



## **Malmgren Concert Series**

*presents*

# **Syracuse University Symphony Orchestra**

**James Tapia, director**  
**Allison Pasco, graduate assistant**  
**Kenneth Meyer and Liamna Pestana, soloists**

Sunday, March 3, 2024  
4 p.m.

We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation,  
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,  
the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands  
Syracuse University now stands.

**PROGRAM**  
***Celebrating Women Composers***

Welcome: Rev. Brian Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel

Callirhoë Suite, Op. 37

Cécile Chaminade (1857 - 1944)

No. 1: Prelude

No. 2: Pas de Écharpes

No. 3: Scherzettino

No. 4: Pas des Cymbales

Concerto for Two Guitars and Orchestra

Germaine Tailleferre (1892 - 1983)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Allegro

III. Lento - Tranquillo

IV. Allegro

*Kenneth Meyer and Liamna Pestana, soloists*  
*North American Premiere*

Symphony No.6: The Blue Marble (2022)

Julie Giroux (b. 1961)

I. The Big Blue Marble

II. Voices in Green

III. Let There Be Life

Malmgren concerts are presented with support from the Malmgren Fund.

**About the Program**

The program opens with the orchestral suite version of French pianist-composer Cécile Chaminade's "ballet symphonique," *Callirhoë*. The ballet received its premiere in 1888 at the Grand-Théâtre in Marseille and was an immediate success. The ballet is based on a libretto by the Provençal poet Elzéard Rougier that describes Alcmeon's efforts to win the heart of his captive princess Callirhoë who, dreaming only of being allowed to return to her native land, persistently remains aloof. The goddess Venus steps in and, after many vicissitudes, including the heroine being turned into a marble statue, the tale ends happily. After the success of the ballet, Chaminade prepared a solo piano version and an orchestral suite version on this program. The third movement of the orchestral suite - *Scherzettino* - was especially popular with nineteenth century French audiences.

Marcelle Germaine Tailleferre began her musical studies with her mother before pursuing composition at the Paris Conservatoire. A significant member of the ground-breaking composer collective known as *Les Six*, Tailleferre's most fruitful period was in the 1920s, when she composed her First Piano Concerto, the Harp Concertino, and several ballets. Tailleferre wrote her Concerto for Two Guitars and Orchestra for the French Radio in 1960, however, it was never performed, and the score was thought to be lost until it resurfaced in 2003. This performance will be the North American Premiere of this important work.

The program concludes with Julie Giroux's contemporary symphony and film, *The Blue Marble*, composed in 2022. The composer's program notes follow:

*Movement I: The Big Blue Marble.* It is often said that the first full image of Earth, "Blue Marble", taken by Apollo 17 in 1972, was the first full picture of the planet Earth. The picture is actually upside down. It happened sometime between 4:59:05 and 5:08:14 hours after Apollo's launch as they traveled up to 25,000 miles an hour. It is the most reproduced picture in history. It became painstakingly clear to humanity just how small and vulnerable our one and only home actually is. This movement celebrates that home in a variety of ways; think of it as an abbreviated introduction to planet Earth through music.

*Movement II. Voices in Green.* I spent hours simply listening to the recordings of the Amazon jungle by the world-renowned sound engineer George Vlad. The recordings were made during the rainy season when humidity is at its highest and birds are the most vocal. The sounds transport you into the heart of the jungle which feels incredibly alive. The exotic

calls of the birds and the echoes from other birds of the same species, the insects, the frogs and the rain; you can practically feel and smell the rain. The rain forest has its own music. The density of growth, with every shade of green, is the backdrop for this beautiful, strange opera. I knew I wanted to write music to those sounds. I composed *Voices in Green* with the Amazon jungle sounds playing as my audio backdrop. It influenced every note and phrase. In my mind and heart, I was there, adding my voice to theirs. *Voices in Green* can be performed strictly on its own... Think of this movement as a concert taking place in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest.

*Movement III. Let There be Life.* Violence, death, murder, birth, and life: I wanted to capture that commonality with music in the third and final movement. There is a recurring theme throughout the finale. It evolves, much like life on Earth. It moves through the music, transporting us from one musical setting to the next, ending in a majestic, grandiose way. The miracle of Earth is life. It is the fragile, silken thread that holds existence together. As with the famous Blue Marble photograph, I hope this symphony reminds people just how frail and beautiful Earth is. I hope *The Blue Marble* fills hearts and minds with a renewed love for our planet, our one and only home. Earth is the one thing we all have in common. It does not belong to us. We belong to it. It is our only home and we should always treat it as such with every generation leaving it healthier and happier than the way they found it.

### **About the Soloists**

Cuban-American musician **Liamna Pestana Roche** plays a variety of plucked stringed instruments, most of them closely associated with the guitar, including renaissance, baroque, 6-course and XIX c. guitars, classical guitar, medieval citole, renaissance vihuela and lute, archlute, and Cuban tres. As a soloist guitarist, she has won prizes and awards, having participated in guitar festivals in Mexico and Cuba. She is also a soprano and has been a member of various vocal and instrumental groups in Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, and Schola Cantorum of Syracuse, in the US. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree in Classical Guitar Performance from Syracuse University and is currently finishing her Graduate Degree in Classical Guitar Performance at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

*The Washington Post* refers to **Kenneth Meyer** as, "A thinking man's guitarist who plays with impressive gravity and power." The national top prize winner of the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition, Meyer has also received awards from the Barlow Endowment, Argosy Foundation, and Hanson Institute for American Music. Recent activities include performances in Carnegie Hall and Yankee Stadium with solo recitals in Romania, Hungary, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Additional appearances as soloist with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Symphoria, Erie Chamber Orchestra, and the Seattle Modern Orchestra in a premiere recording of Andrew Waggoner's *Concerto for Guitar*.

Meyer serves on the Board of Directors for the Twisted Spruce Music Foundation, Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York, Great Lakes Guitar Society and Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music. He is a part-time guitar professor at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music and a featured lecturer, performer, adjudicator, and teacher at festivals, colleges, and universities throughout this country and abroad. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music and has released recordings with Innova, Albany, Summit, Bridge, and Frameworks Records. His book, *Diatonic Arpeggios for Classical Guitar*, is published through Mel Bay.

For more information, please visit: [www.kennethmeyerguitar.com](http://www.kennethmeyerguitar.com)

### **Syracuse University Symphony Orchestra**

**James Tapia, director**

**Allison Pasco, graduate assistant**

#### **Violin I**

Bora Koka, CM  
Amaya Tucker, Asst. CM  
Natalie Roswick  
Mora-Lee Moore  
Tina Yuanlin Li  
Joan Tuong  
Cassandra Nalli  
Bridget Mack

#### **Violin II**

Ava Krauss, Principal  
Georgia Herrera  
Anna Meehan  
Elyas Layachi  
Zoe Gagliardi  
Brianna Nechifor  
Victoria Almack  
Olivia Lee

#### **Viola**

Charlie Thomas, Principal  
Austin Harning  
Syrai Jarvis-Herbert  
Katherine Morrow  
Aria Dusel  
Odette Sherk  
Isabella Wheeler  
Gabriella Pereira  
Osamu Tsuda  
Eleanor Jun  
Sophia Vacanti

**Cello**

Jacob Bloom, Principal  
Tracey Rodriguez  
Emily Truncali  
Abby Taylor  
Ethan Coburn  
Ella Chan  
Ben Bradley  
Gabe Howe

**Bass**

James MacLellan  
Peyton Barlow  
Emma Fleming  
Robert Yardley  
Eric Timlin  
Robert Wilhelm

**Harp**

Alie Fitt

**Piano/Celeste**

Timothy Diem

**Flute**

Nancy Chambers  
Vita Marie Dean  
Kate O'Leary

**Oboe**

Lee Saint Amour  
Cara Miller  
Sydney Kincaid English Horn

**Clarinet**

Morris Gelbart  
Aidan Blaylock  
Ada Setlik

**Bassoon**

Elizabeth Novak  
Lily Carpinone  
Aaliyah Thom  
Contrabassoon

**French Horn**

Bryce Whitwam  
Ryan Hill  
Alicia Kailani Caputo  
Andrew Perry

**Trumpet**

Ethan McAnally  
James Kyle  
Will Bradley

**Trombone**

Ben Vermilyea  
Sean Alvaro  
Evan Oliveras

**Tuba**

Brielle May

**Percussion**

Jesse Doan  
Jiana Curcio  
Addison Flower  
Jessica Hallock  
Alex Talarico

## **The Malmgren Concert Series of Hendricks Chapel**

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel

Join us for music to stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome renowned musicians to the stage of Hendricks Chapel in the heart of Syracuse University!

**Mar. 24: The Lorelei Ensemble**

Beth Willer directs this all-female vocal ensemble in a multimedia program of new works by Christopher Cerrone, Elijah Daniel Smith, and more.

**Apr. 7: Setnor at Carnegie Hall Preview Concert**

Outstanding Setnor School of Music soloists and chamber groups share the program that they will perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City.

**Apr. 14: Festive Music for Organ, Brass, and Choir**

The Setnor School of Music Trumpet Ensemble and the Hendricks Chapel Choir perform works by Antonio Vivaldi, Richard Proulx, Alan Hovhaness, and Erik Morales.

**Apr. 28: Sacred Jazz**

Theodicy Jazz Collective and the Hendricks Chapel Choir present the world premiere of Theodicy's new jazz suite, "Love Is the Way."

For more information, visit [chapel.syracuse.edu](http://chapel.syracuse.edu).