



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS Symphony Orchestra

presents,

WHIMSY

Dr. Rafael Antonio Rodriguez, conductor
Fabian Schneider, assistant conductor
Dr. Carlos Santelli, tenor soloist

OCTOBER 24 | 7:00 PM

PLOUGH CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Overture to “The Thieving Magpie”

Gioachino Rossini
1792 – 1868

Elegía Andina

Gabriela Lena Frank
b. 1972

Leyenda de Miliano

I. Plegaria
II. Canto Fúnebre de Cigarras

Arturo Márquez
b. 1950

Capriccio Italien, Op. 45

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
1840 – 1893

“Frisch zum Kampfe” from Il Seraglio

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart
1756-1791

La Bikina

Rubén Fuentes
1926 – 2022

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Rafael Antonio Rodriguez, conductor

Fabian Schneider, assistant conductor

Flutes

Catie Balsamo
Nicole Rodriguez
Mackenzie Saylor

Oboes

M. Isaac Ripple
Jesus Salazar
Simon Dickerson

Clarinets

Des Taylor
Hugh Shu
Pia Arteaga

Bassoons

Julian Rice
Ian West

Horns

Jimmy Rhine
Tristan Bass
Kelsey Pegues
Rhys Roberts

Trumpets

Christian Chiasson
Logan Smoot
Fausto Mejia

Trombones

Dylan Mashburn
Lavonte Smith
Paul Henry

Tuba

Nathan Owen

Percussions

Colton Renfrow
Christian Davis
Daniel Padron
Paul Hayes

Violin I

Keiber Utrera
Sebastian Gaviria
Cecilia Erbe
Sofia Alvarado
Noel Medford
John Jesuyemi
Gabby Gregory

Violin II

Abby Webber
Isabella Palmer
Emily Cooley
Langston Suggs
Sarah Enoch
Lina Lumumba
Claude Spivey

Viola

Dario Santos
Andrew McGuire
Matt Finley
Rex Brown
Jonathan Bagoyado
Irene Buchanan

Violoncello

Ina Torres O'Ryan
Ella Bondar
Lisandro Acosta
Miriam Henderson
Christine Sears
Ruby Thurman
Nazira Wali
Edward Henderson
Asamoah Oppong
Ann Sieber
Julian Severs

Contrabass

Aniyya Dent
Garrett Kirk
Joshua Sheperd

Harp

Alaina Graiser

Guitar

Andrew Manka

Tenor soloist

Dr. Carlos Santelli

PROGRAM NOTES

Light-hearted, fanciful, fun, and maybe just a bit unusual. Tonight's concert honors our students and alumni during Homecoming Week and recognizes our future Tigers, many of whom are participating in this weekend's Honor Strings Festival. With no intermission or large-scale symphony, we invite you to join us on a journey of the orchestra's past and present, contrasting themes, and to stretch the bounds of what the modern orchestra can represent as a part of the social fabric of our communities.

Our program begins with the Overture to Rossini's opera *La gazza ladra* (or *The Thieving Magpie*). Written and premiered at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan just two years after the end of the Napoleonic wars and the end of the French dictatorship in northern Italy, this humorous work with its unlikely premise provided just the release that the people needed. Among Rossini's most famous musical devices and a favorite among the people, listen for the "Rossini Rocket," a long, never-ending crescendo that finally releases in a virtuosic display of glorious sound and emotion!

Gabriela Lena Frank is currently composer-in-residence with the Philadelphia Orchestra and a leading composer in the United States with performances by the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, and many others. Born and raised in Berkeley, California to a Chinese-Peruvian mother and a Lithuanian-Jewish father, Gabriela truly represents our shared immigrant heritage and the amalgamation of cultures that define populations throughout the Americas. *Elegía Andina* pays tribute to her family's multicultural makeup and "uses stylistic elements of Peruvian arca/ira zampoña panpipes (double-row panpipes, each row with its own tuning) to paint an elegiac picture of [her] questions."

Arturo Márquez is perhaps the most renowned living Mexican composer, most famous for his series of eight Danzónes, or dances. Regularly performed around the world, Marquez' music incorporates folkloric elements and idiomatic styles through the symphony orchestra. The first movement of *Leyenda de Miliano* arises as a

“profane prayer” that begs for the fulfillment of the Zapatista dream. Written on the hundredth anniversary of the start of the Mexican Revolution, the work is conceived as an homage to revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata who was famously committed to the rights of the common man, initiating substantial land reforms which led to the redistribution of lands among the peasants in Morelos State. The first movement is relentless in the surety of its principal rhythmic motif which underlines the heroic themes and contemplative gestures that appear throughout. This stubborn consistency seems to echo Zapata’s own personality, never betraying the ideals of the Revolution for power, as so many of his compatriots did.

The Legend (*Leyenda*) concerns Emiliano Zapata’s death in 1919. Betrayed by one of his associates, the nationalist hero was ambushed as he entered a meeting at the *hacienda de Chinameca* to receive the defection of an adversary. It is said that on the anniversary of this betrayal, every year in *Chinameca*, the *chicharras* (cicadas) begin their mournful cry as the skies weep their sorrow over Emiliano’s death.

Tchaikovsky wrote his fanciful ***Capriccio Italien*** after a trip to Rome with his brother Modest. Inspired by the art, music, and architecture, he set his impressions to music in a manner that demands much from the musicians, yet feels as light and breezy to the listener as any of the ballets for which he is so famous. The name itself evokes just the right tone for this particular concert: *capriccio* is the Italian word for whim.

We conclude tonight’s concert with a special guest appearance by tenor vocalist Carlos Enrique Santelli. A member of the vocal arts faculty at the University of Memphis, Dr. Santelli graduated from Los Angeles Opera’s Domingo-Colburn-Stein young artist program and has performed with the Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera, and Virginia Opera among many others. Showcasing his vocal agility and keen sense of phrase, he will perform Mozart’s famous opera aria “***Frisch zum Kampfe***” and will close the show with one of the greatest mariachi hits of the past century, “***La Bikina.***”

Thank you for your continued support of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Go Tigers!