

# 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**

**Friday, April 12, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.**

Nicholas Music Center

Mason Gross Performing Arts Center

Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

# PROGRAM

*Nabucco: Overture*

Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

Christopher Beckett, conductor

*Peer Gynt: Suite No. 1, Op. 46*

Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

- I. Morning Mood
- II. Aase's Death
- III. Anitra's Dance
- IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Christopher Beckett, conductor

## INTERMISSION

*Symphony No. 2 in B minor, Op. 5*

Alexander Borodin  
(1833-1887)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Scherzo: Molto vivo
- III. Andante
- IV. Finale: Allegro

Tomás García & Nathan Sawyer, conductors

# PERSONNEL

Orchestra Personnel, other than concertmaster, are listed alphabetically

## **Violin I**

Gwyneth Gherzan  
Kushal Aluru  
Hyerim An†  
Reid Austin  
Annabelle Chen  
Caroleena Fernandez-Chousal  
Rebecca Johns  
Lyn Kim  
Laura Liao\*\*  
Brady Mak  
Isabelle Neville  
Ava Ostrem  
Angelina Pastore  
Spruha Ravikumar  
Sonia Sorvik  
Matthew Vares  
Jason Wang  
Eunmin Woo

## **Violin II**

Chloe Cho  
Darin Kim  
Serge Kuznetsov  
Andrea Lee  
Emiliano Moreno†  
Anand Nair  
Sophia Pan  
Lynn Park  
Anjali Rajesh  
Mirella Richard\*^#  
Anurrag Sarkar  
Ian Waynor  
Timothy Whittington  
Andrew Yang  
Sofia Yoo

## **Viola**

Priya Aggarwal  
Sriya Bapatla  
Hsuan Chen†  
Isha Dandekar^#  
Krystal Harper  
Ana María Díaz Herrera  
Jay Schroepfer  
Hyunjung Song†  
Helena Tadros  
Aileen Tian  
Zane Wilkerson  
Trisha Yu\*

## **Cello**

Frederick Chang  
Jackson Flower\*^#  
Alexei Greene  
Antony Hajsok  
Alexander Kwak  
Emma Lin  
Samantha Molina  
Christopher Notarnicola  
Michael Zieglar†

## **Bass**

Grace Bonanno  
Laurenz Canent  
Xitong Yao\*^#

# PERSONNEL CONTINUED

## **Flute**

Sergio Ramirez Guerrero^  
Haley Rogers#  
Lily Tang\*

## **Piccolo**

Sergio Ramirez Guerrero  
Haley Rogers

## **Oboe**

Bailey Eng\*^#  
Kathy Yu

## **English Horn**

Kathy Yu

## **Clarinet**

Jaehun Choi\*  
Evan Gore^  
Averie Testerman#

## **Bassoon**

Melisa Dogan  
Tom Leach\*^#

## **Horn**

Anthony D'Antuono\*  
Jessie Mersinger\$  
Will Sizemore†#^  
Emalina Thompson\$

## **Trumpet**

Aaron Caso\*  
Jason Singer^  
Ethan Zheng#

## **Trombone**

Enoch Buckman#  
Frankie Maceda-Nieto^\*

## **Bass Trombone**

Mal Malone

## **Tuba**

Dan Daly

## **Harp**

Kisae Lee

## **Timpani**

Jenna Manalastas

## **Percussion**

Siyoung Lee\$  
Josh Persad\$  
Em Savarese  
Luke Waitkus\$

## **Librarian**

Claire Oplinger  
Will Sizemore

\*\**Concertmaster*

\**Principal on Borodin*

^*Principal on Verdi*

#*Principal on Grieg*

\$*Guest Musician*

†*Department Assistant*

# NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

## **Giuseppe Verdi** *Nabucco Overture*

Giuseppe Verdi wrote this overture right before the premiere of the opera *Nabucco* in 1842. It opens with a solemn brass chorale, which is twice interrupted by the forte orchestra. The overture continues with notable melodies and scenes from the opera such as the chorus of “Va pensiero”, the chorus of the Assyrian priests in Act II, “Il maledetto” and more. This overture encompasses the whole essence of the opera: war, forbidden love, and resistance to oppression.

~ by Christopher Beckett

## **Edvard Grieg** *Peer Gynt: Suite No. 1, Op. 46*

Edvard Grieg composed *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* eleven years after the premiere of Henrik Ibsen’s dramatic play, *Peer Gynt*. “Morning Mood” depicts the dawn of day, birds singing and the sky opening to reveal the sunlight flooding the land. “Aase’s Death” takes Peer (Gynt) back home to his dying mother’s bedside as she passes on. “Anitra’s Dance” takes us to Morocco where the chief’s daughter tries to seduce Peer with an alluring dance, and it succeeds, resulting in Peer being robbed of all his possessions. “In the Hall of the Mountain King” brings us to a place where drunken gnomes, goblins, trolls, and the mountain king are trying to capture Peer to have him marry the king’s daughter. This work ends with a wild and exciting climax that stands as one of the most popular classical tunes in Western pop culture.

~ by Christopher Beckett

# NOTES CONTINUED

## Alexander Borodin

### *Symphony No. 2 in B minor, Op. 5*

For the Georgian-Russian chemist Alexander Borodin, music was a secondary vocation throughout his life. He belonged to a group of Russian composers known as the Mighty Handful. This group, which also included Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, proposed a nationalist style removed from Western tradition. Some elements of this style include melodies that seamlessly shift tonal centers, parallel fifths, and the use of the pentatonic scale to suggest a “primitive” folk idiom.

Borodin completed his Second Symphony in 1876, nine years after his First. The title of the Symphony, ‘Bogatyr,’ refers to a stock medieval Russian warrior-hero, of great strength, bravery, and a resounding voice that defends the kingdom from its enemies. These virtues can be heard throughout the entire Symphony, with galloping rhythms in the first movement, an unwavering pulse in the second, introspection in the slow movement, and a sense of celebratory adventure in the finale.

~ by Tomás García

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Christopher Beckett, conductor**

Mr. Christopher Beckett is currently a candidate for an MM in Conducting at Mason Gross under the guidance of Prof. Johns and Dr. 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 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 (b. 1996) is an Ecuadorean conductor and composer currently pursuing a DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Rutgers University under the tutelage of Dr. Ching-Chun Lai. Tomás previously completed a MM 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. Currently he serves as Children's Music Director of First Congregational Church of Westfield.

## **Nathan Sawyer, conductor**

Nathan is pursuing a DMA in Orchestral Conducting under Ching-Chun Lai at Rutgers. He served as assistant conductor of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra to Stephen Alltop. Nathan attended the International Conducting Workshop and Festival in Bulgaria studying under Larry Rachleff and Donald Schleicher. At UIUC, Nathan studied his MM under Schleicher, serving as the manager for the Symphony Orchestra and working as co-director of the Philharmonia and director of the Illini Strings. He also studied with guest professor William Eddins and received the opportunity to conduct John Harbison's *Symphony No. 5* in the presence of the composer. As an undergraduate, Nathan led campuswide events such as a Suicide Prevention Service where he composed and conducted a work to raise awareness of mental health.

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