

UNLV Symphony Orchestra

Taras Krysa, Music Director and Conductor

Zixuan Yan, Flute

Grace-Haeun Kim, Piano

PROGRAM

Concerto for flute and orchestra

Allegro moderato

Allegretto un poco – Adagio ma non troppo – Allegretto – Poco adagio – Tempo di Marcia

Carl Nielsen

(1865–1931)

Zixuan Yan, flute

Ioannis Protopapas, guest conductor

INTERMISSION

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26

Andante – Allegro

Tema con variazioni

Allegro ma non troppo

Sergei Prokofiev

(1891–1953)

Grace-Haeun Kim, piano

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Performing Arts Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PROGRAM NOTES

Danish composer Carl Nielsen wrote his concerto for flute in 1926 after hearing the Copenhagen Wind Quintet rehearse five years prior, and vowing to write a concerto for each of the musicians. Although his health only allowed him to write this concerto and, one other for clarinet, both pieces are considered international, standard repertoire. The flute concerto's Paris premiere in October 1926 was completely dedicated to the work, with a temporary ending, and the composer proclaimed it as one of the "greatest experiences" of his life. His ailing health hindered Nielsen the completion of the concerto by a few months; the completed version was performed in Copenhagen in January 1927. Nielsen's flute concerto is a blend of the composer's traditional style and the modernist trends of the 1920s, a neoclassical work with a little humor.

It took Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev eight years to turn simple sketches into his virtuosic, third piano concerto. His compositional work on this piece began with a theme and variations that was set aside in 1913 and briefly revised three years later. It was not completed until 1921, when Prokofiev devoted himself to finishing this undertaking. The composer himself performed the solo part in its Chicago premiere in 1921 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. With the Soviet premiere in 1925, it is evident that this concerto did not gain immediate popularity, but has since gained extensive critical acclaim. Set in three movements, this concerto also implements a fair amount of humor. The second movement is the original idea, the theme and variations, and the third is, as Prokofiev explained, an "argument" between the soloist and the orchestra. As a disclaimer, there were no real life feelings hurt in the making of tonight's program!

BIOGRAPHIES

Taras Krysa

The Ukrainian-born, American conductor Taras Krysa is establishing a reputation for innovative and thoughtful music-making throughout the United States and Europe. In addition to serving as the Director of Orchestras at UNLV, Mr. Krysa serves as the Music Director of the Lviv (Ukraine) Philharmonic Orchestra.

Krysa has appeared internationally with orchestras including the New World Symphony, Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, St. Petersburg Symphony, Moscow Soloists, Slovak Sinfonietta, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Kiev Chamber Orchestra, Lublin Philharmonic Orchestra, Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra, Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others. In addition, Krysa led several European orchestras on tours in China, Germany and Netherlands, including appearances there at Concertgebouw Hall.

An accomplished violinist, he was a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the New World Symphony Orchestra, and continues to maintain an active career performing chamber music.

Krysa recently concluded his ninth season as the Artistic and Music Director of the Henderson Symphony Orchestra in Nevada. Under his leadership, the ensemble saw its audience expand ten-fold, and its concerts recognized as a treasured part of the cultural life of the community.

Mr. Krysa actively promotes new music and has made three critically acclaimed recordings for the Brilliant Classics label; two of which featured works by Mozart, and one a live recording of Freddie Mercury's rock opera, *Barcelona*.

Krysa attended the Gnessin in Moscow before moving with his family to the United States in 1989, where he continued his studies in violin and conducting at Indiana University and Northwestern University. His conducting teachers were Victor Yampolsky, Jorma Panula and David Zinman. Mr. Krysa attended The Pierre Monteux School and the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Music Festival.

Ioannis Protopapas

Ioannis Protopapas is from Sitia, on the Island of Crete. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Ionian University in Corfu, Greece. While there, he directed performances with the Ionian University Orchestra and Ionian University Contemporary Music Ensemble. He completed his Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting with the highest honors at CSULB under Professor Johannes Müller Stosch. At CSULB he served as the graduate assistant conductor for the Bob Cole Conservatory Symphony and the teaching assistant for the Opera Orchestra. During this time, Ioannis was also named a Conducting Fellow for the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra.

Ioannis is a recipient of the prestigious Onassis Foundation Scholarship. Two years ago, he received the Gerondelis Foundation Scholarship and in 2014, he won third prize in the International Conducting masterclass and competition with the Duna Symphony Orchestra and Michael Dittrich in Budapest, Hungary. He has attended both orchestral and choral conducting seminars and masterclasses with Andre

Thomas, Michalis Economou, Andre van Der Merwe, Basilio Astulez, Miltos Logiadis, Doris Lang Kosloff, and Norbert Baxa.

Currently Ioannis is pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting at UNLV and is a student of Professor Taras Krysa. He is also the teaching assistant for the UNLV Symphony Orchestra.

Zixuan Yan

Zixuan Yan is a flute musician currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts with Dr. Jennifer Grim at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Zixuan has been offered a fellowship to attend the Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy (PRISMA) to be held in the summer of 2019. She was a recipient of the Music Graduate Assistantship at UNLV. In 2017, Zixuan won the Honorable Mention award at the Schubert Club Competition. She has performed in Thursday Musical Artist Series at MacPhail Center for Music in 2017, Madeline Island Music Camp in 2016, and Qingdao Flute Camp in 2011.

Born in Hunan Province, China, Zixuan Yan began studying piano at age four and flute at age eleven. She earned her Bachelor of Music – Double Major in Flute and Piano from Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China studying with Ling Yan in 2014, and her Master of Music from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with Immanuel Davis in 2017. Before joining UNLV, she spent one year in the Artist Diploma program at the Hartt school, University of Hartford, with Janet Arms. Other studies have been with Bonita Boyed, Bradley Garner, Jonathan Keeble, Wendy Williams, Laura Trainini.

Grace-Haeun Kim

Grace-Haeun Kim was born on April 25, 1994, in Suwon, South Korea. Grace-Haeun started to play the piano at the age of 6. She gave her very first recital and won a gold medal at Suwon Junior Concours at the age of 7. Since then, she participated in many concerts and recitals and even was hired as an accompanist for her church choir at the age of 9. In 2005, Grace-Haeun moved to the United States. She has been featured twice in NBC Live News and was featured in Summerlin Las Vegas Sun News (Newspaper) for being a talented young artist piano player. While Grace-Haeun was pursuing her career since a young age until now, she got to perform with few orchestras in town. She collaborated with the College of Southern Nevada Orchestra, Henderson Symphony Orchestra, and Las Vegas Academy Philharmonic Orchestra by winning their concerto competition. She received an award "Outstanding Achievement in Piano" during her senior year and graduated in 2012.

In 2012, Grace-Haeun started her college at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While studying piano performance at University with Dr. Mykola Suk, she won the annual UNLV Orchestra Concerto Competition as a freshman and got to perform *Rhapsodie Espagnole* by F. Liszt/F. Busoni with University of Nevada Las Vegas Orchestra. Grace was a scholarship winner for the Gateway Foundation Scholarship Competition in 2015. She got to fly over to Ukraine and performed Piano Concerto No.3 in C major, Op.26 by S. Prokofiev with Chernihiv Philharmonic Orchestra in 2016. Grace-Haeun also got to perform Preludes

No.3 and No.10 by S. Rachmaninoff and Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor by J.Brahms in Luxembourg in 2016. In 2017, she went back to Ukraine to perform Piano Concerto No.2 in Bb major, Op.83 by J. Brahms. In May 2019, she will give a solo recital in Puerto Rico. Grace-Haeun got to participate in quite a few summer festivals and play for many masterclasses during her college years. Currently, Grace-Haeun is working on her master's degree in music education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is working at Ed W. High School as a piano instructor. Also, she is an orchestra director of Las Vegas Youth Arts, Music & Education (LVYAME).

THE UNLV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The highly-acclaimed UNLV Symphony Orchestra is one of the signature ensembles of the UNLV School of Music. Comprised of undergraduate and graduate music majors, minors, and talented non-music majors, the group provides students with a rigorous professional environment in which to train and perform, and it enriches the cultural life of UNLV and the Las Vegas community.

As many as eight concerts a year are presented, each including a variety of standard orchestral repertoire ranging from Baroque to modern contemporary selections. The orchestra's yearly programming also features one fully-staged opera, one ballet production, and a concert featuring the winner of the annual Solo Concerto Competition.

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UNLV Symphony Orchestra Personnel

Violin I

Oleksiy Hamov
Won Na
Ying Zhang
Andy Merino
Dmytro Nehrych
Nataliya Karachentseva

Violin II

Laura Garcia
Ricky Dang
Chanelle Salomon
Alyssa Ounphonchareune
Angelica Padilla

Viola

Andrew Vasquez
Miguel Misa
Isabel Guerra
Jason Guzman
Matthew Leiva

Cello

Adam Stiber
Dana Hurt Jr.
Angel Scotch

Bass

Joshua Riel
Antoinette Wigen
Patrick Davis
Macy Stevens

Flute/Piccolo

Natalie Smith
Demi Delaney

Oboe

Jairo Andres Pulido
Reyn Isbell

Clarinet

Ivan Ivanov
Ethan Blankfeld

Bassoon

Ashlea Sheridan
Nicolas Guevara

Horn

Casey Davis
Christian Jacobs
Brienne Albertie
Eric On

Trumpet

Matthew Wright
Marlee Witt

Trombone

Alan Cates
Alan Farias
Derian Luna

Percussion

Ryan Burnett
Rymmel Librodo
Joey Ellison
Connor Thorson
Mary Phillips