

West Virginia University  
College of Creative Arts  
School of Music

presents the

# West Virginia University Symphony Orchestra

Mitchell Arnold, *conductor*

Thursday, October 8, 2020  
7:30 p.m.

Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre  
Canady Creative Arts Center

## ~Program~

Lyric for Strings

George Walker  
(1922-2018)

Carmen-Suite

Georges Bizet – Rodion Shchedrin  
(b.1932)

1. Introduction
  2. Dance
  3. First Intermezzo
  4. Changing of the Guard
  5. Carmen's Entrance and Habanera
  6. Scene
  7. Second Intermezzo
  8. Bolero
  9. Torero
  10. Torero and Carmen
  11. Adagio
  12. Fortune-Telling
  13. Finale
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# **The West Virginia University Symphony Orchestra**

Mitchell Arnold, *conductor*

## **Violin**

Sandra Morales Corrales,  
*concertmaster*

Sean Elliott, *principal*  
*second violin*

Kaylee Boyce

Isaac Chorpeneing

Shaun Hancher

Dalton Kendig

Hailey Lemon

Chelsea Losh

Alexandra Markowicz

Cody Pasden

Hannah Tackett

Nathanael Turner

Erin Welsh

## **Viola**

Gabrielle Padilla, *principal*

William Alderman

Jacob Blank

Anthony Dotson

Joseph Gutmann

Savannah Hochberg

Paige Kriel

Heather Marsico

Rh  a Ming

Cody New

## **Violoncello**

Gerardo Sanchez Pastrana,  
*principal*

Gabrielle Palfi

Sydney Alexander

Nicholas Bedway

Morgan Blanks

Ruth Hartman

Madeline L'  cuyer

Charles Mallonee

Kathryn Roberts

Jasmine Watkins

Braden Zannino

## **Contrabass**

Hilda Aviles, *principal*

Andrew Kohn

Levi Watson

## **Timpani and Percussion**

Dmitri Georgantonis,  
*section leader*

Abigail Adamiak

Alex Edwards

Elizabeth Rockwell

Timothy Sheuvront

## **Graduate Assistant**

Brianna Corgel

Juan Gonzalez Gonzalez

## Notes and Biography

### Lyric for Strings

George Walker

George Walker, a piano major, chapel organist and tennis player at Oberlin College Conservatory of music, who hailed from Washing, D.C., graduated at the age of 18. He went to Philadelphia to pursue Artist Diplomas in piano performance and composition at the Curtis Institute. In 1946, at 24 years of age, Walker completed his first string quartet which was subsequently performed by a Curtis graduate quartet. While composing the second movement, Walker received a call from his father, a prominent physician, informing him that Walker's beloved maternal grandmother, Malvina King – a former slave who fled a Virginia plantation for freedom in D.C. during the Civil war – had passed away. Walker titled the second movement *Lament* and dedicated it to the memory of his grandmother. Later, after expanding the second movement from quartet to string orchestra as a stand-alone piece, he changed the title to *Lyric for Strings*, but kept the dedication.

### Carmen-Suite

Georges Bizet – Rodion Shchedrin

In the late 1960's, the reigning *prima ballerina* of Moscow's great Bolshoi Ballet, Maya Plisetskaya, asked the director of the Cuban National Dance Company to create a vehicle for her based on Georges Bizet's great opera, *Carmen*. The search for a composer did not begin with Plisetskaya's husband, Rodion Shchedrin, but it did end with him. Perhaps Shostakovich, Khachaturian and other great Soviet composers were reluctant to fool with Bizet's music, or, for that matter, test the rather conservative Soviet art bureaucracy. At last, Shchedrin, took the challenge and *Carmen-Suite* was created. Of course, the bureaucracy condemned the music as disrespectful to the original, and the choreography as too erotic. Further performances of *Carmen-Suite*, including during an upcoming tour of the west, were cancelled, and the sets were put into storage. Then Shostakovich, himself a victim of sanction and condemnation during his career, but then head of the Soviet Composer's Union, expressed his support of the work. The work was revived and it remains a fairly regular part of the company's repertory.

Shchedrin's approach was to re-compose, re-order and re-orchestrate much Bizet's opera starting with the decision to write for an orchestra of strings only with a massive battery of percussion instruments. Two movements, #8 and # 10, do not originate with *Carmen*, but were composed by Bizet for different operas. Do you know their origins?

– Notes by Mitchell Arnold

**Dr. Mitchell Arnold** is in his fourteenth year as WVU's Director of Orchestral Activities. In 2014, the orchestra was selected to perform at the College Orchestra Directors Association national conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The orchestra has also toured Maryland, Virginia, and recently began annual concerts at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Dr. Arnold appeared as guest conductor of the United States Navy Band in Washington DC in 2018, a rare honor for a civilian musician. He has also guest-conducted the Omaha Symphony, Toledo Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra.

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*We thank Jamie Whoolery, Coordinator of Production Services and Facilities, Peter McCumber, and Mike McGinley of CCAC Operations, and Jodie Lewis, Administrative Associate of the School of Music, for assistance with preparations for this concert, along with the College of Creative Arts, Keith Jackson, Dean, the School of Music, Michael Ibrahim, Director, and West Virginia University for support of this evening's event.*

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*Dearest Friends,*

*We would like to invite you to join us by considering a gift to support our mission to educate our students and delight our audiences. Tax-deductible gifts in support of the orchestra help with music acquisitions and rentals, bringing in guest artists, taking our orchestra on tour, supporting scholarships, etc. Gifts can be made online at <https://ccarts.wvu.edu/give> by selecting "Specify Designation" and typing WVU Orchestra/2V599 into the box. You can also write a check payable to **WVU Foundation** with WVU Orchestra/2V599 in the memo section.*

## Upcoming WVUSO concerts

All concerts free of charge and held in the Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre except as noted. At this time, our concerts will be livestream only. Check our website, [symphony.wvu.edu](http://symphony.wvu.edu), or <https://www.facebook.com/WVUSO> for information as it becomes available.

### November 19, 2020

Antonio Vivaldi	Orchestral Concerto in D Major
Anna Clyne	Within Her Arms
Edvard Grieg	From Holberg's Time (Suite in Olden Style)

Program information is posted on our website: [symphony.wvu.edu](http://symphony.wvu.edu)

