

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

RUTGERS SINFONIA

Ching-Chun Lai, Music Director

Christopher Beckett, Conductor

Tomás García, Conductor

Nathan Sawyer, Conductor

Ryan Colarusso, Trumpet

Sunday, November 12, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

An Outdoor Overture

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

Christopher Beckett, *conductor*

Concerto for Trumpet

Alexander Arutiunian
(1920-2012)

Ryan Colarusso, *trumpet*
Tomás García, *conductor*

Intermission

The Tender Land: Suite

Aaron Copland

- I. From Dawn to Midday on the Sea
- II. Play of the Waves
- III. Dialogue between Wind and Waves

Nathan Sawyer, *conductor*

Un danzón a mi manera (2016)

Ivette Herryman-Rodríguez
(b. 1982)

Christopher Beckett, *conductor*

RUTGERS SINFONIA ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Orchestra Personnel, other than concertmaster, are listed alphabetically

Violin I

Gwyneth Gherzan**
Miles Acquaviva
Kushal Aluru
Reid Austin
Wenting Bian†
Lyn Kim
Sophia Pan
Angelina Pastore
Spruha Ravikumar
Mirella Richard
Anuraag Sarkar
Andrew Yang
Sophia Yoo

Violin II

Hyerim An†
Chloe Cho
Caroleena Fernandez-Chousal
Serge Kuznetsov
Brady Mak
Anand Nair
Isabelle Neville*^#§
Ava Ostrem
Lynn Park
Sonia Sorvik
Mathew Vares
Jason Wang
Ian Waynor
Timothy Whittington

Viola

Priya Aggarwal
Hsuan Chen†
Isha Dandekar^#§
Krystal Harper
Colin Lee
Arthur Liaw
Su Lin
Preisha Mishra
Hyunjung Song†
Helena Tadros
Aileen Tian
Zane Wilkerson
Trisha Yu*§

Cello

Jackson Flower*^#§
Alexei Greene
Antony Hajsok
Emma Lin
Samantha Molina
Manal Momodu
Christopher Notarnicola
Michael Zieglar†

Bass

Grace Bonanno
Laurenz Canent
Xitong Yao*^#§

Flute

Ross Matos^
Sergio Ramirez Guerrero*§
Lily Tang#

Piccolo

Ross Matos
Sergio Ramirez Guerrero

Oboe

Hanna Lee*#
Kathy Yu^§

English Horn

Kathy Yu

Clarinet

Jaehun Choi^#
Meghan Correll§
Evan Gore*

Bass Clarinet

Meghan Correll

Bassoon

Melisa Dogan§
Tom Leach*^#

Horn

Lindsay Correll
Xiangyu Liu
Ellie O'Hare†*^#§

Trumpet

Olivia Aiere§
Tyler Brown*#
Anton Misirpashayev^

Trombone

Connor Morrissey*§
Erol Yilmaz^#

Bass Trombone

Grant Dillon

Tuba

Finn Gallagher

Harp

Kisae Lee

Piano

Steven Gao

Timpani

Jenna Manalastas
Percussion
Joshua Ly
Zack Rickabaugh*^#§
Em Savarese
Dylan Zhu

Librarian

Claire Oplinger
Will Sizemore

**Concertmaster

*Principal on Outdoor

Overture

^Principal on Arutianian

#Principal on Tender Land

Suite

§Principal on Herryman-Rodriguez

†Department Assistant

PROGRAM NOTES

Aaron Copland **An Outdoor Overture**

An Outdoor Overture was composed in 1938 and dedicated to the High School of Music and Art, now called Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, in New York. It was written for the purpose of engaging high-level, young musicians with American music that fit their technical facilities as well as their emotional capacity. Alexander Richter was head of the music department at the time in 1938, and Richter and Copland worked together to make sure the piece was suited for these talented musicians. After Copland played his sketch of the piece on the piano, Richter mentioned that it had an “open-air quality.” That’s when they both came up with the title “An Outdoor Overture.” Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School is my alma mater, and in 2007 I performed this same piece outdoors in the Lincoln Center Plaza, so I am very excited to conduct this piece 16 years later with Sinfonia.

~ by Christopher Beckett

Alexander Arutiunian **Concerto for Trumpet**

The music of Soviet-Armenian Alexander Arutiunian draws from Armenian folk minstrel improvisations, and his best-known work, the Concerto for Trumpet, is no exception. After graduating from the Music Conservatory of Yerevan, World War II put a halt on Arutiunian’s music education before he moved to Moscow to study composition. Completed in 1950, this concerto belongs to Arutiunian’s early period that shows the influence of leading Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian. In one movement, the concerto showcases not only the agile and articulate side of the trumpet, but also the mellow, lyrical qualities of the muted instrument. The rich harmonic language and orchestration provide the listener with moments of dance-like frenzy, lush romanticism, and nocturnal music. The wide range of the trumpet is on display in a cadenza that recalls the concerto’s themes before propelling the orchestra into the conclusion.

~ by Tomás García

Aaron Copland **The Tender Land: Suite**

Copland's opera *The Tender Land* was written in 1954. It depicts a farm family in the Midwest with a teenager named Laurie who is graduating from high school. Laurie bonds with a stranger, Martin, who works on the farm, and they dream of eloping. However, Laurie's family disapprove of Martin, and he leaves. Laurie resolves to leave the farm herself and to go out into the world on her own.

Copland wrote the orchestral suite in 1958. It contains three movements. The first, *Introduction and Love Music*, begins with an invigorating introduction, which yields to a peaceful depiction of rural life. The perfect 4th and 5th intervals that characterize Copland's American sound can be heard in this section. The second, *Party Scene*, portrays a hoedown written in Copland's fiddle style found in *Appalachian Spring* and *Billy the Kid*. The third culminates in the *Finale: The Promise of Living*, expressing Laurie's decision to break out of her family's ways and start a new life.

~ by Nathan Sawyer

Ivette Herryman-Rodríguez **Un danzón a mi manera** (*A Danzón Done my Way*)

A danzón is a musical genre and dance from Cuba, and like a typical danzón, this piece is always transforming. It begins with a depiction of a paseo, where dancers slowly pace and communicate with each other before the dance begins. Once the dance begins, it goes through a series of moods and ideas all based around the danzón. The last section introduces a different musical genre that originated in Cuba called the mambo. The composer says about the final section:

"I have a personal desire with this work, which is to provide a space for the orchestra to ENJOY as they play this music... I wrote down several solos that alternate with the rest of the orchestra in an antiphonal way... These solos are for me a glance at the virtuosity that performers of popular Cuban music can display."

~ by Christopher Beckett

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ryan Colarusso, trumpet

Ryan Colarusso is a third-year trumpet student at Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, and a finalist in the 2023 Mason Gross Concerto Competition. While at Rutgers, he has played principal trumpet with the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Brass Band, of which he is also the president. He studies Trumpet Performance under Professor Kenneth DeCarlo.

Outside of school, Ryan regularly performs in both New Jersey and New York City with groups such as the Princeton Brass Band and Princeton University Orchestra, and has appeared as a guest soloist with the Sussex County Youth Orchestra.

Christopher Beckett, conductor

Christopher Beckett is currently a candidate for an M.M. degree in Conducting at Mason Gross under the guidance of Professor Johns and Dr. Ching-Chun Lai. Mr. Beckett has conducted numerous other ensembles, including the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra, Harlem Quartet Workshop Orchestra, and NJ Arco Youth Orchestra. He has performed and conducted at the Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, and Gordon Hall. He recently participated as a violist in the 2023 Monteux School & Music Festival led by guest conductors such as Tiffany Lu, Arthur Fagen, Julius Williams, Hugh Wolff, Kenneth Kiesler, and Markand Thakar.

Tomás García, conductor

Tomás García is an Ecuadorean conductor and composer currently pursuing a D.M.A. degree in Orchestral Conducting at Rutgers University under the tutelage of Dr. Ching-Chun Lai. He serves as Music Director of the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley and Children's Music Director of First Congregational Church of Westfield. Tomás previously completed an M.M. degree in Orchestral Conducting at Penn State under Gerardo Edelstein, and holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Houston. He was assistant conductor of the Penn's Woods Music Festival for two summers.

Nathan Sawyer, conductor

Nathan Sawyer is a candidate for the D.M.A. degree in Orchestral Conducting under Ching-Chun Lai at Rutgers. He was formerly assistant conductor of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra under Stephen Alltop. At UIUC, Nathan did his M.M. degree under Donald Schleicher, serving as the manager for the Symphony Orchestra. He also studied with interim professor William Eddins and conducted John Harbison's Symphony No. 5 in the presence of the composer. In 2019, he attended the International Conducting Workshop and Festival in Bulgaria.

As an undergraduate, Nathan had the opportunity to work with ensembles for events such as a Suicide Prevention Service, for which he composed and conducted the piece *It Takes a Moment* speaking to challenges of mental health.

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