

The Michigan Pops Orchestra Presents



EPIC POPS

Sunday, April 5th, 2009

Michigan Theater 7pm

Music Director Christopher Orion Rountree

Executive Director Zack Rosenthal



Welcome to
EPIC POPS

Every so often, when Mars and Jupiter are aligned just right, when the Wolverines finally make it to the big dance, and when all manner of heroes are summoned, an event comes that can only be described in one word: Epic.

Welcome to The Michigan Pops Orchestra's Spring concert: Epic Pops! After flying through time last fall to rescue our orchestra from the clutches of Ohio State, we decided to throw a celebratory concert of epic proportions. The nation's first student-run student-directed college orchestra is excited to have you with us this evening!

Tonight, we'll perform some of the most hallowed pieces in the Pops repertoire, as well as some new favorites that are sure to become classics. So let our valet park your broomstick as you sit back next to your best friend (and whisper to them that they ain't never had a friend like you), relax, and enjoy the show. Just don't get lost in the labyrinth, because The Dark Knight might be too busy to rescue you.

Something this epic doesn't come together without the help of a number of people. Mary Kisor of UAC, Steve Weaver of First Impression Printing, Amanda Bynum and Scott Clarke of the Michigan Theater, Julie Morgan of the Major Events Office, Maggie St. Clair and the Michigan Marching Band, and Ian Hyatt and Eric Trout for their artistic design have all contributed epically to our show this season. Your work and help to make this show happen is much appreciated.

Finally, a big thank you to you, our epic-sized audience! As always, we are grateful for your continued support, and hopeful that you enjoy yourself enough tonight to join us next fall when we perform again. But for now, watch as we put on the show that just might be the defining moment of your life.

Zack Rosenthal
Executive Director, Michigan Pops Orchestra

The Michigan Pops Orchestra Presents:

Pops: Forward to the Past

Sunday, April 5, 2009 - 7pm - Michigan Theater

Summon the Heroes

John Williams
Arr. Calvin Custer

Symphonic Suite from Pan's Labyrinth

Javier Navarrete

Concert Suite from The Dark Knight

Hans Zimmer and
James Newton Howard
Arr. Victor Lopez

The Planets

Gustav Holst

Mars

Jupiter

INTERMISSION

The Metropolis Symphony

Michael Daugherty

Red Cape Tango

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Nicholas Hooper and
John Williams
Arr. Victor Lopez

Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar

Nimrod

Aladdin: Pieces from the Motion Picture

Alan Menken,
Howard Ashman, and
Tim Rice

Arabian Nights

One Jump Ahead

Friend Like Me

*Featuring Soloists Leonard Navarro
and Alex Sutton*

Firebird

Igor Stravinsky

Bercuse

Finale

Orchestra Members

Christopher Orion Rountree, Conductor

Yaniv Segal, Assistant Conductor

Violin

Renaudo Robinson

Concertmaster

Melody Campbell*

Katie Byun

Kim Campbell

Alex Carney

Michael Chang+

Caraline Craig

Brittany Drenkow+

Jackie Ferman

Alistair Hayden

Cassie Jeng+

Erin Kelly

Reina Kikuchi

Andrew Koo

James Kornacki+

Jessica Lai

Rose Leach

Joyce Loh

Melissa Meyer

Amanda Opaskar

Liz Parker+

Jennifer Peng

Emily Potter

Shari Rosen

Zoe Rudisill+

Rhea Sirkar+

Inga Shoberg

Stephen Suh

Aisha Tabor

Justin Tien+

Sarah Verner

David Yang

Dijie Zhang

Ray Zhang

Viola

Zack Rosenthal*+

Emily Altman+

Anna Brieland-Shoultz

Julie Cprek

Hannah Chahbazi

Lawrence Gross

Allison MacKenzie

Randy Yao

Cello

Erin Bachynski*+

Diana Keung*+

Josh Bornstein

Seth Buchsbaum

Nate Friedman+

Gaby Kuschmann

Joel Seigle

Jeannie Slivensky+

Jesse Tzeng

Alex Warbasse

Tina Wu

Benjamin Yelian

Bass

Will Hack*

Cody Takacs

Flute

Sarah Fike*

Natalie Bisaro

Julia Broadway+

Katie Kunz+

Linda Lei+

Piccolo

Sarah Fike

Oboe

Jessica Bickel*+

Katie Parsons

Becky Thiel

English horn

Jessica Bickel*+

Katie Parsons

Clarinet

Abby DeBofsky*

Jonelle Doctor

Elizabeth Dougherty

Marina Epstein-Katz+

Kelly McClure

Bass Clarinet

Brian Einstein Lassiter

Bassoon

Stephanie Hutchings*

Sarah Martin

* indicates Principal

+ indicates last concert
with Pops

Orchestra Members

Horn

Clark Frye*
David Chapel
Samantha Gardner
Corwin Huang
Teddy Lorts
Ben Marchionna
Kevin McDonough
Aaron Talsma
Marie Ternes
Maria Vitale

Trumpet

Rich Main*
Laura Chanoux
Mike Chropowicz
A Jay Holmgren
Melanie Hunt
Sharon Jacobs

Trombone

Jack Hall*
Luke Li
Scott Tripp

Tuba

Gabe Mosca+

Piano

Jennifer Miu

Percussion

Christina Li+
Yuan-Chiao Lu+
Kris McDonough
Matt VanOverloop

The 2008-2009 Michigan Pops Executive Board

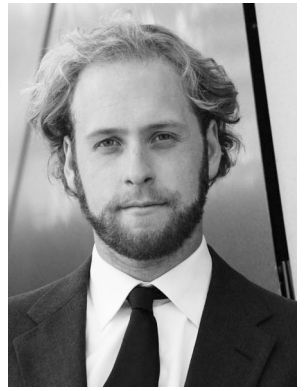
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Kevin McDonough
Jessica Lai
Kris McDonough
Laura Chanoux

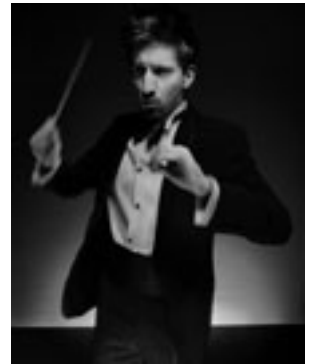


Photographs courtesy of Michael Chang

Christopher Orion Rountree joins the orchestra onstage as the 2008-2009 music director. A graduate student in the School of Music Theatre and Dance, Christopher studies orchestral conducting with Kenneth Kiesler. He works with four other orchestras on campus; serving as conductor of the Campus Symphony and Philharmonia, guest conductor of the University Philharmonia, and assistant conductor of the University Symphony. Before coming to Michigan, Christopher was principal conductor of the La Primavera Youth Orchestra in Orange County California, and was a private student of Joana Carneiro.



Yaniv Segal, described in Esquire Magazine as a rising star who is “redefining classical music,” is a regular conductor of the Chelsea Symphony in New York City and the assistant conductor of the Michigan Pops and Campus Philharmonia Orchestras. He has performed worldwide as a singer, violinist, actor, and conductor. Yaniv was the first music director of the Mahagonny Ensemble at Vassar College, and has worked as a conductor with the Vassar College Orchestra, New York Youth Symphony, Princeton Symphony, and at the Manhattan



School of Music. He has also conducted the University Symphony, Campus Symphony, Greenwich Village and New Symphony (Bulgaria) Orchestras, the Wroclaw (Poland) and Thuringen (Germany) Philharmonics, and the Ukrainian State and Stamford Young People’s Symphonies. Yaniv is a recipient of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

Michael Daugherty is one of the most performed and commissioned American composers of concert music of his generation. He came to international attention in 1995 when his *Metropolis Symphony* (1988-93), a tribute to the Superman comics, was performed in New York at Carnegie Hall by conductor David Zinman and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

He studied computer music in Paris at Boulez’s IRCAM (1979-80) and his teachers include Jacob Druckman, Roger Reynolds, Earle Brown, Gyorgy Ligeti. He has collaborated with jazz arranger Gil Evans in New York and was a composition fellow at Tanglewood. Professor Daugherty taught music composition at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, 1986-1990. In 1991 Daugherty joined the composition department at the University of Michigan where he is Professor of Composition.

Did you Know?

Summon the Heroes

- John Williams has composed music for four Olympic Games: 1984, 1988, 1996, and 2002.
- “Summon the Heroes” was written for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. It was written in commemoration of the Centennial of the Modern Olympic Games.
- Williams has composed many of today’s most famous film scores, including all but one of Steven Spielberg’s films, *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and *Harry Potter*. He has also composed themes for four Olympic Games, the NBC Nightly News, and numerous concertos. Among his awards for these scores are five Academy Awards and four Golden Globes.
- The theme is now typically used by NBC during Olympic broadcasts.

Pan’s Labyrinth

- The film is only called “Pan’s Labyrinth” in America; in other English-speaking countries, German-speaking countries, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia, it’s called “The Labyrinth of the Faun.”
- In 2007, this film became one of the few fantasy films ever nominated in the Best Foreign Language Film category at the Oscars.
- *Pan’s* is a spiritual sequel to director Guillermo del Toro’s earlier film *The Devil’s Backbone*.
- Although the movie involves the fauns of Greek Mythology, as well as references to the Greek character Pan, the faun in the film is not Pan.
- The movie was nominated for six Academy Awards, and won three, for Art Direction, Cinematography, and Makeup.



The Dark Knight

- This is the first Batman feature film that doesn't incorporate the word "Batman" into its title. It is also the first Batman film with no CGI or live bats.
- The "Batman" theme is heard only twice through the film. The composers decided that having a heroic theme the audience could hum would eliminate the complexity and darkness of the character.
- The Joker's distinctive tongue flip came from Heath Ledger's own habit of running his tongue over the edges of his prosthetic makeup.
- Heath Ledger posthumously won a total of 32 Best Supporting Actor awards for his performance in this film, including an Oscar, Golden Globe, SAG, and Critic's Choice Awards.

The Planets

- *The Planets* are a seven-movement orchestral suite, based on the astrological, not astronomical, representation of the planets. (This is why Earth is not a movement.)
- Each movement is intended to convey ideas and emotions associated with the particular planet's influence on the psyche.
- Except for "Neptune," which was originally scored for solo organ, the movements were originally written for piano duet.
- Pluto was discovered four years before Holst's death, but Holst showed no interest in writing a movement for it, since he felt that the popularity of *The Planets* detracted from his other works. Several other composers have since written their own "Pluto" movements.
- "Mars" and "Jupiter" are most commonly adapted for modern media.

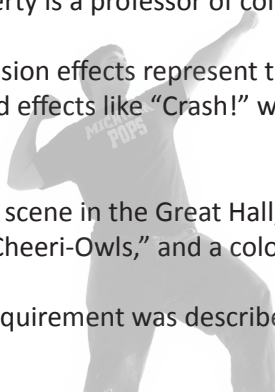


Red Cape Tango

- The *Metropolis Symphony* is inspired by the story of Superman; "Red Cape Tango" tells the story of Superman's fight to the death with Doomsday.
- The principal melody throughout the piece is the medieval Latin hymn "Dies irae." This hymn describes the day of judgment, and is typically used as a medieval death chant.
- The tango theme in the piece also represents the dance of death.
- Michael Daugherty is a professor of composition at the University of Michigan.
- The loud percussion effects represent the comic book style of the time, when sound effects like "Crash!" were written into the frame.

Harry Potter

- In the breakfast scene in the Great Hall, a box of cereal can be seen with the name "Cheeri-Owls," and a color scheme similar to a Cheerios box.
- The Room of Requirement was described in the book as a room with



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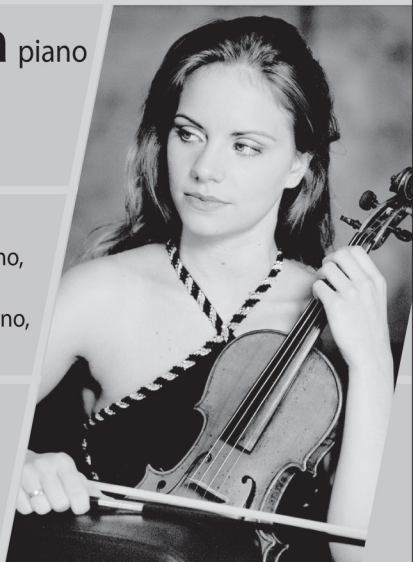
FRI, APR 24 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Mozart | Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Major,
K. 296 (1778) |
| Prokofiev | Sonata No. 1 in f minor for Violin and Piano,
Op. 80 (1938-46) |
| Beethoven | Sonata No. 8 in G Major for Violin and Piano,
Op. 30, No. 3 (1801-02) |
| Martinů | Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano,
H. 303 (1944) |

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no beginning or end, so the crew spent 5 months designing the room using rotating mirrors to create that sense of infinity.

- The score reflects the increasing darkness and intensity of the film and book as compared to earlier installments. To that end, new themes were composed to reflect Dolores Umbridge and Lord Voldemort.

- Due to the number of “wizard duels” in the movie, a special “wand coreographer” was brought in to design the style and technique of wand fighting.

- Much of the Atrium set design was based on the design of the London Underground.

Nimrod

- Elgar’s main orchestral works included Enigma Variations and the Pomp and Circumstance March.

- The Enigma Variations is a set of a theme and fourteen variations written for orchestra. Dedicated to “my friends pictured within,” each variation is a musical portrayal of one of his closest friends.

- Nimrod is a portrayal of Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar’s best friend. The variation depicts their frequent night-time walks. Now popular in its own right, it is used at memorial services and other solemn events.

- The “Enigma” is often matching Elgar’s friends to their variations, but a deeper enigma is the fact that the principal theme, upon which all variations are based, is never heard in the piece.



Aladdin

- The most famous of the tales of The Book of One Thousand and One Nights (Arabian nights), Aladdin was actually added to the collection by its French translator.
- It became the first animated movie (fourteenth overall) to gross more than \$200,000.
- Aladdin's low-cut baggy pants were inspired by M.C. Hammer.
- In the original myth, Aladdin is actually Chinese.

Firebird

- The ballet is based on the Russian folk tales of a magical glowing bird (called the Firebird) that brings a blessing and a curse to its captor
- Originally, Russian composer Anatol Liadov was commissioned to write the ballet, but when he was slow in stating work, Stravinsky was approached. He was only 28 years old.
- An abbreviated version of the piece is featured in Fantasia 2000, depicting a spring sprite and a companion elk. Some argue that the animation is a depiction of the Rite of Spring, another Stravinsky ballet used in the original Fantasia.





On behalf of the entire Michigan Pops Orchestra, I want to extend our thanks to our donors, our alumni, and to you, our audience. We would not be here without your continued support. Thank you for coming and allowing us to share our music with you, and we look forward to seeing you at our next concert!

~ Emily Altman

Program Director, Michigan Pops Orchestra

MPO Fall Concert

November 22, 2009, 7pm Michigan Theater

