

THE COLORADO COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

presents

**The Colorado College Chamber Orchestra
Spring Concert**

Daniel Brink, Jerilyn Jorgensen, *conductors*

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

7:30 PM

Packard Hall

PROGRAM

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 (Video)

Arr. Louis Bergonzi

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

Flute Quartet No. 1 in D Major, K. 285

Allegro

Adagio

Rondeau

W.A. Mozart

(1756-1791)

Kyrie Newby, *flute*; Gabe Wright, *violin*; Jordan Bates, *viola*; Ben Sokol, *cello*

Danzas de Panama

Tamborito

Mejorana y Socavón

Punto

Cumbia y Congo

Will Grant Still

(1895-1978)

Preludes

Moderately Fast

Moderately Slow

Delicately

Energetically

Will Grant Still

(1895-1978)

Your courtesy in silencing electronic devices in Packard Hall is appreciated.

NOTES

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80, was composed by Johannes Brahms on the occasion of his receiving an honorary doctorate of music from the University of Breslau. The work was composed in 1880 and first performed on January 4, 1881. The *Overture* showcases four beer-hall songs that were well known to German college students. The first, “Wir hatten gebauet ein stattliches Haus” (“We Have Built a Stately House”), is proclaimed in the trumpet. “Der Landesvater” (“Father of Our Country”) follows in the strings, then the second violins take the lead for “Was kommt dort von der Höh’?” (“What Comes from Afar?”), a song that was associated with freshman initiation. Lastly, the entire orchestra joins together for a grand rendition of “Gaudemus igitur” (“Let Us Rejoice, Therefore”), a song later beloved by operetta fans for its appearance in Sigmund Romberg’s *The Student Prince* (1924).

Mozart’s genius as a chamber composer rests on his mature masterworks for string quartet and quintet, but his total works comprise a rich diversity of ensembles. Several compositions feature strings and a guest from the wind family. Primarily dating from an early period, the chamber music for winds offers colorful chamber textures and superbly idiomatic part-writing sensitive to the innate characteristics of each featured guest. While the unemployed Mozart traveled around Europe with his mother seeking opportunity, he received a commission from an amateur flautist in Mannheim named Ferdinand Dejean. The commission produced three flute quartets including the *Quartet in D major, KV. 285* completed on December 25, 1777. The quartet is compact, with only three short movements, the last two joined without pause.

William Grant Still was the first African-American composer to conduct a major orchestra, the first to have one of his symphonies premiered by a major orchestra, and the first to have one of his operas premiered at a major American Opera House. Having begun his career as a struggling jazz band player and arranger, he experienced increasing success after the premiere of his *Afro-American Symphony* and his opera, *Troubled Island*. It was Narciso Garay who first called the attention of Musicologist, Elizabeth Waldo to the native dance music of Panama and she, in turn, interested Still in developing it for concert use. Still departed from traditional practices by making an attempt to approximate the sounds of native instruments, giving the music an unusually interesting quality. There is a distinct unity and a touch of Caribbean color in the four dances. The first and last are African in origin, probably brought by the first slaves imported into Panama, while the second and third are of Spanish-Indian derivation. The *Danzas* were premiered in 1948.

Gershwin was among the first to bring popular American musical idioms to the concert stage. Blues elements, such as modal inflections and irregular phrase lengths pervade Stills’s works, and his musical language, while containing modernist elements, is highly accessible. The *Preludes* heard this evening were prepared for and given their premiere by George Berres and the Westchester String Symphony Orchestra in 1962

CC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Violin

Gabe Wright
Jeri Jorgensen*
Elena Martinez-Vivot
Ana Kilgore

Viola

Jordan Bates
Ian Widmann

Cello

Ben Sokol
Ian Widmann

Bass

David Dymek*

Flute

Kyrie Newby

Horn

Ben Rosenberg
Bernie Brink*

Trumpet

Devlin Swanson

Timpani

Peter Cooper*

Piano

Bernie Brink*

*CC Faculty/Staff

Special thanks to graduating seniors Elena Martinez-Vivot, *violin*; Allie Kreitman, *cello*; and Kyrie Newby, *flute*. Your contributions to the musical life of CC have been monumental, and you will be deeply missed. We wish you all good things as you embark on your next endeavors. Keep making music!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Susan Grace, Artist in Residence
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Kate Nelson, Music Production Coordinator
Lisa Gregory, Music Department Office Coordinator
Betsy Fiel, Music Department Events Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COLORADO COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Socially-distanced seating available in Packard Hall for CC students, faculty and staff only

*Live-Streamed on YouTube and Music Dept Facebook page***

Music at Midday**

Wednesday, May 12, 12:15 pm

Senior Vocal Recital, Ely Merenstein

Sunday, May 16, 3:00 pm

“Live from Packard Hall” Faculty Artists Concert Series**

Tuesday, May 18 at 3 pm