

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 | 12:15 PM
Livestreamed from Neidorff-Karpati Hall

MSM STRING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Kevin Fitzgerald, Conductor
Rosario Hernández Armas, mezzo-soprano

PROGRAM

W. A. MOZART
(1756–1791)

Adagio and Fugue in C Minor, K. 546

JULIA PERRY
(1924–1979)

Stabat Mater for Mezzo-Soprano and String Orchestra

Rosario Hernández Armas, mezzo-soprano

GABRIELA LENA FRANK
(b. 1972)

Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout for String Orchestra

Toyos

Tarqueda

Himno de Zampoñas

Chasqui

Coqueteos

MSM STRING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Xiaoxuan Shi
Shanghai, China

Sonya Shin
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Charles Lee
Seoul, South Korea

VIOLIN 2

Eliane Menzel
Zetel, Germany

Alina Hernandez
Temecula, California

VIOLA

Nicholas Borghoff
Ridgewood, New Jersey

Ruisi Du
Wuhan, Huber, China

CELLO

Clara Yeonsue Cho
Ulsan, South Korea

Siqing Shen
Shanghai, China

DOUBLE BASS

Tyler Vittoria
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Lauren Seery
Bethpage, New York

Students in this performance are supported by the *Selma W. Berkman Memorial Scholarship* and the *Elizabeth Beinecke Scholarship*.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmnyc.edu.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kevin Fitzgerald, Conductor

Recipient of a prestigious 2020 Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., American conductor Kevin Fitzgerald is one of today's rising young conductors, recognized for his nuanced interpretations, natural leadership, and communication skills. Assistant Conductor of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, he is also the founder of the Michigan-based contemporary music ensemble *ÆPEX Contemporary Performance* and continues to develop relationships with orchestras nationwide. Upcoming engagements include his subscription debut with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra conducting Handel's *Messiah*.

Engagements that have been postponed due to Covid-19 include several world premieres of works by composers at the Vienna Summer Music Festival and PHACE Ensemble in June 2020, and the Deep South premiere of American composer Laura Kaminsky's *As One* with Opera Birmingham in 2021 (now happening in 2022). As comfortable with modern compositions as with masterworks, Fitzgerald is a champion of contemporary music. *ÆPEX Contemporary Performance*, founded in 2015, promotes and performs music by underperformed and underrepresented twentieth and twenty-first century composers from around the world. With *ÆPEX*, Fitzgerald has conducted works by Pierre Boulez, Unsuk Chin, George Benjamin, Ashley Fure, and Hans Abrahamsen. The group has performed multiple times at New Music Detroit's "Strange and Beautiful Music Marathon Concert," at the Max M. Fischer Music Center. Recent guest engagements include the MSM Symphony Orchestra, serving as preparation conductor for Leonard Slatkin for Manhattan School of Music's April 2019 Centennial Gala Concert in Carnegie Hall; leading the MSM Wind Ensemble; and Connecticut's Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra.

In 2017, in response to the federal travel ban limiting immigration, Kevin Fitzgerald directed musicians from the Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids Symphonies in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—as a collaborative reminder of our larger shared humanity—and raised over \$10,000 for the International Rescue Committee and Freedom House Detroit. In 2016, he organized an impromptu performance of Mozart's Requiem Mass in D Minor, K. 626, with over 400 volunteer musicians, in under 48 hours. Dedicated to the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, the event, known as "Requiem for Orlando," attracted a full-capacity audience in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium. Soloists included legendary tenor George Shirley, who praised "the precision, musicality, and interpretative incisiveness defining Mr. Fitzgerald's leadership," saying that it "produced from all involved a result no less impressive than that I have experienced as a soloist in performances with Herbert von Karajan and Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos."

Currently based in Birmingham, Alabama, Kevin Fitzgerald is a native of Brighton, Michigan. He first studied with Ramon Parcells, Principal Trumpet of the Detroit Symphony, before turning to conducting. Kevin Fitzgerald earned his Bachelor of Music degree in trumpet performance and music theory from the Eastman School of Music and his Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, where he studied orchestral conducting with Kenneth Kiesler. He has participated in master classes with Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony and with Matthias Pintscher and was the sole American selected to participate in the 2018 Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Seminar.

Rosario Hernández Armas, mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Rosario Hernandez Armas, from Tlaxcala, Mexico, is a first-year Master of Music candidate at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. Previous credits at Manhattan School of Music include *Suor Angelica* (La suora Zelatrice), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Cherubino), *La Traviata* (Flora), *Così fan tutte* (Dorabella), *Orfeo ed Eurydice* (Orfeo), and Shostakovich's *Moscow, Cheryomushki* (Masha). A recipient of the Judith Raskin Scholarship, Ms. Hernandez was a winner of the Eisenberg–Fried Concerto Competition at Manhattan School of Music and an Encouragement Award district winner at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

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