



Symphony Orchestra

MICHAEL GRIFFITH, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2024-25 SEASON

Orchestral

POWER



October 10, 7:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT

Courtney Hershey Bress, harp soloist

Mozart, Overture to The Magic Flute
Daugherty, Harp of Ages
Borodin, Symphony No. 2



November 21, 7:30 p.m.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Jiwon Han, piano soloist

Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels, Overture to Omar
Rachmaninoff, Piano Concerto No. 2
Mussorgsky/Ravel, Pictures at an Exhibition



December 7 and 8

GALA HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Music Department's annual festival of holiday music, including choirs, the Wind Symphony, and the UWSO.

The orchestra's selections will include
Williams, Santa at the Symphony
Vaughan Williams, Fantasia on Greensleeves
Haydn, Toy Symphony



March 6, 7:30 p.m.

THE JACOBY COMPETITION FINALS

Repertoire and soloists will be announced following the competition's first round, to be held in late November.



April 10, 7:00 p.m.

CONCERTMASTER FUND RECITAL

Giovanna Volpi, violin

The UWSO's Concertmaster, performing a recital to support the Moore Concertmaster Fellowship, with a private meet-the-artists reception to follow.



May 8, 7:30 p.m.

MAHLER 4

Elizabeth Hanje, soprano soloist

Shostakovich, Festive Overture
Richard Strauss, Ruhe, meine Seele
Mahler, Symphony No. 4

Orchestral POWER

Imagine a world before amplification. No rock concerts. No booming movie soundtracks. No "Home Theater Sound Bar with Dolby Audio, Surround Sound, and Wireless Subwoofer." Instead, everything was acoustic. Now imagine living in that world, and hearing, for the first time, the very end of *Pictures at an Exhibition*. It must have been utterly overwhelming.

What must have been? The power.

Classical music has many aspects. Subtlety. Elegance. Color. Complexity. Logic. Surprise. I could go on and on, but what most pleases an audience – OK, I admit it, what's most likely to inspire a standing ovation – is power. And from where I stand in front of the orchestra, yes, that power gets to me more than anyone in the hall.

Power is much more than volume, of course. Harmonic tug and pull that gets resolved at just the right moment is powerful. A sudden shift from minor to major, a sudden drop from complex scoring to unaccompanied melody, even a simple *subito pianissimo* at just the right moment can be overwhelming.

So let's spend a season exploring all that orchestral power, shall we? The loud power, of course (did I mention *Pictures at an Exhibition*?). The bare octaves that open Borodin 2, the brass fanfare that opens Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*, and the climax of the slow movement of Mahler 4 are other prime examples from our season.

How about the power of incredible creativity? We'll do the overture to *Omar*, a new opera that won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Even newer, Michael Daugherty's *Harp of Ages* had its premiere in May, 2023, with harpist Courtney Hershey Bress and the Colorado Symphony. Ms. Bress, who also teaches for UW, will now perform it for you.

And amazing virtuosity can be hair-raisingly powerful, right? Is there a more virtuosic piano concerto than Rachmaninoff 2, to be performed by UW's Jiwon Han? Or how about the sublime power of soprano Elizabeth Hanje, winner of Houston Grand Opera's McCollum Competition for Young Singers, who will join us in May? Or the power of a young virtuoso winning our 2025 Jacoby Competition?

So join your University of Wyoming Symphony Orchestra this season. Our post-Covid audience surge is in full swing! We sold out three concerts this past year, so you'd better buy season tickets to guarantee good seats. And while doing so, make a *powerful gift* to the orchestra by joining the Symphony Association. See you soon!

— *Michael Griffith*

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION,

In this brochure Dr. Griffith writes about experiencing orchestral power in various ways and how the selections for this year's season will demonstrate that power.

Recently I have been exploring the power, too, the power of **AWE**. Many of us have experienced awe in nature (seeing Yellowstone Falls or the Grand Canyon) or at the birth of a child, or hearing a favorite performer. Even if it lasts just a few seconds, we may be aware of the sudden smile, the wide-open gaping mouth, the sudden tears on a cheek, the goose bumps or spine tingle. In the following moments countless things happen throughout our body. Blood flow improves, cortisol and dopamine levels change, pain is eased, depression often lessens.

I have found that even microdoses of awe are possible, having the same effect as the big things mentioned previously. It involves focusing with undivided **A**ttention on something I value; **W**aiting by slowing down to take a deep breath as I consciously appreciate the valued thing; **E**xhaling deeply and **E**xpanding whatever sensation I am experiencing at the moment. This practice is fully developed in *The Power of AWE* by Jake Eagle and Michael Amster.

Elton John has said, "Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours." Perhaps that is why I enjoy and encourage others to experience AWE by attending the concerts of the UW Symphony Orchestra.

The chaos of the musicians warming up gives way to expectant silence as the lights dim and the concertmaster enters to direct the tuning. Then another brief silence for the conductor's entrance. Applause. You can almost sense the audience leaning forward in rapt attention as the conductor takes the podium and raises the baton. You can often hear the deep breath of those gathered, waiting for the baton to fall and the first notes to reverberate. In the following moments, there will be smiles, tears, hormonal changes, easing of pain and the lifting of spirits. You can tell that people experienced awe during a standing ovation and as they congregate in the lobby with a whole different energy than before the concert.

I invite you to become a member of the UW Symphony Association whose main mission is to support our student musicians with much appreciated scholarships. The membership form included in this brochure enumerates the new benefits which accrue with membership. These benefits are in addition to the pre-concert newsletters that provide informative and detailed notes about what to expect musically. It may even expand the awe you will experience in the concert hall.

Looking forward to some awesome times with you this season!

— *Marilyn Engstrom, President, Symphony Association for the University of Wyoming*

 Please join the group "UW Symphony Orchestra" on Facebook!

Brochure printed by Modern Printing. Brochure designed by Jessica Perry.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

We understand that your main purpose in joining the Symphony Association is to provide the UW Symphony Orchestra musicians with the best educational opportunities and to help bring the finest possible music to UW. But what else do you receive? We want to recognize you for supporting our efforts, so the Symphony Association offers you various incentives based on your level of giving.

All donors to the UWSO in any amount are members of the UW Symphony Association and will receive the exclusive Symphony Association Newsletter issued before each concert.

All donors whose contribution qualifies them for a Membership Level will have their name(s) listed in the season's UWSO programs, and any additional benefits offered are as follows:

- **At the \$250 (Principal) level**, an invitation to the Symphony Association picnic.
- **At the \$500 (Concertmaster) level**, all of the above, plus an invitation to any private preconcert lectures.
- **At the \$1000 (Soloist) level**, all of the above, plus an invitation to a VIP Backstage Tour of the facilities used by UW musicians and guest artists. This will be led by the Music Director and will follow one of the symphony concerts.
- **At the \$1500 (Virtuoso) level**, all of the above, plus, at your request, a Symphony Association scholarship will be named in your honor for the duration of the season. Recipients of these named scholarships will be determined by the Music Director and Symphony Association Board. Under the recipient's name in the program will be the following: The John and Jane Doe Symphony Association Scholarship.
- **At the \$2,500 (Maestro) level**, all of the above, plus, at your request, a pair of season tickets for the following season.
- **At the \$4,000 (Ovation Circle) level**, all of the above, plus, at your request, a student chamber performance, at a time and location of your choice (subject to availability), and to be negotiated between the donor and the Music Director of the UWSO.

Season ticket holders: If you find that you have purchased tickets to an upcoming concert and will not be able to attend, please consider donating those tickets to musicians in our local schools! Available tickets will be given to the fine arts departments in the Laramie Middle School and Laramie High School and awarded to students who may be experiencing the thrill of a live symphony performance for the first time. Contact the Box Office at (307) 766-6666 and they will assist you with your donation.

Courtney Hershey Bress photograph by Mike Pappas.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



Symphony Association for the University of Wyoming
Fine Arts Box Office, Dept. 3951
1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

SEASON INFORMATION ENCLOSED!

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Please check if this is a new address

Symphony Association pre-concert Newsletters will all be sent electronically. Please supply your email address so you don't miss out.

Email _____ @ _____ *Email address is required, as all tickets and Newsletters are sent electronically.*

Check here if you would enjoy the camaraderie of those whose goal is to promote great music, great students, and a great UW Symphony Orchestra! You can become involved at any level with the UW Symphony Association, helping out with the smallest project or investing your time by serving on the board. Please let us know of your interest.

Season ticket holders MUST check one of the following:

For the Gala Holiday Concert, do you want tickets for:
 Saturday or Sunday (times to be announced pending release of UW basketball schedule)

Please print name(s) as you want it listed in the program for membership, or
 Please check if you do not wish to have your name in the program

Requested seat location _____
Indicate "same" if you want the same seats as last year. Seats will be held until September 27.

Check here if you'd like "Tweet Seats." The last two rows have been reserved just for you if you'd like to (silently) share your experience on social media.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION ENTERED OR YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO: Fine Arts Ticket Office, UW Department 3951, 1000 E. University, Laramie, WY 82071. Upon receipt of your order, we will reserve the best available tickets for you at the Box Office. Your tickets will be emailed to you once processed. Call 766.6666 for telephone orders.

TICKETS — Season tickets save 20% over individual tickets

	Quantity:	Price:
Regular Season Tickets.....	_____ x \$56 each	= _____
Senior Citizen Season Tickets (60 or over)	_____ x \$40 each	= _____
Student Season Tickets	_____ x \$16 each	= _____
Concertmaster Fund Recital Tickets	_____ x \$40 each	= _____
		Ticket total _____

SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Ovation Circle	\$4,000 and up = _____
Maestro	\$2,500.00 - 3,999.99 = _____
Virtuoso	\$1,500.00 - 2,499.99 = _____
Soloist.....	\$1,000.00 - 1,499.99 = _____
Concertmaster.....	\$500.00 - 999.99 = _____
Principal	\$250 - 499.99 = _____
Musician.....	\$100.00 - 249.99 = _____
Benefactor.....	\$50 - 99.99 = _____
Supporter	\$20 - 49.99 = _____
Membership total	_____

A \$5 processing fee is added to all orders \$ 5.00

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