



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Wednesday, January 29, 2025 | 7:30 pm
Margot and Bill Winspear Hall - Murchison Performing Arts Center

Concert Orchestra
featuring student conductors

**2024-2025 William Gammon Henry
Concerto Competition Winners Concert**

from Harp Concerto, Op. 25 (1956) Alberto Ginastera
III. Liberamente capriccioso – Vivace (1916–1983)

Kathryn Horton, harp
Jiwoo Seo, conductor

Theme and Variations for Viola and Orchestra (1940) Alan Shulman
(1915–2002)

John Sharp, viola
Chelsea (Qiuxian) Lu, conductor

Fantasy for Euphonium and Orchestra (2001) François Glorieux
(1932–2023)

Scott McLain, euphonium
Patricio Gutiérrez, conductor

-INTERMISSION-

"Signore, ascolta," from *Turandot* (1926) Giacomo Puccini
(1858–1924)

Xiaojing Luo, soprano
Ella Castro, conductor

Program two hundred seventy-six of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

from Guitar Concerto No. 1
in D Major, Op. 99 (1842)..... Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
III. Ritmico e cavalleresco (1895–1968)

Miloš Soćanin, guitar
David Mery, conductor

"Allmächt'ger Vater," from
Rienzi, der letzte der Tribunen (1842)Richard Wagner
(1813–1883)

Cecil Garrison, tenor
Ella Castro, conductor

from Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26 (1921)Sergei Prokofiev
I. Andante – Allegro (1891–1953)

Jin Wu, piano
Nathan Howard, conductor

Soloist Biographies

Cecil Garrison, tenor, originally from Farmington, NM, came to Texas to pursue a Master of Music at SMU in 2020, and is currently in his third year of Doctoral studies at UNT. At those schools he has played Don José in *Carmen*, Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, the Witch in *Hänsel und Gretel*, and will be performing the role of Eisenstein in UNT's production of *Die Fledermaus* in February and March of 2025. Besides opera, he has a musical passion for teaching voice, art song and Barbershop quartet singing.

As the fifth prize winner of the American Harp Society National Competition, **Kathryn Horton** is a part of the nationally recognized Emerging Artist Program. She was also selected for the 2024 World Harp Congress Focus on Youth Program, and won 1st place at the JS Fest Online Competition. She has performed at various conferences with the UNT HarpBeats harp ensemble, including the Texas Music Educators Association Convention and the American Harp Society National Conference. Kathryn also enjoys working with composers and performing new works for harp, including a premiere of new compositions as a part of a harpist and composer collaboration at UNT. In addition to her experience in performing, Kathryn also has a strong interest in music business. She is currently interning with the Lewisville Lake Symphony assisting in various concerts and events, and as an accounting assistant. She loves seeing the "behind the scenes" of the music industry and what it takes to organize the incredible live performances that she has attended or performed in. She is also a passionate teacher in both piano and harp, and loves introducing the harp to new students. Kathryn Horton began studying music at age five with piano lessons. She soon developed an interest in the harp, and began taking harp lessons with Alice Spero Keene, a former harp professor at the University of Illinois. She made the decision to pursue the harp as a profession after attending a harp festival during the summer, and enjoyed hearing many different professional harpists speak about their careers with the harp. Kathryn Horton is currently a third year Harp Performance major studying under Dr. Jaymee Haefner at the University of North Texas. During her time at UNT, she has had the privilege to perform for internally known harpists such as Sylvain Blassel, Caroline Lizotte, and Parker Ramsay. Now that she has performed across the nation, she looks forward to continuing to broaden her performance horizons.

Xiaoqing Luo is a rising soprano currently pursuing GAC program at University of North Texas. With a Master's degree from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and a Bachelor's from the Central Conservatory of Music in China. Xiaoqing combines strong academic training with extensive stage experience, she successfully held many solo recitals, earning high praise from the faculty for her unique vocal talent and potential. Xiaoqing has graced the international opera stage with notable performances, including Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* in Germany; Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* with Central Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra in China; Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* and Angelica in *Suor Angelica* in Italy. Her solo recital at the Changsha Concert Hall in 2021 received high praise by local media. She has also actively engaged in prestigious masterclasses, projects, and concerts with renowned artists, including the Puccini 160th Anniversary Concert at Central Conservatory of Music; China Chamber Opera Project; Charles Spencer Masterclass; Davide Dellisanti Masterclass; and the 2021 Sherill Milnes Voice Program.

Scott McLain is a DFW-based euphoniumist from Plano, Texas. While at the University of North Texas, Scott has studied euphonium with Dr. David Childs, Grant Jameson, and Dr. Sunny Chou for his Bachelor's in Music Education and completed his student teaching in Sanger ISD. He currently holds the Co-Principal Euphonium chair with the Dallas Brass Band and has performed with the UNT Wind Symphony and the 5 O'Clock Lab Band. As a member of the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps from 2021 to 2023, Scott was a multi-instrumental soloist in their national touring performances. Scott is now a graduate student at UNT where he has been awarded a Teaching Fellowship in pursuit of his Masters in Music Performance. His passion is to share his dedication of music and performance with his future students.

John David Sharp II has collaborated with numerous artists at the forefront of classical music today, participating in masterclasses led by Frank Huang, Jordan Bak, and Philip Setzer of the Emerson String Quartet. He received a fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival for the 2024 season and was a member of National Youth Orchestra of The United States of America from 2022-2023. John has appeared in numerous solo performances, most notably at Chicago's Symphony Hall. John is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance at University of North Texas under the direction of Susan Dubois as a recipient of the Undergraduate Quartet Fellowship. In 2024, John was a winner of the William Gammon Henry Concerto Competition, and the grand prize winner of the George Papich Competition as a member of Neveu String Quartet.

Miloš Soćanin is a classically trained guitarist with a rich musical heritage. Born and raised in Serbia, he began his guitar journey at the age of 8 and quickly demonstrated exceptional talent. At 16, he was accepted into the Faculty of Music in Belgrade, where he earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in classical guitar performance under the guidance of renowned professors. Subsequently, Miloš earned his second master's degree in classical guitar performance at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. Throughout his career, Miloš has performed at numerous guitar recitals across Europe and the United States, showcasing his technical mastery and artistic expression. He has also won numerous competition prizes at guitar festivals, where he has had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the world's most esteemed classical guitarists, including Zoran Dukić, Paolo Pegoraro, Costas Cotsiolis, The Assad Brothers, Giampaolo Bandini, and Hubert Köppel. Miloš is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in guitar performance at the University of North Texas under the mentorship of Dr. Bokyoung Byun.

Jin Wu is an inspiring and enthusiastic pianist, piano teacher, and collaborative pianist. She received Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas (KU) under the direction of Dr. Jack Winerock, and Master of Music in Piano Performance at The New School-Mannes School of Music under the direction of Prof. Yuri Kim. During pandemic, she studied with Dr. Scott McBride Smith, devoting herself to piano teaching and the research of piano pedagogy. In 2021, she was admitted to University of North Texas (UNT) with a substantial scholarship, pursuing her DMA in piano performance under the direction of Dr. Pamela Mia Paul. Currently, she is a DMA candidate at UNT and is teaching Young Pianist Program at Indiana University Bloomington Jacob School of Music. Honors include the winner of 2022 Isabel Scionti Piano Scholarship and an invitation to perform at Eberly hall in Texas Woman's University. As a winner of the Elite International Music Competition, she performed at Carnegie Hall in 2019. In 2018, she was nominated and selected to perform for maestro Richard Goode in the public masterclass at Mannes School of Music. She earned two First Place Awards in Kansas Music Teacher Association (KMTA) competition in 2017 & 2015. She was awarded the Second Place Award in the Liszt International Piano Competition, held in Hong Kong in 2011; the First Place Award in "Xingxinghuoju" National Piano Completion (China) in 2010; and the First Place Award in "Pugongying" National Piano Competition (China) in 2010. During her studies in the U. S., She received scholarships from the University of Kansas, Kansas City Music Club (KCMC), Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), Mannes School of Music, University of North Texas, and Isabel Scionti Piano Scholarship. As a frequent scholarship recipient and winner of auditions, she performed many times for KCMC and SAI. She was also invited to perform in the 21st annual Beatrice Liu Memorial Concert; nominated and selected many times to perform in KU Honor Recitals.

Conductor Biographies

Ella Castro is a Filipino soprano, conductor, and composer. A jack of many trades, Ella has a stellar career in singing and teaching diverse genres from pop to classical, leading choirs and orchestras, and composing and arranging musicals and choral works. Under the guidance of her voice professor Dr. Terrie Sanders, she won numerous accolades in her singing career, including placing first in National Association of Teachers for Singing – Louisiana State in 2022. She also had her own voice studio in Northwestern State University (NSU) School of Creative and Performing Arts, teaching students ranging from teenagers to college students. She was also the interim director of NSU Men's Chorus for almost two years. As a chorister, Ella had traveled to different parts of the world (Asia, Europe, and USA) joining local and international choral competitions. She made her orchestral debut conducting with the Natchitoches Northwestern Symphony Orchestra in 2022 and had then conducted various concerts with them. She was the chorusmaster and assistant conductor of Spotlight on Opera 2023's productions of Puccini's "Suor Angelica", and "Madama Butterfly" held in Shreveport, Louisiana under the guidance of Dr. William Reber and Ms. Kristin Roach. Back in the Philippines, she was the resident musical director and composer of Teatro Kalsayño, Caloocan City Science High School's theatre group from 2014 to 2020, composing various musicals for and with them. Currently, she is the personnel manager of University of North Texas - Orchestral Studies where she is working on her doctorate degree in orchestral conducting under Maestro David Itkin. As a graduate student conductor, she conducts and assists the UNT Symphony Orchestra and Concert Orchestra.

Described by the Chilean Newspaper, El Centro, as "a bright young talent," Chilean cellist and conductor **Patricio Gutiérrez** has performed in Canada, United States, Peru, Argentina, and Chile. A dedicated cello instructor, Gutiérrez has taught in several youth orchestras in Maule and Bio-bio regions in Chile between 2009-15, as well as in the DFW area from 2018. Patricio is also an active arranger, organizing pieces for cello duets, trios, quartets, and string ensembles. Born into a non-musical family in Santiago, Chile, Gutiérrez began studying classical guitar at the age of eight and switched to cello at the age of ten. Patricio graduated from Universidad de Talca in 2012 under the guidance of Alejandro Tagle. In 2013 Patricio was the recipient of the Univerisia Scholarship of Santander Bank in Chile, which allowed him to spend one semester as an exchange student at University of Connecticut, taking cello lessons with the cellist of the Penderecki Quartet, Katie Schlaikjer. In 2018, Patricio graduated from The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory in Toronto where he finished his Artist Diploma, working with both cello teachers Desmond Hoebig and Andrés Díaz. In 2020, Patricio graduated from his MM in cello performance under the guidance of Andrés Díaz at SMU. In 2022, Patricio graduated from his MM in orchestral conducting under the guidance of Dr. Paul Phillips at SMU. In 2024, Patricio was appointed assistant conductor of Lewisville Lake Symphony. Currently, Patricio is pursuing his Doctoral studies at the University of North Texas under David Itkin.

Nathan Howard is a multi-instrumentalist and conductor pursuing a Doctorate at the University of North Texas under Maestro David Itkin. Following graduate studies at Southern Methodist University, he served as resident conductor of the Meadows Symphony Orchestra. Nathan also studied at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he recorded with the New Music Ensemble. As an ensemble leader, he was Music Director for The Camp-of-the-Woods jazz band and conducted the Lviv National Philharmonic, Meadows Symphony Orchestra and Samford University Orchestra. His previous conducting teachers include Paul C. Phillips, Jack Delaney, and Michelle Merrill.

Chelsea (Qiuxian) Lu is a conductor, composer, and performer. A native of Zhejiang, China, she began musical training on the piano at the age of five and traveled to the United States to pursue musical studies at the age of eighteen. She studied piano, flute, and conducting at Western Michigan University and was awarded Summa Cum Laude at graduation. She earned the Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Oklahoma, where she served as assistant conductor of OU Symphony Orchestra and OU Opera. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting at the University of North Texas College of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Clay Couturiaux and serves as teaching assistant in Advanced Instrumental Conducting and Symphonic Literature courses. Lu has conducted major orchestral and operatic works in various large ensembles throughout her studies. She also conducted world premieres in large ensembles and chamber ensembles. Lu is a proponent of contemporary music and is devoted to bringing a diverse array of late 20th-century and 21st-century compositions to the stage. She is currently the conductor of UNT Nova contemporary ensemble. Lu has established contemporary musical ensembles in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, where she organized concert series, coached chamber ensembles, and conducted large ensembles. Praised by Hangzhou Daily and Qianjiang Evening News, "Qiuxian Lu has unique and in-depth insights into contemporary music and is very experienced with a variety of contemporary repertoire." She has composed multiple works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and large ensembles. Her solo and chamber works have been frequently commissioned and performed by instrumentalists and ensembles in China. Lu has actively performed as a pianist and flutist in multiple orchestras and top wind bands as well as a chamber musician across China and the United States. Besides standard repertoire and contemporary music, she has developed an interest in early music and is currently a harpsichordist in the UNT Baroque Orchestra. Lu has taught music theory and aural skills for over 7 years in both China and the United States and has established a scientific training system. She has served as music theory and aural skills instructor in music festivals and summer camps. Outside the world of music, Lu enjoys figure skating and swimming.

David Mery is an international student sponsored by the Fulbright-Garcia Robles program for graduate studies. He currently studies in the master's degree program in Orchestral Conducting at UNT supervised by Professor David Itkin. His most notable contribution to music life in Mexico comes from his two years as artistic director and conductor of the "Alfredo A. Gonzalez" Youth Symphony Orchestra in the city of Durango. He was also a Theory and Analysis instructor in *Universidad Juarez del Estado de Durango* (UJED). From 2018 to 2020 he studied for a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting in *Universidad Veracruzana* (UV) under the supervision of Lanfranco Marcelletti. During this time, he had the opportunity to conduct various ensembles from the city of Xalapa including Nova Funem Ensemble and *Orquesta Universitaria de Musica Popular* (OUMP). David started his private musical studies in 2006 and in 2010 his bachelor program in Music in Saltillo, Coahuila. In this city he has helped develop musical activity by creating and conducting ensembles. One of these ensembles, *Camerata Cuarto Creciente*, is still active during summertime and has generated offshoots that still influence the musical life of Saltillo.

Jiwoo Seo is a violinist and conductor from South Korea. She studied violin and composition at arts middle and high schools in Korea, building her musical foundation. She later entered Korea National University of Arts, beginning her path as a conductor. During her undergraduate years, she conducted premieres of new compositions at several universities. She also founded Reason Choir bringing together young musicians. She graduated from the Choral Conducting program at Korea National University of Arts with a bachelor's degree. She then moved to the United States and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at University of North Texas under Professor David Itkin.

Concert Orchestra Personnel

Violin 1

Pablo Cerdas †
Marlon Barrios
Ethan Dunn
Phoebe (Pei-Hsuan)
Tang
Oscar Mata
Travis Pota-Birkhoff
Monica Limberg
Yuma Okada
Isaiah Vargas
Juliana Jones
Mitchelle Cabrera
Braeden Boyles

Violin 2

Jiwon Lee †
Polly Klein
Rowan Ingraham
Sophie Thiessen
Valeria Tuesta
Seth Castellano
Dylan Garcia
Janicesta Browne
Julia Oh
Charlotte Reid
Lancelot Clark
Evan Collazos
Sofia Vega
Alexis de Leon

Viola

Samuel Yi †
Audrey Lewis
Kseniya Klyukina
Camryn Bourne
Anthony Brooks
Aidan Shannon
Breanna Norton
Angel de Hoyos
Nya Coleman

Cello

Claire Cabral †
Jonathan Scoggins
Maya Huber
Noah Sendir
Elise Abbott
Griffin Jones
Dawn Mansfield
Dylan Branam

Bass

Emma Willis †
Joe Ferris
Lilian Holder
Camryn Lafargue
Andrew Lakly
Aiyana Armstrong
Sara Nell Chase

Flute

Josh Diaz °
Hui Lam Mak #
Shane Salinas *^
Michael Salm "
Meige Yang +

Oboe

Taylor Darnell ^ °
Madeline Lee *+ "
Benjamin Yoder #

Clarinet

Riley Mazziotta *
Meaghan O'Connor "
Anthony Piñeiro
Stoney Shelton #
Allyson Verret +^ °

Bassoon

Anthony Coito *#
Landon Murr "
Fiona Theriault +^ °

French Horn

Jackson Dillard
Caleb Harold +
Eva Gomez *# "
Trampus Marek ^
Samantha Sheats °

Trumpet

Zach Dyess +
Elaina Garza °
Ryn Jenkins *
Michael McWhorter # "

Trombone

Britton Fugazzi #° "
Jayeon Lee

Bass Trombone

Jaden Bullock

Tuba

Wesley Arnold

Timpani

Jack Spelman

Percussion

Sam Fothergill
Brayden Haslam
Hannah McDowall
Paul Martini
Randy Vrana

Harp

Zoë Winn

Celesta

Zihao Zhou

‡ Concertmaster

† Principal

* Principal on Ginastera

Principal on Shulman

+ Principal on Puccini

^ Principal on

Castelnuovo-Tedesco

° Principal on Wagner

" Principal on Prokofiev