

University Symphony Orchestra

Concert of Soloists

Timothy Russell, conductor
Jacob Harrison, Brandon S. Matthews,
and Jana Minov, guest conductors
Amy Yekel, soprano
Tavit Tashjian, piano
Nadine Luke, flute

**School of Music
Herberger College of The Arts
Arizona State University**

**Monday, February 4, 2008
7:30 p.m.
ASU Gammage**

MUSIC

 **Herberger College
of the Arts**

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Program

Tragic Overture, opus 81.....Johannes Brahms

Jacob Harrison, conductor

Dich, teure Halle from *Tannhäuser*.....Richard Wagner

Amy Yekel, soprano

Concerto No. 2 in C minor, opus 18.....Sergei Rachmaninoff
Moderato

Tavit Tashjian, piano
Brandon Stephen Matthews, conductor

Intermission

Made In America.....Joan Tower

Timothy Russell, conductor

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra.....Jacques Ibert
Allegro

Nadine Luke, flute
Jana Minov, conductor

Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1 in A major, opus 11.....Georges Enesco

Timothy Russell, conductor

**We would like to express our appreciation to Steinway of Phoenix
for their generosity in providing the
Steinway piano for this evening's performance.**

*Out of respect for the performers and those audience members around you,
please turn all pagers, cell phones, and watches to silent mode. Thank you.*

Biographies

Timothy Russell is in his 15th year as a Professor of Music and Director of Orchestras at Arizona State University. He is one of America's most versatile and dynamic conductors and foremost music educators. He is equally at home conducting the great symphonic literature, music for chamber orchestra, ballet, large choral works, pops concerts, and children's programs. An articulate spokesperson for the arts, his obvious joy in discussing music and building new audiences is only surpassed by the insight and energy which his concerts possess . . . entertaining and enlightening programs of music spanning over four centuries, powerfully presented for listeners of all ages. In addition to his conducting at ASU, Dr. Russell directs the School's graduate orchestral conducting program. He is also the co-founder and Music Director of the award-winning ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Russell was the recipient of the 2006 Ohioana Pegasus Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the arts and humanities.

Russell has been a frequent guest conductor with The Phoenix Symphony, including highly acclaimed full-length productions of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and *Nutcracker* ballets, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Coppelia* by Leo Delibes, and the world premiere of Ib Andersen's *Play*. This season he will lead new productions of *Giselle* and *Don Quixote* in addition to another "Tribute to George Balanchine" with Ballet Arizona. Other guest conducting appearances have included the Cleveland Institute Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony, Baton Rouge Symphony, American Classical Orchestra, Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, and Summit Brass. In recent years he has conducted All-State Orchestras in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The conductor/producer of twenty-seven CDs, Russell has received two Grammy nominations. All of his recordings have been enthusiastically received by listeners and critics alike, as has his vital and imaginative orchestral leadership.

Maestro Russell just celebrated his twenty-eighth season as music director of ProMusica. His achievements with that ensemble have been remarkable and diverse. A recipient of the Greater Columbus Arts Council's "Artistic Excellence Award," the orchestra continues to maintain its outstanding reputation for artistic performance and exciting, adventuresome programming. On eight occasions the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) has honored Russell and ProMusica for their service to contemporary music. Together, they have been active in the commissioning of new works, including many by some of the world's most distinguished composers. Russell has conducted the world premiere performances of over ninety new compositions.

A Danforth Foundation Fellow, Dr. Russell has held academic appointments at The Ohio State University and the University of Rochester, including in its Eastman School of Music as an Associate Professor of Conducting and Ensembles. Dr. Russell regularly leads pre-concert talks and symposia, and continues to be a featured speaker at featured speaker at music conferences and workshops. He is actively involved in research and publication, currently writing three books – *The Joyful Musician: A Mindful Approach to Peak Performance*, *The Conductor's Anthology*, and *Mindful Tennis* with renowned Harvard psychologist Ellen Langer.

Timothy Russell and his wife, Jill, reside in Phoenix, Arizona as do their children, Kathryn and Geoffrey.

Soprano **Amy Louise Yekel**, from Canton, Ohio, received a Bachelor's degree from The University of Akron in Music Performance (2004), a Master's degree in Music Performance at Arizona State University (2006), and is currently a student of Jerry Doan and a doctoral candidate in Voice Performance.

Ms. Yekel has won numerous awards and Scholarships including: The Palm Springs Opera Scholarship, The Arizona Lyric Opera Scholarship, The Canton Civic Opera Scholarship, The Akron Symphony Chorus Scholarship, Tuesday Musical Club Scholarship, The McDowell Scholarship, The Mary S. Bower's Scholarship, The John Macdonald Scholarship, The Fairlawn United Church of Christ Scholarship, Tuesday Musical Club Finalists Scholarship, and The University of Akron's Vocal Performance Scholarship. Other honors and awards include: The University of Akron's Most Outstanding Student Award, and First place in the Advanced Woman's Division, Sophomore Division, and Freshman division at NATS.

Ms. Yekel has performed as the guest soloist for Canton Civic Opera's *Viva Italia*, and she has also sung at the Spoleto Festival in Spoleto Italy. Ms. Yekel made her vocal debut with ASU's Lyric Opera Theater as "Ariadne," in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* (2007) and has performed such roles as: "Lia," in Debussy's *L'enfant Prodigue* (2007), "Pernille/Captain Lovelock," in John Duke's *Captain Lovelock* (2007), and as "Lady Brockhurst," in *The Boyfriend*(2005).

Tavit Tashjian has been described as "having a very particular gift, possessing impressive technique and a colorful sound with a beautiful cantabile." His playing has been noted to be "brilliant and attractive", "energetic and virtuosic". Beginning at the age of six in Los Angeles, piano has been an integral part of the life of the Cyprus-born Armenian.

Tavit began pursuing his education with a Bachelor's in Piano Performance with the internationally renowned Toradze Piano Studio at Indiana University South Bend. He was the first prize winner of the Ann Walling Competition and a finalist in the Arizona Young Artist Competition. His teachers have included Dr. Baruch Meir, Marcelo Cesena, Alexander Toradze, and currently he is a student of distinguished Brazilian pianist, Dr. Caio Pagano. He has also participated in many master classes including Karyl Louwenaar, Leonidas Lipovetzky, Christopher O'Riley, Leonard Mastrogiacommo, Nelita True, among others.

Nadine Watson Luke is a native of Boise, Idaho. She graduated with honors from Brigham Young University in April 2005 with a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance. During her studies at BYU, Nadine performed with both the BYU Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras. While attending BYU, Nadine was accepted as a participant in the Vienna, Austria study abroad program, where she studied flute and attended many inspiring performances. Nadine performed at the National Flute Association Annual Convention in Nashville and was the Idaho State Solo Competition First Place winner. She has attended and performed at festivals and masterclasses across the United States as well as abroad.

Nadine is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance at ASU where she studies with Dr. Elizabeth Buck. Her past teachers include Dr. April Clayton, Dr. Liana Tyson, Kathryn Smith and Jennifer Robinson.

In demand as a conductor and an educator, **Jacob Harrison** is also a passionate supporter of composers and the arts of our time. He has premiered numerous new works for orchestras and chamber ensembles. In 2007, Mr. Harrison was appointed Resident Conductor of the Chaparral Music Fest, a music festival in Prescott, Arizona. In addition, he is co-director of the Arizona Contemporary Music Ensemble for the Spring of 2008.

After being appointed Music Director of the North Valley Chamber Orchestra in 2006, Jacob has increased the ensemble's visibility in the valley through the development of the ensemble's programming and by reaching out to the community of North Phoenix. In addition, Mr. Harrison has worked regularly with other orchestras throughout the Phoenix area such as the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra, the Scottsdale Community Orchestra, and the Arizona Repertory Orchestra.

Jacob Harrison's opera conducting debut was in 2006 with the ASU Lyric Opera Theater in a semi-staged production of Bela Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle*. He followed this as assistant conductor with the Lyric Opera Theater's 2007 production of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Before moving to Arizona, Mr. Harrison lived in Chicago where he worked with groups such as the Peoria Youth Orchestra, the Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra, the University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra, and the Mason Youth Orchestra in Michigan. He has also worked with the Poston Junior High Orchestra Program in Mesa and the Highland High School Orchestra Program in Gilbert.

Jacob Harrison studies orchestral conducting with Dr. Timothy Russell and opera conducting with Dr. William Reber while pursuing a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting at Arizona State University. He is director of the ASU Sinfonietta Orchestra and assistant conductor for the ASU Symphony and Chamber Orchestras.

Brandon Stephen Matthews is pursuing a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting at ASU, studying with Dr. Timothy Russell. He is currently a conductor of the ASU Sinfonietta, and an assistant conductor for the ASU Orchestra program. Matthews received a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting at Brigham Young University under the direction of Kory Katseanes. During his time at BYU, Matthews conducted the University Orchestra and BYU Strings and was assistant conductor of both the BYU Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras. Among Matthews's other conducting mentors are Harold Farberman and Sydney Rothstein, with whom he studied at the Conductor's Institute at Bard College in New York.

Matthews made his opera debut at BYU, conducting Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* as well as P. D. Q. Bach's *The Stoned Guest*. He also served as music director for Center Street Musical Theatre Company in Provo, Utah for the 2004-2005 season, conducting six productions including *The Mikado*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Matthews continues his opera conducting studies with Dr. William Reber at ASU.

Born in Spokane, Washington, Matthews began his musical studies as a pianist and later began playing viola. His musical training continued during summers spent at the Brevard Music Center (North Carolina) and the Marrowstone Festival (Washington). He received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at BYU. Matthews now resides in Mesa with his wife, Meghan.

Jana Minov graduated with a degree in conducting from the Conservatory of Music in Belgrade-Serbia where she studied with Jovan Šajnović. During her studies, Minov attended master classes and seminars with prominent conductors such as Emil Tabakov, Uroš Lajovic, and Mladen Jagust.

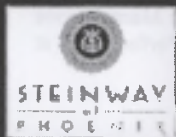
Minov's academic honors and work experience include the first prize and a special award at the International Choir Competition in Shanghai, China in July 2004. She led a series of concerts with the Niš Symphonic Orchestra as a guest conductor. Jana is the youngest conductor to conduct an opera (*Mozart's Magic Flute*) in the National Opera Theater in Belgrade. She also conducted stage music for many operas which were part of the standard repertoire in this prestigious opera house. Minov had the privilege of organizing, supervising, and conducting a series of performances with some of the most talented students within the Music Academy in Belgrade, who were assembled in the school's String Chamber Orchestra. She conducted a series of concerts with the Army Symphonic Orchestra and Choir in Belgrade and worked as a conducting assistant. In addition, she directed many public concerts with the amateur choir "Belgrade Madrigalists."

Minov also worked with church choirs for a two-year period during her studies and conducted several highly acclaimed concerts in Serbia and abroad. Before coming to Arizona, Jana worked as a music professor at the music high-school "Mokranjac." She studies orchestral conducting with Dr. Timothy Russell and opera conducting with Dr. William Reber while pursuing a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting at ASU. She is also a conductor of the ASU Sinfonietta, and an assistant conductor for the ASU Orchestra Program. Jana expands her opera repertoire in a forthcoming project with ASU Lyric Opera Theatre, a fully staged production of Handel's *Julius Caesar*.

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University Symphony Orchestra

Timothy Russell, Director of Orchestras

Violin I

Sarah Bowlin**
Holly Roberts
Xi Wang
Eliza Hesse
Laura Speck
Victoria Gorbich
Christian Simmelink
Aleksandr Spiridonov
Tamara Freida
Cristinel Băcanu
Gina Dyches
Ricardo Elias-Rodriguez
Diane Zelickman
Bonnie Teplik
Molly McCarthy

Violin II

Taylor Morris*
Alisha Bean
Jamilyn Richardson
Kate Bivona
Alyssa Saint
Terra Warger
Chung Gum Kang
Jessica Brooksby
Ellen Chang
Thalia Coombs
Loren Stallcop
Ansel Eklund
Samuel Golden
Vanessa R. Castillo
Tian Long Sun

Viola

Kim Teachout*
Allyson Wuenschel
Louis Privitera Jr.
Matthew W. Gordon
Alexander Vittal
Megan Leigh Smith
Garrett McDaniel
Padua Canty
Whitney Smith
Courtney D. Chapman

Cello

Nelly Rocha ^
Hope Shepherd ^
Mark Schoellhammer
Amy L. Huzjak
Adele E. Stein
Evan Henley
Molly Rife
Vanessa Belknop
Ruth Wenger
Willie Braun
Sabina Ahmad-Post
Kelly McVey
Kathleen Snyder

Bass

Christopher Rose*
Daniel Stotz
T. J. Maliszewski
Ovidiu L. Manolache
Rossine Parucci
Phil Suzuki
Juan J. Garcia
William Brichetto
John Sims
Joe Tyksinski
Patrick Cooper

Flute/Piccolo

Dawnya Chavis
Kelly Raymond
Kathryn Schaap
Elizabeth Min

Oboe

Dane Philipsen ^
Caryn Creamer ^
Katie Mordarski
Mary Simon

English Horn

Carly Aylworth

Clarinet

Kim Endel ^
Jonathan C. Robinson ^
Roman Ruiz

Bassoon

Julie Ann Link ^
Hugo Doege ^
Ashley Haney
Mikaela Miller

Horn

Rachel Seay
Derek J. Wright
Nathan Stark
Jordan Robert
Guan-Lin Yeh
Andrea Barbric
Robbie Buss

Trumpet

Jason Johnson
Brittany Hendricks
William Anonic
Kent Foss

Trombone

Patrick Lawrence*
Samuel Winston Price

Bass Trombone

Michael Wilkinson

Tuba

Kevin Bock

Harp

Virginia Miner*
Jessica Grondel

Timpani/Percussion

Scott Mitchell*
Tyler Stell
Matt Watson
Brad Stell

** Concertmaster

* Principal

^ Co-Principal

For this concert,
this section is
using a rotating
seating plan.

Orchestra Assistants

Jacob Harrison
Brandon S. Matthews
Jana Minov

Orchestra Librarian

Jacob Harrison

Orchestra Manager

Rossine Parucci

Orchestra Office

Specialist

Linda Bennett

Upcoming Events

University Symphony Orchestra

Handel Gems

Thursday, February 21, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Organ Hall – School of Music

Sinfonietta

An American Salute

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

7:30 p.m.

ASU Gammage

Jacob Harrison and Brandon Stephen Matthews, conductors

University Symphony Orchestra with ASU Chamber Singers

Handel's Messiah

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 – Evelyn Smith Music Theatre

Thursday, March 6, 2008 – Trinity Cathedral (Downtown Phoenix)

7:00 p.m.

David Schildkret, conductor

Tickets: \$12 Adult & \$7 Student

Herberger College Box Office 480.965.6447

University Symphony Orchestra & ASU Choirs

Verdi's Requiem

Friday, April 25, 2008

7:30 p.m.

ASU Gammage

Carole FitzPatrick, soprano

Jennifer Roderer, mezzo soprano

Robert Chafin, tenor

Peter Volpe, bass

Timothy Russell, conductor

EVENTS INFORMATION 480.965.TUNE (480.965.8863)
herbergercollege.asu.edu/calendar