

THE MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS



MUSIC DIRECTOR
ROTEM WEINBERG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ELIZABETH LOHR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2018 | 7PM
MICHIGAN THEATRE, 603 E LIBERTY ST, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

WELCOME TO THE REIGN OF POPS!

Welcome to the majestic grounds of the Pops Kingdom, where lions can't wait to be king, where kissing a frog could turn one into royalty, where swans glide just around our magnificent riverbend, and where people come from a galaxy far, far away in order to get a glimpse of our enchanting castle. I hope you all enjoy your time at Pops Kingdom as we share our musical crown jewels with you this evening.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the University Activities Center and the Center for Campus Involvement for their support; Print-Tech; the incredible staff at Michigan Theater, including Patty Havey, Scott Clarke, and Scott McWhinney; the Michigan Marching Band staff including Maggie St. Clair, Dr. Richard Frey, and Dr. John Pasquale; Mishael Bingham for lighting design; Dave Schall for audio recording; Irene Ng for poster design; Mary Blaske and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra; and the staff at the School of Music, Theatre, & Dance for the use of their facilities and equipment.

We owe immense gratitude to Rotem Weinberg and Tal Benatar, our Music Director and Assistant Music Director, respectively, for their guidance and persistence to drive us to perform at the highest level. I want to also offer many thanks to the members of the Executive Board, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure that our concert is a success each semester. Additionally, thank you to all of the dedicated Pops musicians ("Popsicles") for sharing your talents with our group. A large part of being in Pops is not only the music we play, but the Pops Family that we all come together to make. Pops has singlehandedly been my favorite part of attending the University of Michigan, and I owe much of the great experience I've had to all my amazing Popsicles. It has been my honor to serve as your Executive Director, and all of your hard work and dedication to Pops has inspired me to put just as much diligence and passion as you all have into this organization.

Lastly, we'd like to thank you, our wonderful audience! We work hard each semester to prepare a concert of the highest music and entertainment quality for you – the families, friends, and fans of Pops. I invite you all to get royally excited as we dazzle you with tales of queens, kings and the like, in our newest addition to a long line of concert heirs, The Reign of Pops.

Pops Love,
Queen Elizabeth (Lohr)
Executive Director

PROGRAM ORDER

Overture to <i>Nabucco</i>	Giuseppe Verdi
Enchanted Suite	Alan Menken Arr. Kevin Kliesch
Finale to <i>Swan Lake</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
<i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	
Almost There from <i>Princess & the Frog</i>	Randy Newman
<i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	
<i>Mikaela Secada, Soloist</i>	
The Lion King Medley	Elton John & Hans Zimmer Arr. Brad Kelley

INTERMISSION

Overture to <i>Ruslan & Lyudmilla</i>	Mikhail Glinka
Kingdom Hearts Overture	Hikaru Utada & Yoko Shimumora Arr. Jerome Landingin & Andrés Soto
Emperor Waltz	Johann Strauss II
The Prince of Egypt	Stephen Schwartz Arr. Charles Sayre
<i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	
Just Around the Riverbend from <i>Pocahontas</i>	Alan Menken
<i>Lorna Courtney, Soloist</i>	
<i>Star Wars</i> Suite - Throne Room & End Title	John Williams

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS



Violin 1:

Katie Sesi*
Fangbo Yuan~
Hannah Zhang
Jonathan Thomas
Samuel Maves
Renee Li
Alan Wu
Alexandria Hamlin
Derek Chen
Jonathan Richards
Eric Seo~
Diana Huang
Timmy Li
Cindy Gao
Jonathan Li

Violin 2:

Hannah Thoms*
Elizabeth Lohr~
Jacob Kopnick~
Joel Holland
Christopher Tamayo
Tanushree Rathi
Jhuree Hong
Sushanth Sunil
Dominic Dorset
Calise Wang~
Stephanie Guralnick

Viola

Taylor Murray*
Rachel Moloney
Arabella Delgado
Jessica Wu~
Michael Ward
Max Tsao~
Tim Standen
Minnie Sun
Stephen Moss
Gabrielle Flint

Cello

Lydia Peters*~
Ben Hsu~
Benjamin Zhao
Benjamin Stefadu
Jamie Lai
Erica Edwards
Deanna Shih
Rose Beck~
Malin Andersson
Jagienka Timek

Double Bass

Seraphina Provenzano*
Sevrin Williams
Alexander Raistrick
Tanya Lai

Flute/Piccolo

Alina Yan*
Annalese Lohr
Haddie Kim
Elayna Sabelhaus
Janeen Zheng

Oboe

Renae Lyons*
Matt Eby~
Brooks Eisenbise
Annie Lim

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Isabella Panse*
Sahil Dagli
SoJung Ham
Gloria Kang
Katie Gentry

Bassoon

Brian Qian*
Erin Huls

French Horn

Emily Judd*
Ishpreet Kohli
William Fink
Siwei Sun
Sydney Wynne
Victor Xing
Joshua Corsello
Violet Needham

Trumpet

James Annand*
Kei Kohmoto
Abby Darmofal
Justin Welc
Amar Ramachandran

Trombone

Colin Huls*
Isaac Brooks
Anthony Sexton
Tamjeed Asjad

Tuba

Allison Podnar

Piano

Yuxiao Lei

Percussion

Johnny Fan*
Joe Brenner~
Tyler Wei
Kiva Nguyen
Daniel Khain

Supplementary Musicians

English Horn: Mickenna Keller
Contrabassoon: Audrie Shepherd
Harp: Amber Carpenter
Bass: Brandon Vaughn

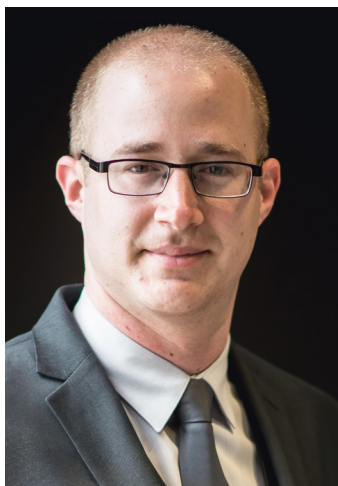
*** Section Principal**

~Member of Executive Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Executive Director	Elizabeth Lohr
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Small Ensembles Director	Lydia Peters



MUSIC DIRECTOR

ROTEM WEINBERG

Israeli conductor Rotem Weinberg currently serves as the music director of both the Michigan Pops Orchestra and the Campus Symphony Orchestra at the University of Michigan.

He began his conducting studies at the age of seventeen, under the guidance of Vag Papian. Before starting his academic studies, he served in the Israel Defense Forces military band as head librarian and assistant conductor. He earned a B.M. in orchestral conducting from the Buchman-Mehta School of Music of Tel-Aviv University, where he studied with Prof. Yoav Talmi, Yi-an Xu, and Ronen Borshevsky. He earned a Master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan with Prof. Kenneth Kiesler.

Rotem participated in workshops and masterclasses with world renowned orchestral conductors, including Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta, Zsolt Nagy, and Christopher Lyndon-Gee. In his native Israel he led many orchestral, wind band, and vocal ensembles, achieving national acclaim as a conductor and educator. He received many honors and awards for his conducting and musicianship, including the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Excellence Grant in orchestral conducting (2014, 2015), the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Excellence Scholarship (2011-2014), and the Tel Aviv University Dean of Arts Excellence Award (2011, 2012) for his outstanding musical and academic achievements. An advocate of contemporary music, Rotem collaborated with many composers. He premiered works by Tyler Arnold, Nina Shekhar, Sawyer Denton, and Natalie Moller.

ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR

TAL BENATAR

Tal Benatar is an Israeli-American conductor, arranger and guitarist. He is currently a Doctoral Pre-Candidate in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Michigan, studying with Professor Kenneth Kiesler. Tal has participated in masterclasses with distinguished conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle and made his European Debut in the summer of 2018. He also serves as the Conductor of the U of M Campus Philharmonia. Tal has made conducting appearances with the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, University Opera Theatre, U of M Life Sciences Orchestra, with which he served as assistant conductor for the 2017-18 season, The Charlottesville Symphony, The Charlottesville Opera, The Albemarle Sinfonia and the Oratorio Society of Virginia, with which he served as Assistant Conductor for the 2015-16 season.

As a genre defying musician, Tal has performed repertoire spanning many centuries on many instruments. He has performed basso continuo in the opera pit and as a chamber musician on keyboard and guitar. A strong advocate of new music, Tal has conducted world premieres by two University of Michigan composers, has been featured as a guitar soloist with University of Michigan's Orpheus singers and has performed with the U of M Contemporary Directions Ensemble. Tal graduated from the University of Michigan in 2018 with an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting. He completed his B.A. at University of Virginia (UVA) in 2014, majoring in Political Science. Tal also pursued conducting at UVA, studying with Kate Tamarkin and Michael Slon.





SOLOIST

LORNA COURTNEY

Lorna is a junior at the University of Michigan pursuing a BFA degree in Musical Theatre with a concentration in Vocal performance. However, she is currently on track to completing her degree a year early, graduating this upcoming May. Lorna hails from Queens, NY and graduated LaGuardia High School, the "Fame School," in 2016 with a major in Opera/Vocal Performance. In 2016 she was a Young Artists Jazz Finalist and since then has fallen in love with musical theatre. She has performed in shows like *Beauty and the Beast*, *In the Heights*, *Mama I Want to Sing* and the premieres of *We Are, Ybor City*, *Pie-Rats Tale*

and *James the Many*. Currently she is portraying the role of Vanessa in FTVM 300 student film, "The Fear You Hide" and will be playing Velma in the Basement Art's production of *Crowns* on December 11th and 12th.

SOLOIST

MIKAELA SECADA

Mikaela is from Miami, FL and a Sophomore in the Musical Theatre Program at The University of Michigan. Previous credits at Michigan include, *SWEET CHARITY* (Helene), *THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT* (Saint Monica). Other credits are *THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE* (Millie), *HEATHERS* (Heather Duke), and *LITTLE WOMEN* (Jo) at the Area Stage Company in Miami. Mikaela is thrilled to be performing with The Michigan Pops Orchestra. She would like to thank her family, friends, and faculty for all their love and support!



PROGRAM NOTES

Overture to Nabucco – Giuseppe Verdi

Nabucco was Verdi's big operatic break, and the overture has since become a regularly performed concert piece. The opera describes the conflict between the Babylonians led by King Nebuchadnezzar (Nabucco) and the Israelites. In the overture, you can hear the almost warlike character of this conflict interspersed with moments of majestic brass chorales and serene woodwind choruses.

Suite from Enchanted – Alan Menken

This hybrid animated/live-action film follows a fairytale gone wrong, when Princess Giselle ends up in the middle of New York City, and is eventually found by... Patrick Dempsey? From there, an unlikely love story blooms between the two as Giselle learns to survive in the gritty city. These whimsical songs written by Alan Menken are guaranteed to make even the most hardened cynic smile!



Swan Lake: Finale – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The finale to Swan Lake provides an epic, dramatic ending to one of the most popular ballets of all time. It's been adapted and referenced in movies, books, TV shows, and even video games! It tells the story of Odette, a princess who is turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. The ending varies greatly – different ballet companies choose different endings for the ballet. Some of these are romantic and some are tragic. Listen and decide which ending you think Tchaikovsky had in mind!

PROGRAM NOTES

The Princess & the Frog: Almost There – Randy Newman

Our first vocal selection for tonight comes from a Disney film with a strong female protagonist, featuring Mikaela Secada as our soloist. The Princess & the Frog is the story of an aspiring young chef, Tiana, whose dream in life is to open her own restaurant. In the movie, Almost There is sung during a colorful sequence where she imagines her dream restaurant. This song, written by Randy Newman, brings the New Orleans jazz flavor to this evening's concert!

Suite from The Lion King – Hans Zimmer, arr. Brad Kelley

This 1994 Disney film, inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet, is about a young lion who stands up to his tyrannical uncle to claim his rightful position as the king of Pride Rock. Its popularity has led to a prequel, sequel, and even a Broadway musical. This suite has many of the hit songs from the original movie - how many can you name?

Overture to Ruslan & Lyudmila – Mikhail Glinka

Ruslan & Lyudmila is based on a fairytale by Alexander Pushkin. This opera begins as so many do, with the story of a royal marriage gone awry because of a kidnapping. From there, we follow Ruslan as he tries to find Lyudmila on a journey filled with magic, mystery, and romance. While the opera itself is rarely performed outside of Russia, this vibrant overture has lived on as being a staple of the orchestral repertoire. Russian orchestras have been known to compete with each other to see who can play this virtuosic overture the fastest. Weird flex, but okay.



PROGRAM NOTES

Kingdom Hearts Overture – Hikaru Utada, arr. Jerome Landingin

Kingdom Hearts is a wildly popular video game franchise developed in collaboration with Disney. The series follows the hero, Sora, on his quest to find King Mickey with the help of Goofy and Donald Duck. This concert overture takes the main theme song of the first game and brings it to life in a full orchestra. The series has an impressive soundtrack – selections from Kingdom Hearts have also been featured in Video Games Live, an orchestral concert series that entirely features video game music.

Emperor Waltz – Johann Strauss II

The Emperor Waltz, or *Kaiser-Walzer* in German, was written by Strauss to commemorate the first state visit of German Kaiser Wilhelm II to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria. It consists of a march followed by four different waltzes. Interestingly, Strauss didn't dedicate the piece to either ruler specifically. But, by not dedicating the music to either Kaiser specifically, Strauss could satisfy the vanity of both royals. Today, it is a staple of the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's concerts. Regardless of its background, this is unquestionably an emperor among waltzes!



The Prince of Egypt – Stephen Schwartz, arr. Charles Sayre

The Prince of Egypt is adapted from events depicted in the biblical book of Exodus. It follows the life of Moses from living as a prince of Egypt to leading the Israelites out of Egypt. This film was unique in that it was one of the first to merge CGI and traditional animation techniques. The suite being played tonight features the musical highlights of this movie, from the labored, percussive beat of "Deliver Us" to the hauntingly beautiful song "When You Believe," which won the 1999 Academy Award for Best Original Song.

PROGRAM NOTES

Pocahontas: Just Around the Riverbend – Alan Menken

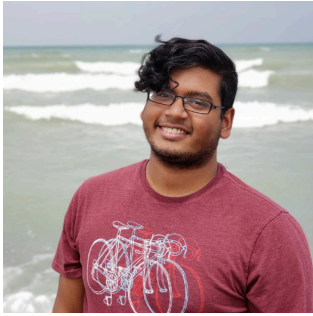
Pocahontas tells the story of a young Powhatan girl who falls in love with John Smith, a British colonist. Just Around the Riverbend describes Pocahontas' indecision as she tries to choose whether she will follow tradition or explore the unknown and have new adventures. The version we're playing is taken straight from the movie – if you close your eyes and listen to the orchestra, you can almost hear the river flowing as our soloist Lorna Courtney sings triumphantly above.

Star Wars: V. Throne Room & End Title – John Williams

We end the concert with a piece from John Williams' Oscar-winning score to the original Star Wars movie. You can hear this piece in the movie as Luke celebrates victory in the Rebel throne room and continues as the credits begin roll. Since the release of the original movie, the franchise has spawned countless sequels and spin-offs. Tonight's selection highlights the best of Williams' composing, featuring lush string and brass melodies that portray an air of triumph in a way that only he can.



GRADUATING MEMBERS



Tamjeed Asjad

Tamjeed is thrilled to perform in his 7th concert with the Michigan Pops. After joining the orchestra his sophomore year, he has had a blast playing with the rest of the orchestra and making music with his fellow trombones. He served as Small Ensembles director his senior year and played in multiple small ensembles concerts with a trombone ensemble. His favorite pops memories include playing Night on Bald Mountain and Ride of the Valkyries in the same concert, as well as every great progressive.

Colin Huls

Colin is excited to perform in his 7th and final concert with the Michigan Pops Orchestra. Since joining Pops his freshman year, he has enjoyed the variety of music the orchestra has played and the great friends he has made. His favorite memories from Pops include playing wah-wah sound effects in literally every concert and being part of the best Pops Pals group ever. After graduating with a B.S.E. Industrial & Operations Engineering, he will begin his career as a marketing consultant at ZS Associates in New York City.



Michael Ward

Michael is a senior in the Residential College majoring in Romance Languages and Literatures and minor-ing in Computer Science, Chinese, and Translation Studies. He started playing the violin in 2nd grade and picked up viola in high school. For him, orchestra has always been where he's made his best memories and closest friends. Ever since getting goosebumps his first rehearsal playing the Dark Night, Michael's been so thankful to have found Pops, which has given him six semesters of great music and even better company. Next semester, Michael will be pursuing an internship in Belgium, where he plans on eating lots of waffles and French fries.



*Thank you for coming to tonight's concert!
We hope you enjoy the show!*