliberately referential, containing programmatic, visual or musical allusions that would have been readily familiar to his audience.

The third movement of the suite, *Clair de lune*, is Debussy's most used – and abused – composition. Because of its familiarity, it can evoke superficial salon music, unless played with great care. The movement was not born with this name; the original title was *Promenade sentimentale*, which Debussy changed just before publication.

Conductor and composer André Caplet (1878-1925) was Debussy's close friend and orchestrated many of his piano works.

Capriccio espagnol, Op. 34

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov 1844-1908

In the history of Russian nationalist music, Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov occupies a place of honor. From 1871, when he joined the faculty of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, until his death, he taught and encouraged nearly every young Russian composer, from Glazunov and Arensky to Stravinsky and Prokofiev. After the death of Borodin and Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov edited, completed and "corrected" their manuscripts, especially their operas, and had them published.

Rimsky-Korsakov was particularly fond of "ethnic" pieces, creating compositions with a Russian, Central Asiatic, Italian or Spanish cast. In spite of the fact that his acquaintance with Spain was minimal – as a naval cadet in 1864-65, he spent three days in Cadiz – he felt sufficiently comfortable with its folk idiom to compose the symphonic suite *Capriccio espagnol*. He borrowed the themes and harmonies from a collection of authentic Spanish songs, transforming them with multi-textured orchestration. From its premiere in October 1887, it has been a particular favorite among orchestra players, who get hefty solo riffs.

The five movements begin with "Alborada" (a Spanish morning song), whose repeated theme serves as a kind of musical glue to give unity to the piece. There follows a set of five variations, which are more changes in mood than

bravura showpieces. The "Alborada" then returns, but in a different key. The "Scene and Roma Song" features a series of faux-improvisatory orchestral solos that serve as a workup for the principal theme. The "Fandango," a couple's dance in triple time traditionally accompanied by guitar and castanets, completes the group, incorporating a presto reprise of the "Alborada" as the coda.

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 First Section

Oscar Navarro b. 1981

Spanish composer and clarinetist Oscar Navarro received his musical education in Valencia, Spain, and then moved to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to specialize in composition for film and TV. He concurrently continued to compose for the concert hall and symphonic band. He is currently on the faculty of the Spanish Film Academy.

Navarro wrote his Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in 2011-12 on commission from the Valencia Music Institute. Composed in one movement but three clearly identifiable sections, the work exploits the technical and emotional capabilities of the clarinet.

Navarro writes: "The first major section of the work will be divided into two parts, a very cantabile style tinged with ethnic/new age, unlike the second, completely contrasting style and different as is the typical flamenco music of Spanish folklore. This part will be accompanied by one of the instruments used in the world of flamenco, the palms."

Conga del Fuego Nuevo (New Fire Conga)

Arturo Márquez b.1950

Born in a small town in the Sonoran Desert of northern Mexico, Arturo Márquez was the oldest of nine children of a professional mariachi-player. He studied piano, violin and trombone at the *Escuela Nacional de Música*, later adding composition. In California on a Fulbright Fellowship, he received an MFA in composition at the California Institute of the Arts. He currently teaches composition at the *Escuela Nacional de Música*.

Márquez' *Danzón No.* 2, composed in 1994 on a commission from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, gained instant popularity and is sometimes referred to humorously as Mexico's second national anthem.

Marquez composed the *Conga del Fuego Nuevo* in 2009. The conga originated in Cuba as a carnival dance and is the origin of the conga line dance popularized by the big bands in the USA before and after WWII, while the New Fire Ceremony was a pre-Columbian Mexican ritual. Marquez' combining of the two has, therefore, no historical significance.

From *Peer Gynt*Suite No. 1, Op. 46

Edvard Grieg 1843-1907

The most successful and best known of nineteenth-century Scandinavian composers, Edvard Grieg was one of the great exponents of romantic nationalism and a promoter of his native country's culture. He saw as his role in life to bring Scandinavian – especially Norwegian – musical and literary culture to the attention of the rest of Europe, especially Henrik Ibsen, Norway's most famous playwright.

In 1867 Ibsen published *Peer Gynt*, a play satirizing the weaknesses of human nature. It is the fantastic picaresque journey of a would-be hero who suffers the hard knocks of life in search of his own identity. Peer's quest entails contrasting episodes of selfishness and generosity, fantasy and reality, materialism and spirituality, steadfast loyalty and betrayal.

In 1874, Ibsen asked Grieg to write incidental music for a new production of the play. While Grieg attempted to express himself in the simple modes of his native Norwegian folk-music, his early training in German Romanticism comes through; the music owes much to Mendelssohn and Schumann. In some of the sections Grieg tried to express in music the forbidding, but beautiful Norwegian landscape, but most of the music reflects the ambiguity of the play.

From the 23 sections, Grieg extracted two orchestral suites, but the sequence of movements in the suites does not correspond to the dramatic order in the play. Rather, he created typical orchestral suites with movements alternating in mood and tempo.

Suite No.1 consists of:

Morning Mood: Originally the Prelude to Act IV. The woodwinds proclaim the dawn and the rustling sounds of the woods and streams. The mood darkens slightly in the middle section.

Death of Ase: Is a funereal chant for the death of Ase, Peer's beleaguered widowed mother.

Anitra's Dance: Anitra, the seductive daughter of an Arabian chief, tries to entice Peer to stay at the chief's court.

In the Hall of the Mountain King: Peer has a run-in with trolls – Norway's indigenous monsters who hide out under bridges and populate the nightmares of Norwegian children. The dance starts slowly, deep in the range of the solo bassoon, accompanied by pizzicato basses, gradually building up the tempo and dynamics as more instruments are added – a Norwegian Bolero. A coda with the unusual effect of staccato cymbal crashes concludes the Suite.



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Finlandia, Op. 26

Jean Sibelius 1865-1957

Sweden relinquished Finland to the Russian Empire in 1809, where it became an autonomous duchy with significant control over its own affairs. Beginning in 1870, however, Russia gradually began to rescind Finland's privileges and autonomy. While Swedish was the language of the educated and of the middle class, Russian repression aroused strong nationalist feelings and initiated a revival of the Finnish language. Born into this new nationalism, Jean Sibelius enrolled in the first grammar school to teach in Finnish. Finland finally gained its independence towards the end of World War I.

In February 1899, the Russian Imperial Governor published the notorious "February Manifesto," designed to curtail Finland's autonomy and facilitate its Russification. Among other restrictions, it imposed censorship of the press, forcing the demise of many newspapers. In order to support the dismissed staff, a three-day cultural festival was organized in Helsinki to raise funds for the Press Pension Fund. Sibelius provided the music for the grand finale in the form of a dramatic seven-tableaux spectacle depicting episodes from Finnish history. It culminated in a stirring patriotic anthem entitled Finland Awake. A year later, with some modification, Sibelius recast it as an independent tone poem, Finlandia. With its powerful opening, symbolizing Russia's brutal repression of the Finns, and hymn-like middle section, it soon became the symbol of Finnish nationalism. Before 1917, in order to evade the Russian censor, it had to be performed under the euphemistic title "Impromptu."

Program notes by: Joseph & Elizabeth Kahn Wordpros@mindspring.com www.wordprosmusic.com

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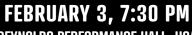
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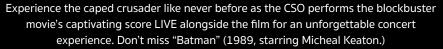
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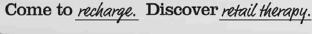


DECEMBER 2, 7:30 PMREYNOLDS PERFORMANCE HALL

Ring in the holidays with the CSO!

Nia Renée sings contemporary holiday classics and guest artists Arkansas Festival Ballet perform selections from "The Nutcracker."

Information and tickets at conwaysymphony.org or call the box office at (501) 450-3265 for \$15 children's tickets with adult purchase, \$30/\$40/\$50.





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JOIN THE CSO GUILD



Annual dues are only \$30.

Contact
Christine Donahue,
cdonahue@uca.edu
for more information.

The CSO Guild's activities support, promote and encourage a love of music in our community through our very own Conway Symphony. Fundraising events like Jazz it Up and children's educational presentations like The Little Red Hen are just some of the ways this group of dedicated volunteers makes it happen.

THE DRAWDOWN HOEDOWN NOVEMBER 2

Mark your calendars for something NEW this Fall! Join us November 2 at the Brick Room in downtown Conway.





CSO IN THE CLASSROOM

This program provides free, educational presentations to students in Conway area schools and homeschool programs! More than 23,000 students have been inspired by this interactive and fun classroom program.

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CSO ON THE GO

CSO ensembles perform at public events and senior living facilities, and bring Instrument Petting Zoos and Educational Concerts to locations throughout the Conway area.

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Support for the Conway Symphony Orchestra is provided, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The CSO is proud to have support from the Arkansas Community Foundation of Faulkner County.

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