



North Texas Wind Ensemble

Amy Woody, Conductor

Hannah Weller, Master's Conducting Associate

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:30 pm

Winspear Hall

Murchison Performing Arts Center



PROGRAM

Sinfonia Nobilissima (1968) Robert Jager (b. 1939)

Hannah Weller, master's conducting associate

El Bosque Mágico (2003) Ferrer Ferràn (b. 1966)

- I. Los Elfos
- II. Las Hadas
- III. Los Gnomos

Dr. Jung Choi, Assistant Professor of Oboe

Remesans (2019) Sydney Guillaume (b. 1982)

--Intermission--

Gods of Olympus (2015) Óscar Navarro (b. 1981)

Hermes
Artemis
Hades
Demeter
Hephaestus
Apollo
Ares & Athena

PROGRAM NOTES

Robert Jager (b. 1939) is a renowned American composer, conductor, arranger, and educator. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he studied with William Revelli and Elizabeth Green before joining the United States Navy. While in the service, Jager was the Staff Arranger for the Armed Forces School of Music. Following his career in the military, Jager went on to teach at Old Dominion University, and eventually Texas Tech University, where he taught until May 2001. With esteemed commissions from the United States Marine Band and Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, Jager's work is revered across all musical mediums, with over 150 compositions for band, orchestra and chamber groups.

Sinfonia Noblissima (1964) is one of Jager's earliest compositions. At the beginning of his career, Jager took inspiration from Romantic-era composers such as Strauss, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky. His admiration for this style is evidenced in the lush, sweeping middle Andante, which starkly contrasts the dramatic, syncopated fast section that begins and ends the work, as well as the majestic, noble introduction and reintroduction at the end of the piece. With several deceptive climaxes, fugal interest, and a whirlwind of textures and rhythmic activity, this neo-Romantic work has become situated as a standard in the wind band repertoire.

Ferrer Ferràn (b. 1966) is a Spanish composer, conductor, and pianist. Ferràn studied at the Music Conservatory of Valencia where he was a student of composer Jeff Penders. While at the conservatory, Ferràn earned a degree in chamber music and accompaniment, as well as a prize for composition and orchestral direction at the Royal Academy of Music in Britain. Ferràn is an avid soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist in Valencia to this day and also teaches at the Conservatory.

His concerto for oboe and wind band, ***El Bosque Mágico*** (2002) is dedicated to Spanish oboist Jesus Fuster, who is "capable of converting music into a feeling." The first movement, Los Elfos (Elves), is meant to depict the creatures in all of their malice, mischief, and mystery. It is believed that elves are evil assistants who always know where the true treasure lies. The second movement, Los Hadas (Fairies) depicts the romantic, whimsical, and sprightly traits of fairies, who are believed to be highly intelligent protectors of great beauty, grace, and strength. The final movement, Los Gnomos (Gnomes) sheds light upon the existence of gnomes in their infinite wisdom, and finite stature. While short they may be, simple they are not, as they are rumored to have spiritually ascended, and carry the secrets to understanding this world through their magical abilities. The UNT Wind Ensemble is delighted to be joined by Professor Jung Choi on Ferrer Ferràn's *El Bosque Mágico*.

Praised by the *Miami Herald* for their "impressive maturity and striking melodic distinction," **Sydney Guillaume's** (b. 1982) compositions are known to be intricate, challenging and yet highly spirited. They promote human values and are full of heart and passion. His compositions continually enthral choirs everywhere and have been performed around the world. They have been featured at numerous conferences and international festivals like the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the World Choir Games and Ireland's Cork International Choral Festival. Guillaume also writes film music; he has written original film and documentary scores for the Los Angeles based company Loyola Productions

Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sydney Guillaume is currently residing in Portland, Oregon working as a full-time composer, conductor and frequently doing workshops on his music with university and high school choirs throughout North America. Since 2013 he has been the conductor of the Imbroglio Sextet, a group of musicians from Haiti, Spain, Bolivia and the United States. In 2017, he was honored by the top music school in Haiti for his "great contribution in the expansion and the promotion of the music and culture of Haiti around the world."

Of ***Renesans***, Guillaume writes:

Renesans is my first work for wind ensemble. Knowing that the piece would premiere in my native country Haiti on the ninth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took place on January 12, 2010, I wanted to write a work that was reflective and at the same time uplifting. Tragedies, misfortunes and loss often force us to re-examine everything, and they also give us an opportunity to start over, creating an exciting blank page for the future. In *Renesans*, I imagine the strength and courage we gain after going through a dark time. The word "renesans" is Haitian Creole for "rebirth," which is something that we all go through in different ways throughout our lives.

Óscar Navarro (b. 1981) is a Spanish composer, conductor, arranger, and musician from the town of Novelda). There, he began his musical studies in clarinet, and eventually went on to study at the Allegro Internacional Music Academy in Valencia; Ferrer Ferrán was his main teacher and mentor. He then went on to be selected by the prestigious University of Southern California, Los Angeles to specialize in composition for film and TV, working under the tutelage of great professionals in the film industry.

Navarro has had his works recorded in large studios such as Capitol Records, Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. After finishing his studies, he received the Harry Warren Endowed Scholarship for Scoring for Motion Pictures and TV award as the most distinguished student in his class. To this day, Óscar Navarro has numerous national and international composition awards, and his music is performed and premiered in large concert halls around the world. Navarro's compositions have been performed by renowned professional and academic bands and orchestras, and has received much acclaim from the film industry and classical music world alike.

Gods of Olympus (2015) is a suite in ten movements, written to characterize and illustrate the myths and lore surrounding the twelve deities who reign on Mount Olympus. Of the selected movements on tonight's performance, Óscar Navarro writes:

I. "Hermes" - The messenger of the gods across all frontiers: A very lively and fast music represents an agile, energetic, cunning god. He is capable of traveling around Earth from place to place without any trouble, disguising himself amongst other travelers, shepherds, traders, burglars and other mortals without raising any suspicion.

II. "Artemis" - The goddess of nature and wild animals: This movement, composed as a dance form, depicts the Goddess Artemis surrounded by live nature, birds and vegetation covering the surface of Earth beyond where the eye reaches. The animals pasture and run around freely amidst a clear and bright sky. Artemis dances and runs in this beautiful depicted scenery, carrying her bow and arrows and hunting down the wild animals.

III. "Hades" - God of death: A trip to the underworld can be very lonely and dark. A cold and deserted path will guide us to meet Hades, who is depicted in the music by a demonic ostinato, which will drive our ear crazy until it rips our soul apart.

V. "Demeter" - Goddess of agriculture: This movement reproduces the "chant of the mowers", often related to the world of agriculture. It uses a simple melody created exclusively for Demeter, who takes care of the farmers and the fertile land. This movement depicts the flutter of butterflies' wings and the dialogue between the wind and the farmers. In essence, it is a movement on invocation to the goddess of agriculture and carrier of the seasons.

VI. "Hephaestus" - God of fire and forging: This movement can be coined as "the smith's hymn". Hephaestus is venerated by all the smiths and craftsmen, who chant melodies to the beat of the anvils. Little by little, other sculptors and craftsmen will join in with their voices. At the very end, a big explosion of fire and ecstasy will carry the listener to the end of the movement.

VII. "Apollo" - God of beauty, music and perfection: Apollo, who is in charge of playing music at Olympus, will present us with a simple theme, first played with the horn and later by a small group of players from each one of the orchestra's sections. This theme will be used as a welcome-back tune for all of the gods. It is very triumphant and solemn chamber music.

IX. "Ares and Athena" - Gods of war: Ares and Athena travel together riding on their chariot pushed by four immortal bulls with golden flanges and breathing fire. They are equipped with helmets, shields and spears. These gods are coming from afar, marching towards war and destruction, a ferocious massacre of blood and fire.

Oboist **Jung Choi**, a native of South Korea, has quickly established a career of both performing and teaching. She was honorably mentioned twice as the finalist for the Gillet-Fox International Oboe Competition and started teaching and giving masterclasses at a collegiate level



Having made her concerto debut at the age of 16, Choi has since appeared as soloist with the Seoul Yego Orchestra, SNU Wind Ensemble, Buchoen Youth Philharmonic, Seoul Youth Philharmonic, Seoul Chamber Orchestra and Eastman Philharmonia. She also has appeared internationally as a chamber and orchestral musician in Germany, France, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

While she was working on her master's degree at the Eastman School of Music, Choi was appointed as oboe/English horn player at the Binghamton Philharmonic. She taught at Nazareth College and Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY as well. Upon graduation from Eastman, she was appointed assistant principal for the Korean Symphony Orchestra and gave up to 90 concerts annually. Choi also taught oboe at Seoul National University, her alma mater. As a devoted teacher her students won major music competitions in Korea, were invited to compete in oboe competitions such as the Muri Competition and Prague Spring Competition, and were invited to the Pacific Music Festival, American Institute of Musical Studies, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.

Choi is an avid chamber musician and a member of the wind ensemble Winds, the Piri oboe ensemble and a woodwind quintet, Sunyul. She was invited as principal oboist of Daegwanyoung Music Festival, Incheon and Arts Festival and Malaysia Festival Orchestra. Apart from classical music, Choi's interest lies in other genres of music as well. She has recorded music for movies, musicals, and K-pop songs. She also performed the oboe on a Korean national television show collaborating with a poet.

Choi's principal teachers include Richard Killmer, Yun Jung Lee, Myung Jin Lee, Soo Keum Kim and Jong Duk Kim. She comes to UNT from Missouri State University.

Hannah Weller is currently earning her master of music in clarinet performance at The University of North Texas in Denton, TX (Class of 2024) where she is a student of Dr. Kimberly Cole Luevano. Hannah is a member of the UNT Wind Symphony, and has also played in the Symphony Orchestra, as well as numerous chamber groups. Hannah was a member of Trio Rindo in Spring 2023, which took third prize in the George Papich Chamber Music Competition, as well as a flute-clarinet-piano trio which was selected to perform at the 2023 UNT Chamber Music Gala and subsequent showcase recitals. Hannah is pursuing a related field in wind conducting, and serves as a UNT Wind Studies Teaching Fellow, working with the Green Brigade, Wind Ensemble, University Band, and Concert Bands. Hannah is also an active private teacher in the area, maintaining a studio composed of students from Krum ISD, Argyle ISD, and Dallas ISD. Aside from her academic endeavors, Hannah was a recent semifinalist in the ICA Young Artist Competition (July 2023) and enjoys playing professionally in the DFW area as a newly appointed member of the Lone Star Wind Orchestra.



Hannah graduated *summa cum laude* from Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, PA (2022). There, she earned her B.S. in music education with a K-12 teaching certificate. At Messiah, Hannah was a student of Dr. Stephanie Cramer, and served as the principal clarinetist of the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. She was also a member of the Clarinet Choir, Woodwind Quintet and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. At Messiah, Hannah was a finalist (2020) and eventual winner (2021) of the Lance K. Kuhlman performance competition. She was also selected as the department's Presser Scholar for her musical and academic accomplishments, as well as her leadership and citizenship within the department.

In Fall of 2024, Hannah will continue her graduate studies as a doctoral conducting associate here at the University of North Texas.

Amy Woody is Lecturer in Wind Studies and Director of Athletic Bands. She has completed coursework toward a doctor of musical arts in conducting with a related field in clarinet performance from the University of North Texas. Ms. Woody was recently named one of four 2023 Outstanding Teaching Fellows on the UNT campus. Her teachers include Eugene Migliaro Corporon, Andrew Trachsel, and Daniel Cook. Prior to UNT, Ms. Woody served as the Director of Bands (2014–2021) and Associate Director of Bands (2007–2014) at John H. Guyer High School in Denton, TX. The Guyer Wind Ensemble was named a Commended Winner in the 2021 Mark of Excellence New Music Category, a 2018 Mark of Excellence National Winner, and a 2018 Western International Band Conference Invited Ensemble in Seattle, Washington.



Previously, she served as the Chief Programs Officer for the Lone Star Wind Orchestra (LSWO), a professional wind band based in the DFW metroplex. She has performed in the clarinet section of the Lone Star Wind Orchestra since the fall of 2008. In her time with the ensemble she performed at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference, International Women's Brass Conference (IWBC), World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA), Clarinetfest, the OU Clarinet Symposium as well as other professional engagements in the DFW Area. Ms. Woody's past performance engagements include the Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Waco Symphony Orchestra, and Oswego Opera Orchestra.

Ms. Woody is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music (master of music in clarinet performance) and Baylor University (bachelor of music education).

Flute

James Connor
Kaitlyn Maresca
Yuma Okada
Brandon Revilla
Shane Salinas
Alena Scott

Oboe

Presley Arvin
Ava Bigalke
Francisco Rubio

Bassoon

Josh Diaz
Cathal Mayfield
Kyle Palmer

Clarinet

Marissa Ceutlach
Jordan Cotter
Landon Foy
Julian Johnson
Hasani Little
Nguyen Nguyen
Nyla Ortiz
Elijah Paterson
Sanuel Poage
Hannah Prendergast
Kenneth Reed
Jerry Su
Shane Uhl
Jilin Zhang

Saxophone

Trinity Bahng
Ryan Fillinger
Daniel Jipster
Kevin Minitier
Sarah Mizzen
Jacob Ryter

Trumpet

Elaina Garza
Robert Jones
Mackenzie McCulloch
Aidan Olesen
Ethan Sandoval
Abigail Striblen

Horn

Preston Garrison
Nathaniel Holland
Jocelyn Long
Emily Moore
Deija Nunn
Bradley Oates
Carter White

Tenor Trombone

David Cohen
Emma Collins
Logan Myers
Ashlee Thompson

Bass Trombone

Jaden Bullock
Jeremy Kvale

Euphonium

Jenna McClain
Jaden Overbeck
Chase Thomas
Angel Rios Torres

Tuba

Will Cooke
Raegan Dishman
Ali Masswi

Percussion

Gracie Bazan
Taylor Bowen
Josh Camacho
Lluvia Castillo
Matthew Chovanec
Bailey Dixon
Christopher Mason
Spencer Pedone
Benjamin Waddill

Double Bass

Victoria Boland
Ethan Miranda

Piano

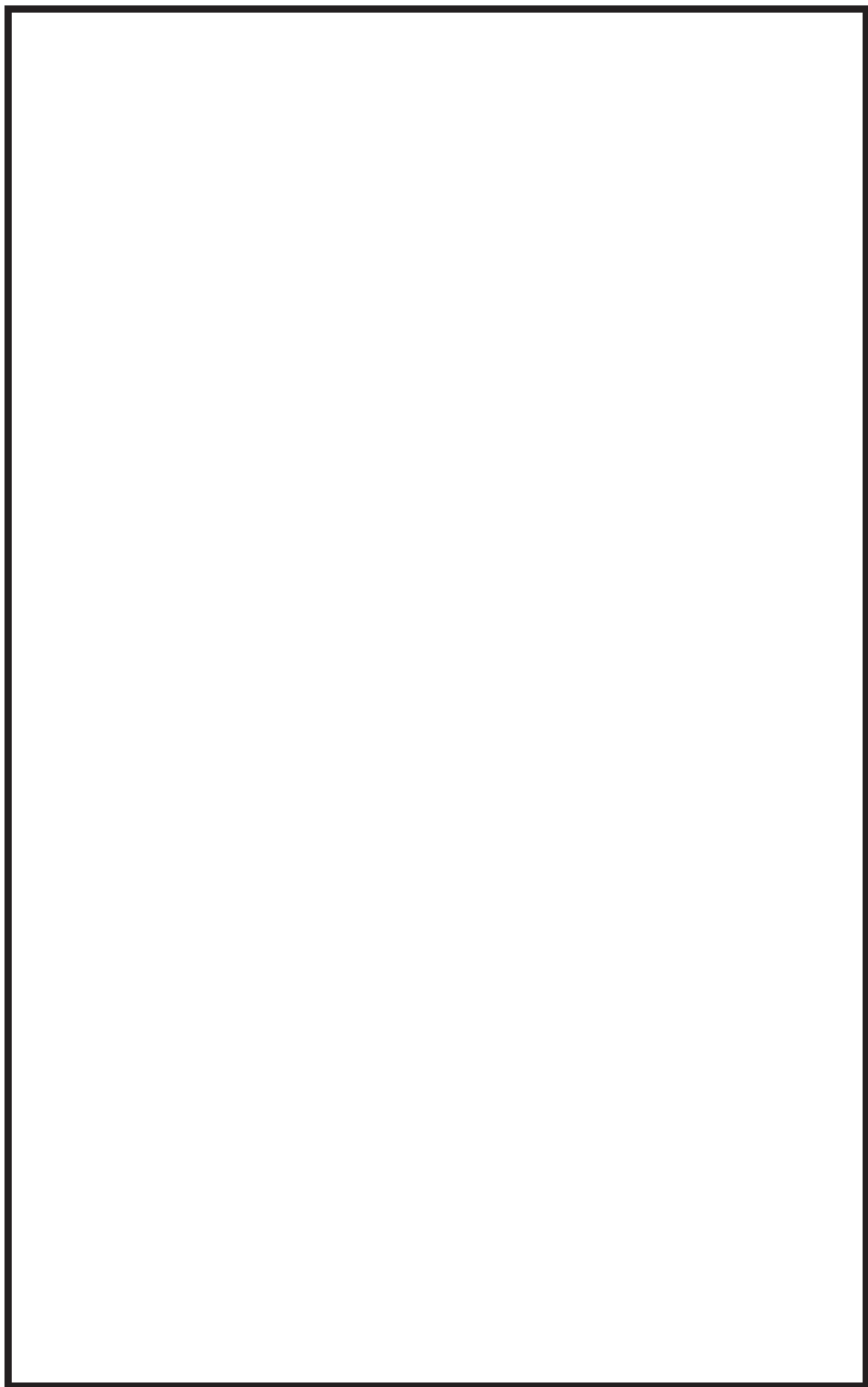
David McCaulley

Harp

Kathryn Horton

Members of the North Texas Wind Ensemble are listed alphabetically to acknowledge each performer's unique contribution. Every individual is considered to be a principal player.

The **North Texas Wind Ensemble** is dedicated to broadening the artistic level and interest of its members while performing challenging music of artistic and historical significance. The members of the ensemble are selected from the most talented musicians in the Wind Studies area. Through flexible instrumentation, members of the Wind Ensemble will broaden and expand performance skills to experience the highest level of music making.



Wind Studies

Eugene Migliaro Corporon, Director of Wind Studies; Conductor, Wind Symphony
Andrew Trachsel, Professor of Wind Studies; Conductor, Wind Orchestra
Amy Woody, Director of Athletic Bands; Conductor, Wind Ensemble
David Childs and Raquel Samayoa, Conductors, Brass Band
Dachuan Cao, John Clemons, Jerianne Larson, Doctoral Conducting Associates
ME5 Aik Kee K. Steven Tan, Master's Conducting Associate
Hannah Weller, Master's Teaching Fellow
Heather Coffin, Administrative Coordinator
Daniel Jipster, Erick Morales, Anthony Piñeiro, Alena Scott, Librarians
Lauren Chambers, Ryan Fillinger, Max Fritch, Spencer Knutti, Aidan Olsen,
Arturo Ortega, Alena Scott, Stage Crew

Floyd Graham, Director of Bands, Emeritus (1927–1937)
Robert Lincoln Marquis, Jr., Director of Bands, Emeritus (1937–1939)
Harry Parshall, Director of Bands (1939–1943)
Lawrence Chidester, Director of Bands (1943–1945)
Maurice McAdow, Director of Bands, Emeritus (1945–1975)
Robert Winslow, Director of Bands, Emeritus (1975–1993)
Dennis Fisher, Professor of Wind Studies, Emeritus (1982–2019)

Instrumental Studies & Jazz Studies (*Adjunct)

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| Mary Karen Clardy, flute | Tony Baker, trombone |
| Elizabeth McNutt, flute | Nick Finzer, trombone |
| Terri Sundberg, flute | Natalie Mannix, trombone |
| *Amy Taylor, piccolo | Steven Menard, trombone |
| Jung Choi, oboe | David Childs, euphonium |
| Daryl Coad, clarinet | *Matthew Good, tuba |
| Deb Fabian, clarinet | Don Little, tuba |
| Kimberly Cole Luevano, clarinet | Jeffrey Bradetich, double bass |
| Phillip Paglialonga, clarinet | Gudrun Raschen, double bass |
| *Gregory Raden, clarinet | Lynn Seaton, double bass |
| Darrel Hale, bassoon | Quincy Davis, drumset |
| Brad Leali, saxophone | *Stockton Helbing, drumset |
| Eric Nestler, saxophone | *Steven Pruitt, drumset |
| Philip Dizack, trumpet | Mark Ford, percussion |
| Adam Gordon, trumpet | David P. Hall, percussion |
| John Holt, trumpet | Paul Rennick, percussion |
| Rob Parton, trumpet | *Sandi Rennick, percussion |
| Raquel Rodriguez Samayoa, trumpet | Jaymee Haefner, harp |
| *Kyle Sherman, trumpet | Liudmila Georgievskaya, piano |
| Katherine McBain | Jesse Eschbach, organ |
| Stacie Mickens, horn | |

College of Music Administration

John W. Richmond - Dean
Warren H. Henry - Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
Kirsten Soriano - Associate Dean, Operations
Emilita Marin - Assistant Dean, Business and Finance
Raymond Rowell - Assistant Dean, Scholarships and External Affairs
Jaymee Haefner - Director, Graduate Studies
Mark Montemayor - Director, Undergraduate Studies
Joel D. Wiley - Director, Admissions
Matt Hardman - Director, Communications, Marketing and Public Relations