



The University of Texas at Austin
Butler School of Music
College of Fine Arts

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

7:30 pm

Bates Recital Hall

KE YUAN HSIN conductor

GABRIELA MORA FALLAS conductor

This concert will last approximately one hour without intermission.

PROGRAM

Silvestre Revueltas

Sensemaya

Alexander Borodin

Symphony No. 2 in B Minor

Allegro

Scherzo: Prestissimo

Andante

Finale: Allegro

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Silvestre Revueltas *Sensemaya*

BORN December 31, 1899, Santiago Papasquiaro, Mexico

DIED October 5, 1940, Mexico City, Mexico

COMPOSED 1937-1938

PREMIERED December 18, 1938, Mexico Symphony Orchestra

DURATION 7 minutes

Silvestre Revueltas trained as a violinist and composer first in Mexico City, then in Texas, and finally in Chicago until, after a years-long tour as a violinist, he returned to Mexico City at the age of 30. In 1929, Carlos Chávez offered him the position of assistant conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica de México, which he held until 1936, using the platform to champion Mexican music as well as contemporary music of the day, including Stravinsky, Schoenberg, and Verèse. It was during his tenure leading the orchestra that he began composing regularly, leaving a prolific catalogue of works. He wrote songs, film scores, and was especially drawn to the tone poem: a programmatic genre popularized by Strauss, which illustrates a painting, story, character, or other non-musical source. *Sensemaya*, the final of nearly ten tone poems he wrote –and by far his most popular– is based on a poem by Afro-Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén of the same name, which depicts the ritual chant evoked while killing a snake. As writer Hega

Zambrano explains, “The word *sensemaya* is a combination of sense (Providence) and Yemaya (Afro-Cuban Goddess of the Seas and Queen Mother of Earth). The poem poeticizes an Afro-Caribbean snake dance rite conducted by the practitioners of the Palo Monte Mayombe religion. ... The killing of the snake, a sacred creature, symbolizes renewal, fertility, growth, and wisdom.” Guillén’s poem tells the story of Princess Lucero, who, after rejecting the advances of a magician, is turned into a snake, and hunted down. Eventually, the magician kills the snake –and consequently, himself –breaking his own spell, and returning Lucero to her original self. Originally written for chorus and small orchestra, Revueltas re-wrote the work for full orchestra, including 27 wind instruments, strings, and a percussion section with 14 instruments. The rhythmic motives throughout the work harken back to Guillén’s original poem, which repeats the incantation “¡Mayombe–bombe–mayombé!”

Alexander Borodin *Symphony No. 2 in B Minor*

BORN November 12, 1833, Saint Petersburg, Russia

DIED February 27, 1887, Saint Petersburg, Russia

COMPOSED 1869-1876

PREMIERED February 26, 1876, St. Petersburg, Russia, Eduard Napravnik, conductor

DURATION 30 minutes

The illegitimate son of a Georgian nobleman, Alexander Borodin grew up with the trappings of the upper class, but was never acknowledged as one. Because of the circumstances – falsified birth documents, a fake father, and a mother who only referred to herself as Alexander's "aunt" – he was not permitted to attend the standard school system. Instead, his wealthy biological father provided full financial support to Alexander and his "aunt" by gifting them a four-story home where Alexander enjoyed an excellent education through private tutors. Although interested in music, and clearly gifted, he attended the Medical-Surgical Academy in Saint Petersburg where, after graduating, accepted a position as a chemistry professor. He was a highly influential figure in his field, and in 1872 was instrumental [pun intended] in the creation of the first medical study courses for female students in St. Petersburg. Ten years before that, at the age of 29, Borodin took his first composition lessons with composer Mily Balakirev. Although Borodin referred to himself

only as a "Sunday composer," he was brought into the group of Russian nationalists known as "The Mighty Five," which included Balakirev, César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov. That he only composed on Sundays or when too ill to lecture (he wrote that his musical circle did not say to him 'Hope you are well' but, on the contrary, 'Hope you are unwell') explains the seven-year period it took him to complete his second symphony. Although panned by critics, the work was highly admired by Franz Liszt, who told most of Europe about it, making it the first Russian symphony to be heard abroad. In fact, after hearing of the initial negative press, Liszt said to Borodin, "Your artistic instinct is such that you need not fear to be original. Do not listen to those who would deter you from following your own way... Similar advice was given to Mozart and to Beethoven, who wisely ignored it. Despite the adage that 'there is nothing new under the sun,' your Second Symphony is entirely new."

KE YUAN HISN



Ke Yuan Hisn is one of the six semi-finalists in the first edition Liria City of Music Conducting Competition. He is also the semi-finalist in the 17th Khachaturian International Conducting Competition. Ke Yuan earned his Master of Music degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He now continues studying with Professor Farkhad Khudyev at UT for his doctoral degree in orchestral conducting. He is the winner of the Gino R. Narboni Endowed Presidential Scholarship and Vincent R. DiNino Endowed Scholarship. Ke Yuan was born in Taiwan, and he completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the Soochow University. He also received the Conducting Certificate at the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan Academy. Ke Yuan has participated in several international conducting masterclasses. He studied with Carl St. Clair, Larry Rachleff, Donald Schleicher, Rodney Winther, Yan Huichang, Apo Hsu, Annie Chung, and Tsung Yeh. Recently, he was invited to participate in the 11th International Conducting Competition Jeunesses Musicales Bucharest in Romania and the 2nd Augsburg International Conducting Competition in Germany.

GABRIELA MORA FALLAS



Gabriela began her studies in violin at the National Institute of Music of Costa Rica. She participated in different music festivals and workshops abroad and completed her master's degree studies in Orchestral Conducting at the Boston Conservatory in USA. She returned to Costa Rica to actively participate in the musical scene of the country, where she was granted the National Music Award in 2017 for her achievements as a conductor, given by the Ministry of Culture. Since then, Gabriela has served as guest conductor and cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, and principal Artistic Director and Conductor of Cartago Symphony Orchestra. Besides her work with professional ensembles, she has also, devoted her time to work with youth ensembles in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Gabriela is one of the few active female professional conductors in Central America and the first Costa Rican female conductor to perform with the National Symphony Orchestra of her country in subscription concerts on its 80 years of existence.

UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Minshin Kim, *concertmaster*

Paola Flores

Jan Paolo Yap

Mindy Li

Aditya Narayanan

Diana Hubbard

Thomas Castillo

Peter Stone

Samantha Tuapen

Nathan Kennedy

Abby Park

William Zhang

Kaley Gregory

Anaya Mehta

Ivan Arras

Timothy So

VIOLIN 2

Reiko Tachibana, *principal*

Om Joshi

Deshen Liu

Phebe Tan

Allison Chen

Kevin Wang

Alan Chen

Laurence Wang

Panisara Sutthipong

Melis Demiralp

Emily Sturman

Christian M. Colon

Paige Stetson

Zile Zhu

Sophia Gray

VIOLA

Emmi Scott, *principal*

David Kim

Shreyas Annaswamy

Raymond Lam

Saylor Schreiber

Anvi Bora

Melody Chan

CELLO

Dylan Monahan, *principal*

Aliza Gomzin

Yi-Chien Lian

Samuel Laberge

Jwalanthi Ranganathan

Evalyn Wilber

Emily Lai

Dasha Coulman

Jordan Conklin

Mark Wen

Steven Nguyen

Philo Lin

Lucy Yan

Melody Lihou

Johnathan Brodie

Caroline Wang

DOUBLE BASS

Shane Rybacki, *principal*

Alyse French

Presley Heikkila

Thomas Hendrix

Maxwell Wu

Sori Walker

James Lemuel

Patricio Lopez

FLUTE

Yuyao (Andrew) Wang ²
Jilleanne Pare ³
Angelica Odinakachi Paul-Ugwuibe
Kevyn Salazar ¹

OBOE

Caitlin O'Callaghan ³
Aislinn Hurley ^{1,2}
Lauren Matus
Rachel Cox

CLARINET

Samuel Wang ²
Erlinda Chew ³
Paul McCulley
Alexander Huang ¹
Carson Nguyen
Daniel Junli Yang, *bass clarinet*
Gabriel Vaca, *E♭ clarinet*

BASSOON

Eralp Orkun ³
Yanyu Yang
Kiera DiCesare ^{1,2}
Tucker Van Gundy, *contrabassoon*

HORN

Kurt Lautenshlager ^{2,3}
Simran Shah ¹
Matthew Herbst
Jori Barash
Luin Larson

TRUMPET

Nick Acevedo ¹
Jenna May ³
Luke Owens ²
Dylan Herd

TROMBONE

Jackson Goodall ¹
Arsene Bien-Aime ^{2,3}
Aiden Gundersen

TUBA

Elvis Yang

HARP

Kirsten Karamihan
Kennedy Park

PIANO

Che-Wei Chou

PERCUSSION

Yu-Huan Chang ^{2,3}
Brandon Berlanga ¹
Nic Martinez
Edric Salazar
Margaret Parker
Jaxon Jedele

PRINCIPALS

1. Sensemaya
2. Borodin I-II
3. Borodin III-IV

UPCOMING EVENTS

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Monday, November 22, 7:30 pm
Bates Recital Hall

CONCERT CHORALE

Sunday November 14, 7:30 pm
Bates Recital Hall

SANDY YAMAMOTO VIOLIN & ANTON NEL PIANO

Tuesday November 16, 7:30 pm
Jessen Auditorium

WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunday November 21, 4:00 pm
Bates Recital Hall

HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

Streaming On-Demand December 13-26
Online event

Program Notes by Mark Bilyeu

For more information about Butler School of Music concerts and events, visit our online calendar at music.utexas.edu/calendar

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Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, Dean

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Jeff Hellmer, Interim Director
