

THE MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

A NIGHT AT THE POPSCARS

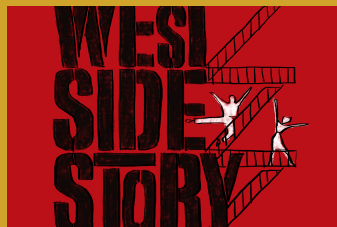
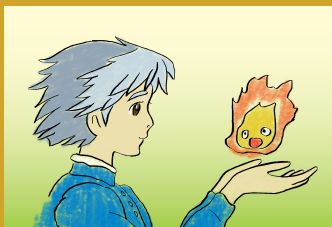
SATURDAY
APRIL 8, 2023

7PM
EST

MICHIGAN
THEATER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JINWOOK LEE

MUSIC DIRECTOR
LUCA ANTONUCCI



WELCOME TO A NIGHT AT THE POPSCARS!

Dearest Audience Members,

Welcome to “A Night at the Popscars,” a star-studded, picture-perfect evening with your favorite Michigan Pops Orchestra! Join us on the red carpet as we highlight Oscar-worthy films; from traveling to a galaxy far, far away, to trekking in Howl’s Moving Castle, all the way to chasing dreams a-la La La Land, we hope you enjoy your time with Pops as we aspire to deliver award-winning performances!

We extend our deepest gratitude to the University Activities Center and the Center for Campus Involvement for their support; FedEx; the incredible staff at Michigan Theater including Hannah Feuka, Jared Van Eck, Scott Clarke, and Scott McWhinney; the Michigan Marching Band staff including Kimberly Smith, Deaunna Dresch, Dr. Richard Frey, and Dr. John Pasquale; Ian Hyatt for Lighting Design; Dave Schall for audio recording; Irene Ng for poster design; and the staff at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance for the use of their facilities and equipment.

We owe immense gratitude to Luca Antonucci, our Music Director, for his compassion, dedication, and persistence to inspire us to perform at the highest level. I would also like to give my sincerest thanks to the members of the Executive Board, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure that our concert is a success each semester. Additionally, a big thank you to all of the dedicated Pops musicians (“Popsicles”) for sharing your talents and passion 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 far and away been my favorite part of attending the University of Michigan, and I completely owe the phenomenal experiences I’ve had to the lovely Popsicles who make this community flourish. All of your hard work and commitment to Pops has truly inspired me, and the best honor of my time here goes to serving as your Executive Director.

Finally, we’d like to thank you, our wonderful audience! We work hard each semester to prepare a concert with the best music and highest quality entertainment for you - the families, friends, and fans of Pops. And now, I invite you to grab some pop(s)corn and enjoy a night sure to be one of the best that this fine University, this fine Academy, has to offer.

Pops Love,
Jinwook Lee
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our spring concert, “A Night at the Popscars.” We have worked long and hard to prepare a great program for your listening enjoyment that is chock-full of some of the best movie music ever written, so grab your pop(s)corn, pop(s) open a soda, and enjoy the show! Our program includes excerpts from old favorites such as “West Side Story” and “Star Wars” alongside some newer selections (“La La Land,” “Howl’s Moving Castle”) and works from the traditional symphonic repertoire such as the “Ride of the Valkyries,” selections from “Swan Lake,” and the famous slow movement from Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony. In addition to a unique arrangement of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody” for solo viola and orchestra performed by MPO’s principal violist Stephen Moss, tonight’s concert also features the amazing winner of our High School Concerto Competition, Selah Dowell, in her MPO debut. Selah is an incredibly talented young violinist with a bright future ahead of her — we hope she remembers us when she becomes famous!

As the semester winds to a close, I couldn’t be more pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the wonderful musicians and board of the Michigan Pops Orchestra this year. They are a friendly, fun-loving, dedicated, energetic, and hard-working bunch, and I have very much enjoyed getting to know and work with them. Special thanks to Katie Sesi, Jinwook Lee and the members of the MPO Board of Directors, who are not only an incredibly effective team but also all-around lovely people who make our late-night meetings very enjoyable. Finally, I’d like to offer my congratulations to this year’s senior class. Thank you all so much for inviting me into your MPO family, and best wishes for all your post-graduation endeavors! It has been a blast to be part of the MPO family this year, and I look forward to much more excellent music making in years to come!

Luca Antonucci
Music Director

PROGRAM

20th Century Fox

Alfred Newman

Star Wars: The Main Title

John Williams

Symphony No.7 in A Major, Op. 92
II. Allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven

Don't Cry for me Argentina

Andrew Lloyd Weber

Arr. Bob Cerulli

Soloist: Sofia Maldonado

Bohemian Rhapsody

Queen

Arr. Nichloas Hersh

Soloist: Stephen Moss

Swan Lake, Op. 20
I. Introduction
II. Scene
III. Waltz

Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

INTERMISSION

When You Wish Upon a Star

Leigh Harline

Arr. Adriano Carrijo

La La Land: Epilogue

Justin Hurwitz

PROGRAM

Symphonie Espagnole in D minor

Soloist: Selah Dowell

Edouard Lalo

Ride of the Valkyries

Richard Wagner

Moulin Rouge!: Come What May

Soloists: Sasha Gusikhin & Marcus Byers Jr.

David Baerwald
Arr. Craig Armstrong

Howl's Moving Castle: Merry Go Round of Life

Joe Hisaishi
Arr. Alex Johansson

Overture to "West Side Story"

Leonard Bernstein
Arr. Maurice Peress

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS



Violin I

Katie Zhao+*
Eric Chen
Frank Wang
Alex Zhang+
Igor Trifunovic
Matt Yao
Andy Chen
Aruna Ganesan
Uma Malde
Kayla Lang
Sophia Lee
Oliver Gao

Violin II

Rose Sproat+*
Sydney Proudlock+
Julia Tauro
Andrea Liu
Marie Yu
Madeline Poupard
Shannon Liang
Abigayle Park
Luke LaMere
Julie Zhou
Mia Chen
Michelle Li
Debbie Dong
Atticus Driver

Viola

Stephen Moss+*
Anthony Medei+
Sarah Gellman+
Anna Shinohara
Matthew Proefke
Lindsey Choi
Nhayeon Lee
Alexander Gedeon
Sofia Urbina

Cello

Peter Nam+*
Sarah Lee
Pavani Anand+
Jinwook Lee+
Mitchell Chang
Sean Tant+
Lauren Hertzer
Richard Liu
Carolyn Cullen
Tate Fisher

Double Bass

Sam Dykhous*
Sylvia Wei
Lana Kinlaw
Dan DeLano
Ethan Moran
Paige Hendrickson

Flute/Piccolo

Nicholas Cemalovic*
Olivia Kulawiak+
Jessica Hsu
Claire Wan

Oboe

Jennifer Williams*
Megan Wieger

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Allan Zhao*
Benjamin Stensen*
Kevin Wang
Daniel Muenz

Bassoon

Jacob Fernandez*
Rijul Mehta

French Horn

Matthew Riddell*
Noah Stevens*
Jackie Wealer*
Chris Stocking*
Autumn Rabotnick

Trumpet

Kohler Briggs+*
Calliope Cutchins
Ian Loree

Trombone

Austin Lan*
Diego Karlin
William Knudsen

Tuba

Alexander Tran

Piano

Nat Shi

Percussion

Noah Zimmerman*
Shreya Mani
Ben King
Angela Lee
Logan Edwards



2nd Violins



Percussion



Brass

*Section Principal
+Member of Executive Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD



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MUSIC DIRECTOR

LUCA ANTONUCCI

Luca Antonucci is a first-year doctoral student in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, studying with Kenneth Kiesler. A native of Watertown, MA, Antonucci holds an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting from the Hartt School, where he studied with Edward Cumming and Glen Adsit.

Luca earned his B.A. from Amherst College, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with an honors conducting recital dedicated to choral and instrumental works by Aaron Copland. After graduation, Luca spent the 2014-15 academic year as a Fulbright fellow in Vienna, Austria, where he published musicological work in the *Journal of the Arnold Schönberg Center* and performed with the award-winning community brass band “Musikverein Leopoldau.”



A multifaceted musician, Luca has worked as a choral and orchestral conductor in the Hartford and Boston areas as well as freelance trumpet player, private teacher, singer, church music director, and educator. Most recently, he was the Middle and Upper School Instrumental Music Teacher and Director of After-School Music at the Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill, MA. He was also the conductor of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and Lincoln-Sudbury Civic Orchestra, leading both groups successfully through the first two years of the COVID pandemic. He is the founder of Orchestra Without Borders Boston and the Brookline Chamber Singers, which present programs each summer featuring underrepresented composers while raising money to fight hunger in Massachusetts.

In his free time, Luca enjoys cooking, dabbling in jazz piano, and listening to opera. At Michigan, he conducts the Campus Philharmonia Orchestra and is one of the assistant conductors for the University Symphony.



SOLOIST STEPHEN MOSS

Stephen Moss is the principal violist and Co-Outreach Director of the Michigan Pops Orchestra and has been a member of MPO since 2018. He has played viola for 15 years and has continued performing throughout his undergraduate program and graduate school. He has performed with several groups across campus, including the University Philharmonic Orchestra, the Campus Symphony Orchestra, and various chamber groups and pit orchestras. He is currently studying for his masters in public health, and hopes to continue working in public health research after he graduates. He is immensely grateful to the Executive Board of Pops and every member who has made Pops such an incredible community over the years. Pops Love!

SOLOIST SASHA GUSIKHIN

SASHA GUSIKHIN (she/her) is a sophomore studying voice performance (mezzo-soprano) and biopsychology, cognition, and neuroscience (BCN). She is a passionate arts-organizer and is the current co-executive director of the Aphasia Community Friendship Center, a nonprofit organization that centers music and healing for individuals with communication disorders. Her previous productions include the Benefit Concert for Ukraine at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor (producer), Spring Awakening (assistant music director) and Boys in the Band (producer) with In the Round Productions, and the multimodal Yes Gala at the Michigan Theater (co-producer). She also performed in Don Giovanni at the University of Michigan and as a soloist in the Beverly Benjamin Cole Project. She is so thankful for the opportunity to sing with Michigan Pops again this year, and she would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her artistic missions!



SOLOIST MARCUS BYERS. JR

Marcus is extremely excited to be singing with the Michigan POPS Orchestra for the very first time! He is a Singer/Dancer/Actor who hails from New York City and is currently a sophomore undergraduate studying Theatre and Contemporary Music Performance in the Voice BMA Program with a minor in Dance. Recent credits include: The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin (Keith/Ms. Pain), RENT (Tom Collins), Spring Awakening (Otto), Rise For Freedom: The John P. Parker Story (Mr. McDowell).

@marcccussssss



SOLOIST
SOFIA MALDONADO

SOFIA MALDONADO (she/her/hers) is a first-year international student from Monterrey, Mexico pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. She started performing in concerts, festivals and talent shows at the age of 8. Her most recent project was participating in her high school's production of Grease as Sandy, performing at a 1,800 sold out auditorium. She is beyond-the-moon excited to sing with the Michigan Pops for the first time and would like to thank her family and friends for their amazing support along her journey.



HIGH SCHOOL CONCERTO COMPETITION SPOTLIGHT

Every year in the winter semester, Michigan Pops Orchestra hosts a local competition for high school students to have an opportunity to play a concerto with us. We are excited to welcome Selah Dowell to play Lalo's first movement of Symphonie Espangole with us this year!



Selah Dowell is a 15-year-old violinist and a sophomore at Huron High School. She started learning violin at four years old and is now studying with Professor Danielle Belen at the University of Michigan School of Music. Selah regularly participates in orchestra and chamber music, and is a member of the Huron Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra. This summer, she will attend the Interlochen Center for the Arts in its six-week Orchestra and Wind Ensemble program on an Orchestral Scholarship. Besides music, she enjoys gymnastics and running.

Please join us in welcoming all of our soloists!



GRADUATING MEMBER NICK CEMALOVIC

Nick joined the flute section his junior year following the return of in-person music. His favorite memories in Pops have been getting to know his fellow musicians outside of rehearsal and getting to play Tchaikovsky every semester. Nick will cherish all of the memories, especially those shared in the rowdy woodwind section. Playing music with this terrific group of friends has been a highlight of his time at Michigan, and he will miss it dearly. Following graduation, Nick will be starting a PhD in organic chemistry, and he hopes to continue playing music throughout his studies.

GRADUATING MEMBER OLIVIA KULAWIAK

Olivia joined Pops her junior year and has loved being part of the orchestra's musical and social community. A very special shoutout goes to this year's glorious flute section, which never fails to bring great joy to her Sunday afternoons. Olivia is graduating with a degree in English, but will be entering the medical field after completing her bachelor's. She is grateful to the entire Pops family for two wonderful years and will, of course, keep playing in some form or another.



GRADUATING MEMBER CLAIRE WAN

Claire joined Pops as a freshman in Fall 2019. Playing in the Pops orchestra is one of the few things she started freshman year that she continued to do all four years because she loved it so much. Claire is graduating with a dual degree in Information and Cognitive Science and a Minor in Computer Science. After graduation, Claire will move to Chicago and work as a software engineer at J.P. Morgan. Music has always been a big part of her life and she has really enjoyed having Pops be a big part of it in college. She is going to miss everyone, especially the flute section.



GRADUATING MEMBER BEN STENSEN

Ben joined Pops as a clarinetist in Winter 2021. Since then, he has enjoyed making good music with great friends. Some of his most fond Pops memories include late night Taco Bell runs, socials, grinding for points with his Pops Pals group, and playing the recorder in an actual orchestra concert. Above all, Ben is grateful that he got to play with a lovely group that would put up with his antics and tomfoolery. Ben is graduating this semester with a degree in Computer Science and will begin his career as a software developer in Madison, WI later this summer.



CLARINET

GRADUATING MEMBER JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Jennifer is graduating this semester with a B.S. in Computer Science and a Minor in Music. She joined Pops her freshman year and rejoined after a COVID hiatus this past fall to continue playing the oboe. Her favorite memories in Pops have come from the supportive nature of rehearsals (shout-out to the woodwinds), social events, and outreach experiences like TEDx. She has been grateful for the opportunity to make music this year with the new friends she has made through Pops. After graduation, Jennifer will be moving to the Seattle area to start a software engineering position.



OBOE

GRADUATING MEMBER AUSTIN LAN

Austin will be graduating with a B.S.E. in Materials Science and Engineering as well as minors in Music and Interdisciplinary Astronomy. He has played the trombone in Pops since the Winter '19 semester and has loved every minute of it! His favorite Pops pieces include Mars, Star Wars, Ride of the Valkyries, Danzon No. 2, and 1812 Overture. Some of his favorite memories (or lack thereof) have been from Progs throughout the years. Next year, Austin plans to pursue an M.S.E. in MSE through the SUGS program at UMich. Shout out to the low brass for being the chilliest section. Pops Love and Go Blue!



TROMBONE

GRADUATING MEMBER SYLVIA WEI

Sylvia Wei is graduating with a B.S.E. in Computer Science and a Minor in Music. She joined Pops orchestra as a freshman in Fall 2019, took a COVID induced break, then rejoined in Fall 2021. She's had a lot of fun going to (extended!) rehearsals, sectionals, and socials where she's had the chance to make music and meet silly, crazy, beautiful people. Sylvia plans to move to New York City after graduation where she will be working in tech consulting at KPMG. Come visit her in New York because she's going to miss her friends -sad face-.

BASS



GRADUATING MEMBER JINWOOK LEE

Jinwook is an economics and statistics major who joined Pops his freshman year in Fall 2019 and has been proudly serving the cello section since. He has made countless memories through his time in the orchestra and could not possibly pick a favorite. Whether it's been rehearsal, filming, social events, board retreat, or anything in between, Jinwook's time in Pops has been one of the most meaningful in his undergraduate career. Jinwook has had the honor of serving on the Pops Board in the Outreach, Business, and Executive Director roles, and would like to thank every Popsicle, past and present, who has made his time in Pops life changing. Next year, Jinwook will be taking a gap year and applying to law school while dearly missing Pops.



CELLO

GRADUATING MEMBER LAUREN HERTZER

Lauren joined pops her sophomore year and has loved being part of the cello section ever since. Her favorite memories include Pops Progressives, icebreakers during cello sectionals and Pops boba runs. Lauren will always treasure the friends she made in orchestra and the performances she was part of in Pops. Orchestra rehearsals were truly a highlight of her college experience. Lauren is graduating with a B.S. in Public Health Sciences and a Minor in Music. She is planning to attend medical school next year and intends to focus on pediatrics. Orchestra has always been a big part of Lauren's life and she is so glad joined the Pops family.

CELLO



GRADUATING MEMBER RICHARD LIU

Richard is graduating this semester with a B.S.E in Biomedical Engineering and minor in computer science. He's been in Pops for two years and has loved the opportunity to continue playing his cello with a wonderful group of people. He will be pursuing a M.S. in Biomedical Engineering next year in the University of Michigan SUGS program.



CELLO

GRADUATING MEMBER TATE FISHER

Tate (pictured here with Niko, 11) joined the Pops orchestra in Fall 2022, and quickly fell in love with the people and the music. While they have played in CSO since Freshman year, it was only after being coerced (with much Pops Love™) into auditioning their Senior year that they understood what all of the hype was about. They are pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Music, and are planning on continuing on towards a Masters in Electrical Engineering here at UM.



CELLO

GRADUATING MEMBER PETER NAM

Peter has been a member of Pops since his freshman year and has loved playing cello with all the wonderful musicians in the orchestra. He is graduating with a B.S. in Neuroscience and a minor in Computer Science, and after college, he plans to work in healthcare during his gap year while applying for medical school. Peter has been playing cello since fourth grade and is very thankful to his mom for suggesting the instrument. Pops has given him an opportunity to continue his passion for music and cello, and he will always cherish the memories and music he has made with the Pops family.



CELLO

VIOLA



GRADUATING MEMBER MATTHEW PROEFKE

Matthew Proefke joined Pops as a freshman in Fall 2019 and has enjoyed being a member of the viola section ever since. He cherishes the music he has been a part of and his memories with the orchestra, from the concert antics to Pops Luck pie-baking with the viola section. Matthew will be graduating with a B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering and a Minor in Biochemistry. After graduation, he will be attending graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in biological/chemical engineering. He would like to express his gratitude to his fellow violas and the entire Pops family for making weekly rehearsals a commitment he will miss dearly after graduation.

GRADUATING MEMBER MICHELLE LI

Michelle Li is pursuing a major in Computer Science and minor in Entrepreneurship. After graduation, she plans to work as a Software Developer. Michelle joined Pops her freshman year in Fall of 2019, and this will be her sixth semester in the orchestra. She is thankful for the opportunity to continue playing violin in college, and will miss the music played, friends made, and memories treasured all through Pops.



VIOLIN

GRADUATING MEMBER DEBBIE DONG

Debbie is graduating with a B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering with a Fundamentals of Public Health minor. She joined Pops this semester and is grateful for both the opportunity to play in an orchestra for probably the last time and the welcoming and kind people :) After graduation, she will be working in supply chain at Ecolab as part of their rotational program.



VIOLIN

GRADUATING MEMBER ROSE SPROAT

Rose Sproat has been a member of Michigan Pops since Fall 2019 and on Pops board for three years. Rose has played two instruments while in Pops (violin and viola)—but don't ask her to pick a favorite! She is so thankful for Pops allowing her to continue to grow as a musician and introducing her to some of her closest friends. Her favorite memories from the past four years include late nights at NYPD with board and the emotional moments in making music with friends. Rose is graduating with a B.S. in Statistics and International Studies and will be moving to New York City this summer. PL <3



VIOLIN

GRADUATING MEMBER ARUNA GANESAN

Aruna joined Pops as a freshman in Fall 2019 and has absolutely loved being a part of the first violin section ever since. She is graduating this semester with a degree in BCN and a minor in Statistics, and plans to work in healthcare during her gap year before attending PA school in the future. Aruna has been playing the violin ever since she was 4 years old, and will forever treasure her time in Pops because it gave her a way to keep up her love for music. Her favorite memories from Pops include attending events like Progressives and playing any sort of music from Harry Potter. Orchestra has been a highlight of her college experience, and she feels so lucky to have found such a fun and crazy orchestra like Pops!



VIOLIN

GRADUATING MEMBER NOAH ZIMMERMAN

Noah has been a popsicle (on and off) since his first semester Freshman year in Fall 2019. He's loved every second of being in the orchestra and will take away all the memories of the Percussion section, from having negative social points to running around the back of the stage to cover each other's parts. After graduation, Noah will be waiting to graduate again, getting his Masters in Public Policy in the Ford School!



PERCUSSION



GRADUATING MEMBER **BENJAMIN KING**

Ben is currently working towards finishing a B.S.E in Electrical Engineering, with a Minor in Materials Science. He joined Pops his junior year, looking for a fun place to play music again, missing it since high school band. His favorite parts of Pops include getting to know all his wonderful fellow Popsicles, playing his favorite percussion instruments in an ensemble again, and attending all the awesome social events! Some of his favorite memories in Pops include singing at Karaoke, going to Prog, and eating delicious food at Popsluck. After college, Ben hopes to get a PhD, so that he can one day become a professor and share his engineering passion with the future generation. Being in Pops has been a wonderful creative and social outlet from the grind of getting a B.S.E, and Ben will be forever glad to be part of the Pops family!

We will miss you a lot seniors! Pops love <3



PROGRAM NOTES

20th Century Fox - Alfred Newman

The 20th Century Fox Theme was created by Fox's music department director Alfred Newman in order to accompany the logo at the beginning of their films. Newman was their music director from 1940-1960, in which the logo and theme was used regularly. Overtime, however, the introduction was phased out and by the 1970s was rarely used at all. George Lucas, creator of the Star Wars franchise, enjoyed the theme so much he insisted it be in his films, where it was revived in the mid-1970s. This nostalgic opening also opens our Pops concert, where we take a walk down memory lane towards old and new movies alike.

Star Wars: The Main Title - John Williams

Drawing inspiration from Holst's *The Planets* Suite, specifically "Jupiter", as well as Korngold's film score for *King's Row*, the original film score for Star Wars is one of the most iconic music scores to date and is recognizable by people all around the world. With the original soundtrack being recorded with the London Symphony, the film music was so popular it hit Canadian and US music charts. Star Wars is a franchise consisting of a sci-fi world full of other-worldly beings and follows the path of Luke Skywalker among many other characters as they save the world from evil-doers. The original movie, "A New Hope" was nominated at the Oscars for eleven awards and took home seven of them in 1978.

Symphony No.7 in A Major, Op. 92 - Ludwig van Beethoven

As Beethoven was composing his seventh symphony, Napoleon began to plan his campaign against Russia among many other historical events. Beethoven then debuted this haunting piece in 1813 at a charity concert dedicated to soldiers wounded in the Battle in Hanau. The second movement features a heart-wrenching, slow-burning melody that has been used in many films and other places in pop culture. Specifically, the second movement was used in the historical film *The King's Speech*. In this film, the music was used as King George gives his speech just after declaring war against Nazi Germany and represents the inner turmoil he felt as he told his people they were now at war. The music drew out the heightened emotions of the speech and gravity of the situation, which helped the film be nominated for twelve Oscars and take home four, one of which being "Best Picture" in 2011.

PROGRAM NOTES

Don't Cry for Me Argentina - Andrew Lloyd Weber

"Don't Cry for Me Argentina" is one of the songs written for the concept album *Evita* which was later turned into both a movie and musical titled the same name. *Evita* follows the life of Argentinian political leader from her early life to her death. In the movie, Madonna plays Eva "Evita" Peron. "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" is the finale to *Evita* and represents Eva Peron trying to win the favor of the Argentinian people. This powerful song both opens and closes the musical and movie, with the movie being nominated for five Oscars and winning one Oscar for "Best Original Song".

Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen

"Bohemian Rhapsody", written by rock band Queen's lead singer Freddie Mercury is widely considered one of the best rock songs of the 1970s. The song was their lead song on their fourth album *A Night at the Opera*, and is famous for its unusual structure, imitating the structure of an orchestral suite. The song includes multiple parts, including a harmonic intro, a ballad, an operatic section and an intense rock section at the end. It also mocks certain aspects of the opera musical form and is widely considered a "mock opera" itself. In 2018, the adequately titled *Bohemian Rhapsody* movie was released following Freddie Mercury and the creation and life of Queen. This movie went on to get five oscar nominations, winning four of them, including Rami Malek winning "Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role" for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury.

Swan Lake, Op. 20 - Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

Swan Lake is a ballet written by Tchaikovsky about Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorceress's stone. The ballet consists of four acts, with the three movements being played today in the first act. The story was derived from Russian and German folk tales and is now one of the most popular ballets to date. The original production of the ballet in 1877 was not successful and considered a failure due to being too "symphonic". However, as time passed, the ballet became more popular and even became heavily featured in the film *Black Swan* starring Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis. *Black Swan* was nominated for five Oscars, and ending up winning one, for Natalie Portman's portrayal of the main character Nina Sayers.

PROGRAM NOTES

When You Wish Upon a Star - Leigh Harline

When You Wish Upon a Star was originally written for the 1940 film *Pinocchio* with lyrics done by Ned Washington, and can be heard in the opening and closing of the film. Although it was originally written for *Pinocchio*, the song then went on to become the signature song of Disney and can be heard at the beginning of most Disney films starting in the mid-1980s. The original song from the *Pinocchio* was nominated for “Best Original Song” and won in 1940, making it the first Disney song to ever win an Oscar.

La La Land: Epilogue - Justin Hurwitz

La La Land is a film about two aspiring performing artists, one being an actress (Emma Stone) and another being a jazz pianist (Ryan Gosling), struggling to survive in the large, competitive industry that is Hollywood. The musical film was developed by Damien Chazelle and Justin Hurwitz while attending Harvard University and was eventually premiered at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival in 2016. The film then went on to be nominated for a record-tying fourteen Oscar nominations, of which they won six. Of these six, Damien Chazelle won “Best Achievement in Directing”, becoming the youngest director to win this award at 32 years old.

Symphonie Espagnole in D minor - Edouard Lalo

Symphonie Espagnole, directly translated to Spanish Symphony, was originally written for Pablo Sarasate in 1875. The piece consists of many Spanish motifs and although originally considered a symphony, is now widely considered a violin concerto. It is one of Lalo's most played works and consists of five movements. Our high school concerto competition winner, Selah Dowell, will be playing the first movement with Pops Orchestra as a guest soloist.

Ride of the Valkyries - Richard Wagner

“Ride of the Valkyries” is the first piece in the third act of Wagner's second opera in his opera cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (The Ring of Nibelung). This opera cycle consists of four operas: “Das Rheingold” (The Rhinegold), “Die Walküre” (The Valkyrie), “Siegfried”, and “Götterdämmerung” (Twilight of the Gods). The total opera takes four nights to perform, with around 15 hours of content, all an overarching story consisting of Greek drama-like tragedies and follows the struggles of heroes, gods, and mythical creatures alike. The American war film *Apocalypse Now* used this “Ride of the Valkyries” in the movie as helicopters fly menacingly to lead a strike. *Apocalypse Now* was nominated for eight Oscars, winning two of them, with one of them being winner of “Best Sound”.

PROGRAM NOTES

***Moulin Rouge!: Come What May* - David Baerwald**

“Come What May”, despite being famous for the rendition of it in *Moulin Rouge!*, with Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, was actually intended for Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, seeing as even the title of the song “Come What May” originates from the phrases used in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night*. In *Moulin Rouge!*, the song signifies a strong but forbidden love between the main characters Christian and Satine. Although the song itself was ineligible for an Oscar due to the song being written for another movie, *Moulin Rouge!* (2001) was nominated for eight oscars, winning two of them.

***Howl’s Moving Castle: Merry Go Round of Life* - Joe Hisaishi**

Howl’s Moving Castle (Hauru no Ugoku Shiro) is an animated film written by Hayao Miyazaki. This film was loosely based on the book with the same name by British author Diana Wynne Jones and animated by Studio Ghibli. The movie is set in the late 20th century in a fantasy kingdom where it follows the character Sophie as she is turned into an old woman by a witch. The film contains very strong anti-war themes as it was inspired by Miyazaki’s opposition to the United States’ invasion of Iraq in 2003. “Merry-Go-Round of Life” is the film’s main theme and is one of the most recognizable Joe Hisaishi pieces to date. *Howl’s Moving Castle* was nominated for “Best Animated Feature” at the Oscars and won many other awards in 2004 and 2005.

***Overture to “West Side Story”* - Leonard Bernstein**

West Side Story is a musical written by Jerome Robbins and the music written by Leonard Bernstein. The musical is inspired by the book of the same name by Arthur Laurents and the classic love story of *Romeo and Juliet*. The musical depicts a blue collar neighborhood in New York City, with a predominant Puerto Rican population. The story is about two gangs, the Sharks and the Jets, and the blooming romance between two members of the opposing gangs. Within the overture, melodies of songs from the musical including “Tonight”, “Mambo”, and others can be heard. In 2021, director Steven Spielberg recreated the musical into a movie (the second time this has been done). The movie, also named *West Side Story*, went on to be nominated for seven Oscars, winning one of them. The original movie in 1961 was nominated for eleven Oscars, and won ten of them.



Rejected Concert Titles

- And the Popscar goes to...
- Pop Gun: Maverick
- Everything Everywhere all at Pops
- Keep my Orchestra's Name Out of your Mouth
- A Pop is Born
- Pop Star: Never Stop Popping
- Pops Walks the Red Carpet
- Netflix and Chill with Pops
- Pops Slaps
- Movie Popscorn
- M. Night Shyamalpops
- Pops Camera Action!
- Lucanardo Dipopsrio



photos by Kate Hua



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

