

MERIDIAN symphony YOUTH ORCHESTRA



PREMIERE PERFORMANCE FEBRUARY 26, 2022

Artistic Directors Christa Walker & Greg Hotrum
Owyhee High School, Meridian

Thank you for attending the first performance of the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra!
Our goal is to provide young musicians from the Treasure Valley with the opportunity to participate in full orchestra rehearsals and concerts, while being mentored by members of the Meridian Symphony.

We hope to educate and inspire young musicians through exceptional ensemble training and performance opportunities, while helping to grow the school orchestra and band programs in the school districts in the Treasure Valley.

www.meridiansymphony.org

MUSICIANS

Violin I

Eliana Borg
Lillian Cyrway
Hannah Scoville
Jean Boushley
Leon Lorico
James Leckie
Elizabeth Snow
Jasmine
Ounphonchareune

Violin 2

Christian Nelson
Adrienne Jensen
Claire Christensen
Ella Duncil
Annie Edmonds
Lauren Hurd
Carlee Miller
Hailey Hurd

Viola

Ava Taylor
Kayla Kunz

Cello

Julius Hunkovic
Ashlin Green
Jilliyn Pfitzer
Sabrina Jones
Megan Murdock
Emma daRosa
Nicholas Bird

Bass

Trenton Davies

Flute

Rebekah Bennett
Marnie Smartt

Clarinet

Eddie Rudser
Daya Werre

Saxophone

Paola Espinoza
Devin Kleve
Karyl Underwood

Trumpet

Levi McCoy
Arjun Sandil
Julianne Stearns

Trombone

Noah Rudser
Caden Smith

Tuba

Theo Williams

Percussion

Krista Anderson
Ryder Christensen
Abigail Holbrook
Merrick Ohlund
Derek Peterson
Joey Rudser

Piano

Abigail Holbrook

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



Christa Walker learned violin in fifth grade school orchestra in Emmett, Idaho. Her high school years were busy with Idaho All-State and All-Northwest Orchestras, Treasure Valley Youth Symphony (now the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra). She also

fiddled and danced with the Pipes and Drums of the Boise Highlanders. Christa attended the University of Idaho for both undergrad and graduate degrees, completing her Master's in Music Education in May 2020. She currently teaches Orchestra at Meridian High School and Chief Joseph School of the Arts. Christa reads ravenously, needle felts wool sculptures, explores world string music traditions, and loves attending Comic Cons with her husband and three children.



Greg Hotrum began playing trombone when he was 9 years old. After graduating from Idaho State University with a Bachelor's Degree in trombone performance, he was given an assistantship at the University of New Mexico.

While studying at UNM, he performed with New York Philharmonic trombonist Joe Alessi, and continued his performance career by spending a summer performing in Disneyland. After graduation, he was principal trombonist in the summer Masterworks Performing Artists Festival in Ohio, following by teaching Trombone, Trumpet, History of Electronic Music and Orchestral Repertoire at Sias School of Music in China. By his fourth year in China, he was the assistant conductor of the Sias Symphony Orchestra and teaching conducting to over 60 students.

After more than ten years in China, Greg has returned to Idaho. He is currently studying Law at the University of Idaho, but still finds time to sub in various performing groups in the Treasure Valley.

THANKS!

Cord Breuer,
Band Director, Meridian High School

Katee Seubert,
Band and Orchestra, Owyhee High School

PROGRAM & NOTES

TAKE FIVE

Paul Desmond (b. 1924-1977)

arr. Bob Cerulli

Why is this piece here? Because string players seldom get to play jazz, and because jazz players seldom get to play in 5, and most of all, because this was a staple in my (Christa Walker's) father's eclectic vinyl collection! It's a little thank you to my Papa and Mama, whose support of music finds me here with this wonderful group of students!

"Take Five" came out on the Dave Brubeck Quartet's groundbreaking album, Time Out, in 1959. It's catchy piano/bass vamp, cool-jazz sax melodies, and mind-bending drum solo made it into a standard played by many musicians over the years and landing it (as a single) in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1996. In the year prior to Time Out's release, the quartet had done a State Department-sponsored tour of Eurasia, serving as cultural ambassadors in places like Turkey, Afghanistan, and Russia; places where complex meters and polyrhythms challenged the American musicians' ears. Once they were home, it wasn't long before "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk" were shared with American audiences.

INTO THE CLOUDS!

Richard L. Saucedo (b. 1957)

Alternating powerful chords and driving rhythms with broad, soaring lines make it is easy to imagine that Richard Saucedo's dream of becoming an instrument rated pilot inspired Into the Clouds! The constant tension of a two pulse versus a three pulse feel pulls the piece upward, much like the Bernouli's counterintuitive principle of lift. Once the opening fanfare pushes up into the clouds, the winds trade off long, gliding phrases. Saucedo's love of music and flight seemed a fitting way to begin the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra's maiden voyage.

BEST OF BACH

J.S. Bach (b. 1685-1750)

arr. Jerry Brubaker

Best of Bach is Jerry Brubaker's wistful arrangement of Johan Sebastian Bach's Sheep May Safely Graze. This song originally appeared as a soprano aria in Bach's Hunting Cantata, sung by the goddess of crops, pastures and livestock, Pales. The cantata is thought to have been sung at the birthday of a prominent duke and landowner in 1713. The lyrics would be a flattering tribute to such a personality: "Sheep may safely graze where a caring shepherd guards them. Where a regent reigns well, we may have security and peace and things that let a country prosper".

ENGLISH FOLK SONG SUITE

Ralph Vaughan Williams (b. 1872-1958)

- i. Seventeen Come Sunday ii. My Bonny Boy iii. Folk Songs from Somerset

Ralph Vaughan Williams is a beloved composer in the band world. He trained with a number of renowned composers including Sir Charles Stanford, Sir Hubert Parry, Max Bruch, and Maurice Ravel. In 1903 Vaughan Williams began collecting folk songs in the English countryside. All told he collected over 800 songs, carols, singing games, and dances, most of which are digitized and can be seen at the English Folk Song and Dance Society's Vaughan Williams Memorial Library. Click here to see and hear the original manuscript for Seventeen Come Sunday.

THEMES FROM MARCH SLAV

Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky (b. 1840-1893)

arr. Chris M. Bernotas

In 1876, Serbia was fighting for independence from the Ottoman Empire in the Serbian-Ottoman War. To celebrate Russian intervention on behalf of the Serbs and to aid the Red Cross Society treating wounded Serbian soldiers, the Russian Musical Society commissioned this orchestral tone poem from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Each section of March Slav tells a story, starting with two Serbian tunes ("Bright Sun, You Do Not Shine Equally" and "Gladly Does the Serb Become a Soldier") set in a minor key to symbolize the Turkish oppression of Serbia. With a trumpet fanfare of triplets and transition to major, the Russians arrive to help Serbia. A celebratory, dance-like theme passes around the orchestra, finally giving way to the Russian National Anthem, "God Save the Tsar". The Serbian cry for help is reiterated in one brief return of the minor theme before "God Save the Tsar" intervenes again, ending with an emphatic 15 chord statement of triumph.

rites of tamburo

Robert W. Smith (b. 1958)

Notes from the composer, Robert W. Smith: Throughout the ages, man has created ceremonies, both liturgical and secular, to celebrate human existence. Rites of Tamburo, although not specific to any one time period or culture, draws upon this concept of formal celebration. As the title suggests, the piece is centered around the one instrumental family that has transcended the ages. Using percussion for its driving force, the piece is an eclectic blend of various musical styles drawn from many different cultural roots.

The Meridian Symphony Orchestra is a 70-member ensemble dedicated to enriching the cultural life of our community and region by providing quality entertainment in a family-friendly, educationally focused environment. We are an all-volunteer orchestra, with members from a diverse range of backgrounds, that performs "for the love of it".

MERIDIAN symphony ORCHESTRA

JUST FOR STARTERS

MARCH 5, 2022 7:30 PM

Centennial Performing Arts Center 12400 W. McMillan Road, Boise

Artistic Director and Conductor James Ogle

Beloved overtures and opening movements, including Rossini's Overture to The Barber of Seville, Bernstein's Overture to West Side Story, Dvorak's New World Symphony, Movement 1, Gershwin's Overture to Girl Crazy, and other favorites.

Featuring 2021 Young Artists Competition Winner Truman Walker, Senior Division Soloist Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, Movement 1

Senior/Student/Military \$10, Adult \$12, Child \$5
Tickets available at www.meridiansymphony.org
and at the door the evening of the performance
(subject to availability)

Doors open at 6:30 PM
MASKS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY