PROGRAM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4  |  4:30 PM

MAURICE DURUFLÉ
(1902-1986)
Ubi Caritas
Members of University Chorus, Motet Choir, and Rockefeller Chapel Choir

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685-1750)
Keyboard Partita No. 5: Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Tempo di Minuetto
Laura Sieh, piano

MICHAEL BURRITT
(b. 1962)
Prelude 1 for Marimba
John Corkill, marimba
Director of the Percussion Ensemble

IGOR STRAVINSKY
(1882-1971)
Trois mouvements de Petrouchka: Danse Russe
Antony Simonoff, piano

TRADITIONAL
Song for Orichaoko with Bembé Rhythm
Afro-Cuban Folkloric Ensemble
UNIVERSITY CHORUS, MOTET CHOIR, AND ROCKEFELLER CHAPEL CHOIR

University Chorus, Motet Choir, and Rockefeller Chapel Choir make up the mixed-voice choral ensembles at the University of Chicago. The University Chorus is the largest vocal ensemble on campus. Among its 90 to 120 members are undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff members, and singers from the Hyde Park and University community. The result is a wonderfully diverse group of vocalists who collaborate in performances of great monuments of the literature and also explore diverse world music traditions. As the premier undergraduate choral ensemble at the University of Chicago, the Motet Choir accepts 28-36 singers each year. Concentrating on a cappella masterworks of all periods, this polished vocal ensemble specializes in music of the Renaissance, and also performs historically and culturally diverse repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant to gospel standards. The Rockefeller Chapel Choir and its professional artists-in-residence sing at Sunday services and quarterly evening concerts or evensongs.

LAURA SIEH

Laura Sieh is a fourth-year student in the College majoring in Chemistry and Music hailing from Palo Alto, CA.

ABOUT THE RECORDING

I encountered this piece for the first time immediately after a mystical experience last month and have been obsessively working to interpret the compositional virtuosity of this piece since.

- Laura Sieh

JOHN CORKILL DIRECTOR OF PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussionist John Corkill is a passionate advocate for the development, process, and creation of new artistic works that provide accessibility to the public at large. He is currently serving as the percussionist for the University of Chicago’s Grossman Ensemble, an ensemble-in-residence at the University’s Center for Contemporary Composition comprised of 13 of the nation’s leading new music specialists.

In similar capacities, he has collaborated with groups such as Third Coast Percussion, Eighth Blackbird, and Ensemble Dal Niente. He has also appeared on the Chamber Music Northwest, Norfolk, and Yellow Barn Festivals and garnered awards at the Yale Chamber Music Competition as well as the Percussive Arts Society International Percussion Ensemble Competition.

In conjunction with co-artistic director, Alex Monroe, John formed the ensemble beyond this point which mission aims to collaborate in multidisciplinary approaches to address social change. Within months of forming, the group was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for their work creating a completely original and acoustic sound sculpture for Chicago’s Artistic Home storefront theater as well as cultural grants from the City of Chicago for providing free performances within and around Chicago’s Public Transit.

John currently serves on faculty at the University of Chicago, Loyola University, and Merit School of Music. John received his Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University where he graduated cum laude and Master of Music Degree from the Yale University School of Music. His teachers include Robert van Sice, Michael Burritt, and James Ross.
ANTONY SIMONOFF

Simonoff is an undergraduate student at the University of Chicago. He has been playing piano since the age of four and won his first competition at age six. He has studied and taken classes with teachers such as Martha Aznavoorian, Dimitry Paperno, and Rena Shereshevskaya. Antony has performed both at home and abroad. Most recently, he won First Prize at the Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition in the concerto category, and received the Grand Prix in the solo category. Antony studies with Pawel Checinski and is currently writing his undergraduate thesis in neuroscience.

ABOUT THE RECORDING

Coming back in 2020 to performing has been excellent, and the Petrushka has a special place in my heart. I loved recording this and can’t wait to nish recording this one!

– Antony Simonoff

AFRO-CUBAN FOLKLORIC ENSEMBLE

The Afro-Cuban Folkloric Ensemble explores this unique musical tradition which is still practiced today in Cuba. This African diaspora-based music and culture is a living example of how art can be a manifestation of the human desire to stay connected to one’s roots, ancestors, belief system, and home, even in the darkest of situations. Born of deep African origins, this form involves hand drumming, percussion and singing.

Undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff are all invited to participate. Community members who are interested in the art, culture, and music of the region are also welcome. All participants work together to make music while utilizing and expanding their own personal skills. There are no requirements regarding prior musical background required to participate in the ensemble.
The University of Chicago Department of Music involves over 700 musicians, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and dedicated members of the community. Ensembles and programs include the University Symphony Orchestra, University Wind Ensemble, University Chamber Orchestra, University Chorus, Women’s Ensemble, Motet Choir, Rockefeller Chapel Choir, Jazz X-tet, Early Music Ensemble, Middle East Music Ensemble, South Asian Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Afro-Cuban Folkloric Ensemble, Vocal Studies Program, Chamber Music Program, and Piano Program. The Musical Moments virtual concert series contributes to the rich musical scene on campus, even amidst the pandemic.

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