

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the

**43rd Contemporary Music Festival
Concert II**

Jessie Montgomery, *guest composer*

featuring

Šarūnas Jankauskas, *clarinet*

**JMU Symphony Orchestra
Kira Omelchenko, *director***

Monday, October 14, 2024

7:30 pm

Concert Hall



There will be one 15-minute intermission.

*This festival is made possible with the support of the JMU African, African American and
Diaspora Center, College of Arts and Letters, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts
Cultural Connections Residency Program.*

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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of this production is strictly prohibited
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Program

Soul Force (2015)

Jessie Montgomery

JMU Symphony Orchestra

Kira Omelchenko, *director*

from Songs of Bukovina: 24 Preludes
(2017, rev. 2022)

Leonid Desyatnikov

4. Oh, Petrivochka, a Night so Short
3. Ian, Where d'you Come From? Beyond the Danube
22. A Lady Had a Husband, She Loved Some Peter Though

Aleksandra Velgosha, *piano*

Rhapsody No. 2 (2020)

Jessie Montgomery

Wanchi, *violin*

Apparition (2023)

Eric Guinivan

Carl Donakowski, *cello*
electronic sound and video playback
video by Lisa Tubach

15-Minute Intermission

Program - *continued*

Gray Catbird (2023)

Ashkan Tabatabaie

Anna Showalter, *piano*
electronic sound and video playback
digital art by Audrey Lund

Gnarly Buttons (1996)

John Adams

- I. The Perilous Shore
- II. Hoedown (Mad Cow)
- III. Put Your Loving Arms Around Me

Šarūnas Jankauskas, *clarinet*
Jeanette Zyko, *English horn* | Sue Barber, *bassoon*
Andy Lankford, *trombone*
Paulo Steinberg, Eric Ruple, *keyboard/piano*
Adam Larrabee, *banjo/mandolin/guitar*
Wanchi Huang, Aiveen Gallagher, *violin*
Jessica Embach Jankauskas, *viola*
Carl Donakowski, *cello* | Sam Suggs, *bass*
Eric Guinivan, *conductor*

Program Notes

To read the program notes, scan the QR code below:



Biographies

Jessie Montgomery

Jessie Montgomery, Musical America's 2023 Composer of the Year, is a GRAMMY-winning, acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator whose music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of twenty-first century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as "turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life" (The Washington Post) and are performed regularly by leading orchestras and ensembles around the world. In July 2021, she began a three-year appointment as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Mead Composer-in-Residence.

Her growing body of work includes solo, chamber, vocal, and orchestral works, as well as collaborations with distinguished choreographers and dance companies. Recent highlights include *Hymn for Everyone* (2021), her first commission as Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, co-commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and Music Academy of the West; *Five Freedom Songs*, a song cycle conceived with and written for Soprano Julia Bullock, for Sun Valley and Grand Teton Music Festivals, San Francisco, Kansas City, Boston and New Haven Symphony Orchestras, and the Virginia Arts Festival (2021); *I was waiting for the echo of a better day*, a site-specific collaboration with Bard SummerScape and Pam Tanowitz Dance (2021); *Shift, Change, Turn* (2019) commissioned by Orpheus and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; and *Banner* (2014), written to mark the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" for The Sphinx Organization and the Joyce Foundation, and presented in its UK premiere at the 2021 BBC Proms.

Montgomery's impressive range of recent premieres also includes multiple concerti – *DIVIDED* (2022) for cellist Thomas Mesa and Sphinx Virtuosi, *Rounds* for pianist Awadagin Pratt (2021), and *L.E.S. Characters* for violist Masumi Per Rostad (2020); *BECAUSE* (2021), a theatrical work for the National Symphony Orchestra adapted from the book by Mo Willems and arranged by Jannina Norpoth; *I Have Something To Say* (2019), for chorus, children's chorus and orchestra with text by activist playwright Robbie McCauley for Cathedral Choral Society and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and *Passacaglia* (2021), a flute quartet for The National Flute Association's 49th annual convention.

Highlights of her 2022-2023 season include the world premieres of orchestral works for violinist Joshua Bell; the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; a consortium led by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for New Music USA's Amplifying Voices program; a violin duo co-commissioned by CSO MusicNOW and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; and new settings of orchestral works by distinguished choreographer Donald Byrd for Nashville Ballet.

Future projects include a contribution to Alisa Weilerstein's *FRAGMENTS* project, a percussion quartet, an orchestral work for the New York Philharmonic, and her final commissions as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Mead Composer-in-Residence.

Montgomery has been recognized with many prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation. She is currently Artist in Residence at the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music, Composer in Residence at Bard College, and Professor of Violin and Composition at The New School, and, since 1999, has been affiliated with the Sphinx Organization in a variety of roles including

Biographies - *continued*

composer-in-residence for Sphinx Virtuosi, its professional touring ensemble. A founding member of PUBLIQuartet and a former member of the Catalyst Quartet, Montgomery

holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a doctoral candidate in music composition at Princeton University.

Šarūnas Jankauskas

Clarinetist Šarūnas Jankauskas enjoys a rewarding performance and teaching career. Most of his professional activities take place at James Madison University in Virginia, where he guides an enthusiastic group of aspiring young musicians, teachers and entrepreneurs. Jankauskas joined the faculty in 2016 and is dedicated to exploring new ways of addressing playing techniques, expanding teaching literature and maintaining a highly positive learning environment. He is a recipient of the 2023 Madison Vision Teaching Award, a campus-wide recognition that is solely decided by the students.

His performance engagements have taken him through Europe, Canada, Brazil and various regions of the United States. Jankauskas appeared as a concerto soloist with Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Round Rock Symphony, numerous collegiate ensembles and collaborated with accomplished artists, including St. Petersburg and Jasper String Quartets, pianists Domenico Codispoti and Johan Botes. He participated at *International Conservatory Week Festival* (St. Petersburg, Russia), *Musicalis Daunia* (Italy), *SoundSpace at Blanton*, *Chamber Music at the Barn*, *KNOB Festival of New Music*, *Electroacoustic Barn Dance*, International Clarinet Association's *ClarinetFests®*, College Music Society's National Conference and various composer/new music symposiums. He also has been a fellow in prestigious summer programs: Sarasota Music Festival, New Music Workshop of Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Round Top Festival-Institute and Texas Music Festival. His recent commissioning project focused on works for clarinet in various duo-partnership roles. After numerous premieres, it culminated in a digital and CD album *Duos*, released by Soundset Recordings in 2020. As a developing composer, Jankauskas has premiered a couple of his own works.

Dr. Jankauskas previously taught at Texas Lutheran and Wichita State Universities, in addition to serving as principal clarinetist of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. He studied at the Academy of Music and Theatre in his native Lithuania, and, after moving to the U.S., received degrees from Grand Valley State University, Rice University and The University of Texas at Austin.

JMU Symphony Orchestra Personnel

Dr. Kira Omelchenko, *conductor*

Daniel Esperante, *orchestra manager, DMA graduate assistant*

Danny Postlethwait, *orchestra librarian*

Johnny Park, *orchestra librarian*

Violin I

Madeleine Gabalski*

Sierra Rickard

Zike Qi

Johnny Park

Erin Choi

Aidan Coleman

Rachel Tan

Valerie Stevens

Violin II

Khalil Turner*

Luke Barnes

Zoe Lovelance

Nathaniel Gordy

Alexandra Goodell

Anniah Craun

Anthony Parone

Ana Mooney

Viola

Micah Lee*

Elliot Drew

Julia Johnson

Sunny Robertello

Charlotte Hebert

Sawyer Degregori

Thien Phan

Emma Thomas

Franklin Villalta

Shana Al Sindi

Cello

John Meshreky*

Danny Postlethwait

Christopher Hall

Augusta McNulty

Hailey Hotek

Marlie Dela Cruz

Bass

Gabriella Bieberich*

Kiki Protopsaltis

Jolie Prasad

Grey Sheridan

Michael Dean

Jack Choi

Flute

Daniel Esperante*

Joshua Brancalone

Oboe

Will Slopnick*

Cady Litteral

Clarinet

Geneva Maldonado*

Ian Graff

Bassoon

David Kang*

Charlie Address*

Horn

Jacob Taylor*

Gray Smiley

Kendall Hicks

Will Rapp

Trumpet

Steffi Tetzloff-Judson*

Micah Wingfield

Taylor Lowry

Trombone

Henry Taylor*

William Shanahan

Bass Trombone

Teague Jenkins

Tuba

Logan Davis*

Timpani and Percussion

Emily Stevens*

Grayson Creekmore

Kobe Noel

Olivia Miller

Jonathan Ramirez

*denotes principal/co-principal player

JMU School of Music Statement of Community and Belonging

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity—which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts—is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



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How you can make a difference!

Dear Patron,

Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

Scholarship contributions help young musicians blossom into mature artists. With your support, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. If you are interested in supporting our students' passion and dedication, please consider contributing to the Music Scholarship Fund at James Madison University.

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Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
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