

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

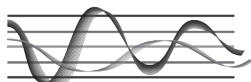
Symphony Orchestra

GIUSEPPE PIETRAROIA
CONDUCTOR

ARTURO GARCÍA CUÉLLAR
GRADUATE STUDENT CONDUCTOR

JIRAN MIAO PIANO
2024 UVIC CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

UVIC
music



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2024 | 8 PM

The Farquhar at UVic
University of Victoria

PROGRAM

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Fierrabras Overture, D. 796

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)

Slavonic Dances, Op. 72

Antonín Dvořák
(1841–1904)

1. *Odzemek. Vivace*

3. *Skočná. Allegro*

4. *Dumka. Allegretto grazioso*

5. *Špacírka. Poco Adagio—Vivace*

6. *Polonaise/Starodávný. Moderato, quasi menuetto*

8. *Sousedská. Grazioso e lento, ma non troppo, quasi tempo di Valse*

INTERMISSION

Slavonic Dances, Op. 72

A. Dvořák

2. *Dumka/Starodávný. Allegretto grazioso*

7. *Kolo. Allegro vivace*

Arturo García Cuéllar, conductor

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 15

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

1. *Maestoso*

Jiran Miao, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Schubert: *Fierrabras* Overture, D. 796

Fierrabras is a three-act opera written by Franz Schubert in 1823. Mainly a composer of the *Lieder* (German Art Song) tradition, *Fierrabras* marked an attempt by Schubert to write a more serious grand Romantic opera with themes of romance, royalty, and chivalry. The work was not without issue, however. The libretto was considered weak and problematic, and much of the work's composition was left abandoned or unfinished by Schubert before the opera came to fruition.

Despite the opera never being performed within Schubert's lifetime, the *Fierrabras Overture* remains an important part of the orchestral repertoire. It is bold, dramatic, and thrilling, and grand orchestration facilitates the masterful blend of introspective lyricism with heroic themes. Schubert's infusion of grandeur and ambition into the music reflects his great potential as a composer of a grand operatic work.

Dvořák: *Slavonic Dances*, Op. 72

Antonín Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*, Op. 72 was composed in 1878, four years after the immense success of his first set of *Slavonic Dances* (Op. 46). These dances are infused with lively folk rhythms and melodies, paying homage to the rich folk music of Central Europe while serving as a way for Dvořák to connect with his cultural roots. While Op. 46 is often seen as a celebration of Czech music, Op. 72 encompasses a wider scope of the Slavonic tradition, with influence being drawn from Hungary, Poland, and the Balkan region. The work consists of eight dances, each with its own distinct character and feel to it. Each dance shows off Dvořák's ability to skillfully adapt folk music to the idioms of classical forms, and the piece as a whole, has been rightfully solidified as an enduring work within the late Romantic orchestral repertoire.

Brahms: *Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor*, Op. 15

Johannes Brahms was 25 when he completed his *Piano Concerto No. 1* in 1858. Spanning at least five years of development, the ginormous work — which had begun as a sonata for two pianos — grew quickly into the grand work that we know it as today. Being his first attempt at orchestral writing, Brahms exchanged dozens of letters with Julius Otto Grimm and spent much of his time refining his orchestration. The result is a work of expansive sounds and grand proportions, exceeding the length of even Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*.

The first movement of the concerto is the largest of the three, lasting approximately twenty minutes. Written in sonata form, many remark on the complexity and virtuosity of Brahms's writing within this movement. Beginning with a grand outburst from the lower voices in the orchestra, the violins quickly introduce the melody with trills and accents before passing it through the winds and lower strings. As the soloist enters, all one can do is marvel at the execution of trading thematic material between the piano and orchestra for the duration of the development. Eventually, the movement concludes with an ending so bombastic it easily serves as its own standalone work.

Program notes by Amaya Sydor

UVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jubilation

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 8 PM

Ajotny Csaba, Conductor

Arturo García Cuéllar, Graduate Conductor

Explore the vibrant expressions of jubilation in music, spanning different eras and styles. Highlighting the creativity of the next generation, the concert features a world premiere by emerging composer Koshi Thompson and showcases Arturo García Cuéllar's talent in his Masters of Music graduation conducting project. The program includes the energetic drive of John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, the uplifting beauty of Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate* featuring soloist Olivia Charette, and the fresh sounds of Thompson's new work.

UVic Chorus and Orchestra: Magnificat

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 | 8 PM

Giuseppe Pietrarroia, Orchestra Conductor

Kinza Tyrrell, Chorus Conductor

Arturo García Cuéllar, Graduate Conductor

Join the UVic Chorus and Orchestra for an unforgettable evening as they present John Rutter's *Magnificat*. This vibrant and joyful work, inspired by the traditional Latin text of the Virgin Mary's song of praise, weaves together influences of Latin American rhythms, medieval chant, and Rutter's characteristic lush harmonies.

BIOGRAPHIES

Giuseppe Pietraroia

Giuseppe Pietraroia is Principal Conductor for Pacific Opera Victoria and Associate Conductor of the Victoria Symphony. As a guest conductor he has been engaged by l'Orchestre Métropolitain, Orchestra London, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Hamilton Philharmonic, Okanagan Symphony, Regina Symphony, Kingston Symphony and Thunder Bay Symphony.

His extensive opera engagements with Pacific Opera include productions of *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*, *La Traviata*, *La Boheme*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Norma*, *Rigoletto*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Cenerentola*, *Tosca* and *Let's Make an Opera/The Little Sweep*. In addition, he has conducted productions for l'Opéra de Montréal, l'Opéra de Québec, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Edmonton Opera, Opera New Brunswick, Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Program, and l'Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal in Montreal.

With Victoria Choral Society where he was Music Director for 7 seasons, Maestro Pietraroia conducted performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with the Victoria Symphony, a choreographed production of Orff's *Carmina Burana* in collaboration with Ballet Victoria, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, and the Duruflé and Fauré *Requiem*.

Maestro Pietraroia has recorded a CD with soprano Marie-Josée Lord and l'Orchestre Métropolitain for the ATMA label, which won a Felix award granted by l'ADISQ and was also nominated for a Juno award.

Giuseppe Pietraroia is the recipient of the George and Jane Heffelfinger Pacific Opera Victoria Artist of the Year Award and the Canada Council's Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting.

Arturo García Cuéllar

Arturo García Cuéllar is a dynamic and versatile musician who started his musical studies at an early age. With a focus on piano, he pursued a bachelor's degree in music composition at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His continuous desire to grow as a musician urged him to attend the National University of Cuyo in Argentina to learn about 20th century Latin-American music, earning a master's degree that has helped him gain over twenty years of teaching experience on piano. In parallel, he has created distinct musical organizations overseas, some of them immersing him into a conducting career — a new episode in his life which led him to acquire conducting skills at the Wiener Meisterkurse, European Music Institute Vienna and the University of Victoria. Some of his most important achievements were the creation of Tambojazz, Zacatecas State Chamber Orchestra, Zacatecas State Choir, and Zacatecas State Youth Orchestra. He is currently attending the conducting graduate program at the University of Victoria under the guidance of Ajtony Csaba.

Jiran Miao

Jiran Miao is a third-year student at the University of Victoria where she studies under the renowned Canadian pianist, Arthur Rowe. Her musical journey began at the age of five in Shaoxing, China, and she has pursued her passion for the piano ever since. Jiran has earned numerous accolades from competitions and festivals, including the CDMF, Vienna International Classical Music Competition, Don Chrysler Concerto Competition, and Rocky Mountain Music Competition. Throughout her career, Jiran has had the opportunity to perform in various cities around the world, including Vienna, Salzburg, Shanghai, and Vancouver. She has also been invited to give solo recitals in her hometown. Jiran remains committed to her musical journey and looks forward to pursuing higher degrees in the future.

UVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor

Giuseppe Pietraroia

VIOLIN 1

Katherine Peter*
Kira Gill
Peter Meyrick
Jade Chu
Ryan Howland
Anise Buelow

VIOLIN 2

Tamsyn Klazek-Schryer*
Joyce Tsai
Olivia Crowhurst
Catharine Hume
Ivy Baker

VIOLA

Sophie Hilstrom*
Helen Young
Andrew Loe
Cavin Cornelius
Gabi Epp
Magdaline Ferland

CELLO

Gabi Haslett*
Mahtab Saadatmand
Jayda Thor
Garron Stuart
Victor Marrugat
Matteo Toyata
Curtis Vetter
David Kim
Zaiden Thiessen

DOUBLE BASS

Luca Carbone-Smith*
Faith Fehr
Dylan Syrnyk
Rob Neufeld

PICCOLO

Sophia Adames

FLUTE

Ainsley Mercer*
Cleary Manning
Hazel Gue

OBOE

Dominic Calderer*
Hazel Gue

CLARINET

Carlos Hernandez Santos*
Luke Ongman

BASSOON

Eilish McAree*
Julian Lao

HORN

Natalie Ciurysek*
Shanna Deforest
Karlee Messer-Todd
Max Niiranen

TRUMPET

Ben Parker*+
Tark Kim+

TROMBONES

Jules Dawkins *
Owen Engstrom
Senora Dunford

TIMPANI

Ethan Page*

PERCUSSION

Kieran Stephan
Amy Costen
Andrew Canil

ORCHESTRA ASSISTANT & MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Arturo García Cuéllar

STAGE MANAGER

Joyce Tsai

* *Principal*

+ *Community member*

UVIC SCHOOL OF MUSIC UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 30 | 3 PM (By donation)

UVic Winter Choral Concert: Winter Celebration

This beloved seasonal tradition showcases the voices of the UVic Chorus, Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble as well as instrumentalists from the School of Music performing a diverse selection of winter-themed and holiday music.

Christ Church Cathedral (930 Burdett Ave)

Sunday, December 1 | 7 PM (By donation)

UVic Sonic Lab: A Degree of Beauty

A captivating evening of new music that pays tribute to the revolutionary legacy of Arnold Schoenberg, marking his 150th birthday. Directed by Ajtony Csaba.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Tuesday, December 3 | 12:30 PM

Baroque Collegium (BOMP) Concert

Joanna Hood and Chloe Meyers, directors

Hear School of Music students perform on period instruments including the harpsichord, viola de gamba, and Baroque cello.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Tuesday, December 3 (Free)

Orion Series in Fine Arts

Barbara Hannigan, soprano & Bertrand Chamayou, piano

Join two of the brightest stars in classical music for an inspiring afternoon at UVic:

12:00 PM: Seminar: Composing for the Voice (Rm. B037)

2:30 PM: Voice Masterclass

3:30 PM: Piano Masterclass

4:30 PM: Q&A on the topic IMPACT: What Does It Take?

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

To receive monthly updates about School of Music events by email,
contact concert@uvic.ca.

More information at uvic.ca/finearts/music



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concerts & events. >>>

