

Symphony Orchestra

Ryan Murray, director

with guests

Liisa Davila, soprano

Luis Cruz, clarinet

TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 7, 2021

CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

Spring Goddess Yibing Zhang

Liisa Davila, soprano

Prelude to Act III of *Die Meistersinger* Richard Wagner
(1813-1883)

Lyric for Strings George Walker
(1922-2018)

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat Major Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

I. Allegro

Luis Cruz, clarinet

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 1 Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

I. Adagio molto – Allegro con brio

II. Andante cantabile con moto

III. Menuetto: Allegro molto e vivace

IV. Adagio – Allegro molto e vivace

Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Julie Vosheva +
Matthew Major +
Kathleen Gallagher +
Stella Moschovas
Mariya Cheglakova
Ryan Datar

Violin II

Alla Chistyakova*
Trevor Reynolds
Savannah Henry
Logan Ayson
Mayling Lopez
Merilee Vice
Audrey Crooks
George Hayes

Viola

Dora Scott*
Emily Svendsen
Anna Murray
Zachary Noakes
Audrey Utschig

Cello

Julian Sommer*
Hector Morales
Ian Glenn
Abigail Willer
Makenna Mann

Bass

Kevin Myers*
Tyler Miles

Flute

Kelly Bacon
Tyler Mckinion
Sally Sun

Oboe

Erik Moberg
Ethan Pham-Aguilar

Clarinet

Noah Blevins
Kevin Le
Emma Keisler

Bassoon

Owen Polkinghorn
Martin Uytingco

Horn

Natasha Buckman
Christian Orr
Veloy Tafoya
Cesar Zarate

Trumpet

Hunter Franklin
Veloy Tafoya
Colin Matthewson

Trombone

Vincent Salvitti
John Mayer

Tuba

Evan Charles

Percussion

Jenna Boone
Grant Johnson
Bee Trinh
Jonah Wagner

Piano

Pail Salzberg

+ *co-concertmasters*

* *principal*

Liisa Dávila has gained recognition for her vocal clarity and dazzling coloratura, combined with a richness and depth allowing her to possess a highly desired level of versatility in her work. Heard recently as Kitty Hart in Fresno Grand Opera's critically acclaimed performance of *Dead Man Walking*, Liisa was also recently seen as Liù in West Bay Opera's production of *Turandot*, where "her simple, understated Liù made major contributions to the production" (San Francisco Classical Voice). LA Splash also complimented her performance, saying Liisa "charmed rather than dominated. Her lovely clear soprano was spell-binding in both her arias." She has also performed as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, Poppea in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, Micaëla in *Carmen*, and the title role in Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Other roles in her repertoire include Mimi in *La bohème* and Juliette in *Romeo et Juliette*. Of her performance as Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* with West Bay Opera, the San Francisco Classical Voice claimed Liisa (along with fellow Ladies Molly Mahoney and Michelle Rice) opened the opera "with the most sublime singing of the three hour performance."

Liisa's concert work includes performances as a soprano soloist with organizations including MidAmerica Productions, Music in the Mountains Festival, Auburn Symphony, Gallo Center for the Arts, Bear Valley Music Festival, and the Academy of All Hallows. Her repertoire includes traditional and contemporary works, such as Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Mendelssohn's *Christmas Oratorio*, the Mozart *C Minor Mass* and *Vespers Solemnes*, Handel's *Messiah*, the Vivaldi *Gloria*, and the *Requiems* by Rutter, Duruflé, Mozart, and Fauré. An advocate of new music, Liisa premiered the concert role of Shamiram in *Ninos and Shamiram* by French composer Michel Bosc, performed in Assyrian for the The Assyrian Aid Society of America's Fourth Annual Mesopotamian Night.

A winner of multiple competitions, Liisa was a San Francisco District winner and a Western Regional Finalist for the Metropolitan National Council Auditions and a winner of the prestigious Maria and Ben Holt Scholarship. In 2010 she won the First International Phyllis Osterhout Vocal Competition, placed third in the Washington International Vocal Competition in Washington, DC, and was a semi-finalist for the Loren L. Zachary Competition.

Liisa's training includes participation in internationally recognized programs such as OperaWorks' Advanced Artist Program, the Pacific Opera Institute, Sherill Milnes' V.O.I.C. Experience 'Opera as Drama' program, and the International Festival of the Aegean's Greek Opera Studio. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Sacramento.

Clarinetist **Luis Cruz** graduated as a clarinet performance and music education major from Sacramento State, where he studied with Sandra McPherson. While at Sac State, he was a member of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, and also played regularly in various chamber ensembles. Luis began his clarinet studies at the age of 9 at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Oakdale, CA. He began his music studies playing snare drum, but ultimately fell in love with the sound of the clarinet. Luis is currently pursuing a Masters degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, with the ultimate goal of teaching music in the public-school system.

Ryan Murray is the Artistic Director and Conductor of Music in the Mountains and the Associate Conductor of the Modesto Symphony. He is also the Director of Orchestra & Opera at CSU Sacramento, and the Conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. An award-winning opera conductor, Ryan spent his early career working as an assistant conductor and répétiteur and is currently the Music Director of Opera Modesto. He has served as assistant conductor for opera productions at the Sacramento Philharmonic and is the past Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, and previously worked as a staff conductor for the BASOTI and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco. Effortlessly moving between genres, Ryan currently enjoys a wide range of performance genres & platforms, including traditional orchestral and operatic repertoire, pops performances, movies in concert, and a notable emphasis on contemporary American operatic works.

Ryan is a past winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. Ryan was awarded second place in the 2019 American Prize for Professional Orchestral Conducting, and has garnered

national recognition for his dynamic, compelling performances of contemporary opera as the winner of the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting. He was also a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

With an enthusiasm for film scores, Ryan enjoys the unique challenges of conducting movies in concert and was recently added to the *Disney & ICM Approved Conductors* list. Recent and upcoming performances include Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Pixar Animation Studios' *Pixar in Concert*, and *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

Ryan holds degrees, *summa cum laude*, in Bassoon and Voice Performance from CSU Sacramento and also holds a master's degree, with distinction, in Music Business from the Berklee College of Music where he studied with industry professionals to develop tools for success in the modern music industry, including new technology, policy, law, and finance. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has previously attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop, and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the *Musiikin aika* Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland. He previously attended the Contemporary Music Symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic, the Aurora Chamber Festival in Sweden, the Lucerne Festival's Conducting Masterclass in Switzerland and the Eastman School of Music's Summer Conducting Institute. Widely praised for his tireless work ethic, natural poise, and impassioned, inspired performances, Ryan continues to connect deeply with orchestras and audiences alike, and has proven to be a formidable presence on the podium.