University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Roger Zahab, director
Luis Miguel Delgado Grande, assistant conductor

February 19, 2025, Wednesday at 8 pm
Bellefield Hall Auditorium

Le Pas Espagnol (from Dolly Suite, op. 56) — Gabriel Fauré, arr. Henri Rabaud

Finney's Birthplace (2015) — Andrew Kohn

Henry Mruz, trombone solo

Sharpshooter (2012) — Mathew Rosenblum

brief intermission

Symphony no. 2, op. 27 (1906-08) — Sergei Rachmaninov

I. Largo – Allegro moderato
II. Allegro molto – Moderato – Allegro molto
III. Adagio
IV. Allegro vivace

Roger Zahab, conductor

A few notes on the program

Andrew Kohn – *Finney's Birthplace*
The composer writes: "In 1998 I performed Philip Thompson's *Finney's Prayer* with the University of Pittsburgh Chamber Orchestra, directed by Roger Zahab. That summer I visited Charles G. Finney's birthplace in Western Connecticut, which belongs to the family of friends of ours. It wasn't much to look at, I suppose: the road in was too rough to take a car over; the property itself was woodland adorned only with a ruined house and a small pond. Yet there was an extraordinarily powerful, numinous, expectant quality about the place. I immediately conceived the idea of composing a companion piece, with Phil's primary instrument, the trombone, as soloist, that would attempt to convey the mystery of the setting. It was Roger Zahab's characteristically generous query whether I had a composition for him to include on the program that finally prompted me to compose the piece, so long in my mind. It includes the shape-note composition entitled "Third Psalm Tune," published in *The Worcester Collection of Sacred Harmony* (4th ed.), published the year of Finney's birth." –Andrew Kohn

Andrew Kohn teaches string bass, music theory, and music composition. He holds his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and received the only AD in double bass awarded by the Peabody Conservatory. His principal teachers included Eric Moe, Pablo Ortiz, Eugene Levinson, Eldon Obrecht, and Barry Green. The former principal bassist of the National Chamber Orchestra and Harrisburg Symphonies, he is a member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Theatre Orchestras and an active soloist. His publications have appeared in the book On the Music of Stefan Wolpe (ed. Austin Clarkson) and the journals American String Teacher, Bass World, Double Reed, Fulcrum, Musica Hodie, Muzyka, and Perspectives of New Music; he has read papers at Wolpe Symposia and AMS and SEM conferences and has performed, lectured and adjudicated at international bass conventions. He has recorded and edited for Music Minus One. His compositions have been broadcast nationally.

Henry Mruz is a trombone and euphonium player majoring in psychology and music performance at the University of Pittsburgh. He has performed with the Honor Band of America, the NAfME All-National Band, the NAfME All-Eastern Band, the New Jersey All-State Wind Ensemble, and the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. He has earned recognition in the King's Peak International Music Competition, the International Youth Music Competition, and the American Protégé International Solo Competition, among others. At Pitt, he plays trombone in the Symphony Orchestra and euphonium in the Symphonic Band.

Mathew Rosenblum – *Sharpshooter* is an expansion of an earlier work, *Fantasy for Roberta Liss*, scored for viola, percussion, and keyboards. The piece is very direct rhythmically – a constant sixteenth note pulse pervades throughout – but more sustained detuned sonorities gradually take over. My goal in this piece was also to make very slight pitch adjustments within the orchestra in order to achieve an overall detuned shimmer and tinge to the piece. A microtonally altered digital keyboard uses a 19 not-to-the-octave "equal beating minor third" tuning which adds a large amount of just third (6/5, 316 cents) intervals to the texture, which are sometimes matched and echoed in the winds and brass. The harp is asked to detune a few notes, and the percussion plays several almglocken, also slightly out of tune, to finish off the sonic aura I was looking for. The sharp focused ensemble rhythms, pointed attacks achieved through muffled piano and harp strings, string pizzicato, and sharp brass attacks helped to generate the title, *Sharpshooter*. –Mathew Rosenblum

Sharpshooter was given its world premiere on October 4, 2015, Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, Jeffery Meyer, conductor, Ford Hall, Ithaca. It was commissioned by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Gil Rose, conductor who later recorded it.

Special thanks to Jay Arms for the loan of three pelog nipple gongs from the University Gamelan!

Mathew Rosenblum's compositions offer "an ear-buzzing flood of sound, rich in unusual overtones" *(The Boston Globe)*. A wide array of groups have commissioned, performed and recorded his music such as the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Raschèr Saxophone Quartet, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, FLUX Quartet, Mantra Percussion, as well as many others. Using a variety of tuning systems, his work does not live within traditional boundaries, creating a compellingly fresh landscape. His music has been performed throughout the world including at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Prince Mahidol Hall in Bangkok, the China-ASEAN Music Week in Nanning, the Tonhalle in Düsseldorf, Sala Nezahualcóyotl in Mexico City, and at Carnegie Recital Hall, Merkin Hall and Miller Theatre in New York City. Honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, three Fromm Foundation Commissions, a National Endowment for the Arts Music Fellowship Grant and a Barlow Endowment Commission. He received degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and Princeton University and is co-director of the Music on the Edge new music series and former Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Pittsburgh. His works appear on the MODE, New World Records, Cantaloupe Music, Albany, New Focus Recordings, BMOP/sound, Capstone, Opus One, Blue Griffin, and CRI Emergency Music labels and is published by C.F. Peters Corporation and Plurabelle Music (distributed by Subito Music Corporation). www.mathewrosenblum.com

University of Pittsburgh Orchestra Personnel
Luis Miguel Delgado Grande, assistant conductor
Georgia Paraskos, stage manager

Gabriel Faure – Le Pas Espagnol
Piccolo – Monsi Briceno Mezquita*
Flutes – Christina Miller
Oboes – Aaron Steinmetz, Dominic DeLaurentis*
Clarinets – Meliksah Dolap, Michael Levin
Bassoons – Terran Henderson, Austin Durham*
Horns – Megumi Barclay, Al Riska, Kevin Jiang, Prashanth Kumaran
Trumpets – Andrew Levin, David Levin*
Trombones – Henry Mruz, Sam Jensen-King
Bass Trombone – AJ Johnson*
Tuba – Samuel Morton
Timpani – Haiwei Hu
Percussion – Satyaj Bhargava, Jacob Doran, David Weisfield
Harp – Lydia Aluko

Mathew Rosenblum – Sharpshooter
Flutes – Claire Gunsbury*, Christina Miller
Oboes – Aaron Steinmetz, Dominic DeLaurentis*
Clarinets – Meliksah Dolap, Michael Levin
Bass Clarinet – Katrina Rakusan
Bassoons – Terran Henderson, Austin Durham*
Horns – Megumi Barclay, Al Riska, Kevin Jiang, Prashanth Kumaran
Trumpets – Andrew Levin, Adam Gillespie*
Trombones – Henry Mruz, Sam Jensen-King
Percussion – Satyaj Bhargava, Jacob Doran, David Weisfield, Haiwei Hu, Amy Stubbs*
Harp – Lydia Aluko
Piano (acoustic grand/digital MIDI keyboard) – Billy Su

Andrew Kohn – Finney's Birthplace for trombone and chamber orchestra with Henry Mruz, trombone
Clarinets – Michael Levin, Meliksah Dolap
Bassoons – Terran Henderson, Austin Durham*
Marimba – Jacob Doran

Rachmaninov – 2nd Symphony
Flutes – Claire Gunsbury*, Christina Miller, Monsi Briceno Mezquita*
Oboes – Dominic DeLaurentis*, Aaron Steinmetz, Dylan Evers* (+EH)
Clarinets – Stephan Mirtchev, John Oths
Bass Clarinet – Katrina Rakusan
Bassoons – Terran Henderson, Austin Durham*
Horns – Megumi Barclay, Al Riska, Kevin Jiang, Prashanth Kumaran
Trumpets – Andrew Levin, David Levin*, Adam Gillespie*
Trombones – Henry Mruz, Sam Jensen-King
Bass Trombone – AJ Johnson*
Tuba – Samuel Morton
Timpani – Satyaj Bhargava
Bass Drum – Jacob Doran
Cymbals – David Weisfield
Glockenspiel – Haiwei Hu

Strings
Violin 1
Daniel Cheng, Jeremy Luu
Sasha Sluis-Cremer, Miriam Layne
Isaiah Hollinger, Sean Consigli
Sam Chung, Haiwei Hu

Violin 2
Alexander Preble, Jessica Knapp
Calli Sophocles, Olivia Sinciline
Rosemary Ramirez, Heather Wu
Ava Luu, Georgia Paraskos

Viola
Loghan Hawkes, Finn Fitzgerald
Celia Hoffman, Emily Holliday

Cello
Vincent Villani, Graham Smith,
Thomas Zummo, Isaiah Louis-Jacques
Cheyenne Toma, Sangita Das-Quigley
Caelyn Gollinger, Cate Lenchner, Matthew Enders

Bass
Spencer Levering
JP Tomlinson
Addie Kelly
Delaney Burke

*guest artist



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Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

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