



Dr. Kurt Sprenger - Music Director

SPRING CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022



BIRCHMAN BAPTIST CHURCH

9100 N NORMANDEALE ST., FORT WORTH



Kurt Sprenger, Music Director



This is Kurt Sprenger's 20th season as music director of the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra. During that time, he has built an orchestra of dedicated amateur players into an ambitious performing ensemble to survey music by contemporary and local composers as well as the standard symphonic literature. In recent seasons, he has guided FWCO through major works by Mahler, Rachmaninoff, Nielsen and Saint-Saëns. He has also championed works of important living composers Michael Daugherty, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Mason Bates, and Joan Tower.

Dr. Springer is principal violin of the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, the Brazos Chamber Orchestra and is an active studio violinist in the Metroplex. He was artist-in-residence at the National Conservatory of Italy, where he led opera performances throughout the country. He has also conducted and recorded with the Warsaw National Philharmonic. Dr. Sprenger has held faculty positions at universities in Texas, Wisconsin and California, and he is active as an educator with All-Region and All-State orchestras throughout the country. A native of Hawaii, Kurt Sprenger received his Doctorate of Music at the University of Southern California. He and his wife, pianist Jill Sprenger, live in Fort Worth.

2022 Spring Concert

Saturday, May 7, 2022

7:30 PM

Birchman Baptist Church

Dr. Kurt Sprenger, Music Director

Victory Overture

M. Blessinger

Violin Concerto No. 4

W.A. Mozart

I. Allegro

Natalie Caldwell, violin

Piano Concerto No. 3

S. Rachmaninoff

III. Finale

Nachuan Tao, piano

Piano Concerto

D.O. Johnston

Barbara Blegen, piano

Pirates of the Caribbean

K. Badelt

Fort Worth Civic Orchestra would like to thank Collora Piano for the performance instrument and Ilka Araujo and Texas Wesleyan University for the use of its facility for the Young Musicians Concerto Competition.



BIRCHMAN
BAPTIST CHURCH



FORT WORTH
TOURISM PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

ARTS FORT WORTH

Martin Blessinger

Victory Overture



Martin Blessinger is a Professor of Music at Texas Christian University. He holds a D.M. in Music Composition from Florida State University, where he was a University Research Fellow, studying with Ladislav Kubik and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. He received undergraduate and master's degrees from Stony Brook University, studying with Sheila Silver and Perry Goldstein. Prior to arriving at TCU, he worked as a

Lecturer in Music Theory at Ithaca College.

In 2014, Blessinger served as guest composer for the Talis Festival & Academy in Saas-Fee, Switzerland and has since been a featured composer on the Cliburn Foundation concert series, the Basically Beethoven concert series, and with the Texas New Music Ensemble. Further, he was an invited composer at the 2018 Beijing Modern Music Festival/International Society for Contemporary Music World New Music Days Festival in Beijing, China and was named the 2020 Texas Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer.

His music is published by Reed Music, ALRY Publications, and C. Alan Publications and can be heard on Albany Records.

Notes on Victory Overture

"Victory Overture was written in the summer of 2021 during a difficult time for the world and for me personally. After a burst of creativity at the start of 2020, I fell into a yearlong musical silence, unable to find the will or motivation to compose. The victory referenced in the title celebrates not only survival but also a season of growth and healing — overcoming the global pandemic, overcoming personal trauma, and rediscovering my musical imagination."

- Martin Blessinger

About Natalie Caldwell

Natalie Caldwell is a junior at North Crowley High School and currently studies with Kurt Sprenger. She has been in the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra program since 2016 where she was a Young Performer's Concerto Competition winner in 2016 and 2017. She placed first in the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association Soloist Competition in 2017, 2018 and 2019. For the past three years, she auditioned for and placed in the TMEA All-Region Symphony Orchestra. She also placed in the TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra in 2021 and 2022.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D, K. 218

Mozart began violin study at age 6 with his father, Leopold, who had written a celebrated textbook on violin technique the year his son was born. That book remains a go-to reference on performance practices of the 18th century. Although young Mozart moved away from the instrument in his late teens, he was an able player who composed several solo works for violin, including five concertos written between 1773 and 1775 while serving as a court musician to Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo of Salzburg.



The fourth of those concertos is sometimes called the “Strasbourg Concerto” for the style of the dance tune in the last movement. It’s also known as the “Military Concerto” for the martial fanfare of the first movement, which features no trumpets. Mozart may have composed it for himself, but it was soon taken up by the Italian violinist Antonio Brunetti (1744-1786), who took over Mozart’s position in the Salzburg court orchestra.

About Nachuan Tao



Nachuan Tao is a junior at I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA and studies piano with John Owings at Texas Christian University. He was awarded scholarships from the Chopin Foundation of the United States in 2021 and the Feltsman Piano Foundation in 2020. He won first prize at the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association Solo Competition and was a prizewinner in the 2020 Juanita Miller Concerto

Competition sponsored by the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras. He participated in the Steinway Junior Piano Competition, winning first prize twice. He has participated in masterclasses with Yoheved Kaplinsky and Christopher O'Riley as well as has appeared in recitals at Wuyuan Concert Hall and Bass Performance Hall. He has been admitted to the Curtis Institute of Music and will begin his studies there in the Fall of 2022.

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

Rachmaninoff moved with his family to Dresden in 1906 to devote more time to his composing but never failed to turn down an invitation to perform his own music. Rachmaninov composed his Third Piano Concerto for an American tour in the fall/winter of 1909-1910. He barely completed the manuscript a month before his departure and, having had little time to practice the piano part, famously practiced it on a silent keyboard during his Atlantic crossing. The concerto was premiered by Walter Damrosch and the New York Symphony Society, November 28, 1909, with another performance seven weeks later with Gustav Mahler and the



rival New York Philharmonic Society on January 16th (the two orchestras merged in 1928 to form the New York Philharmonic).

As Rachmaninoff recounted to his biographer, Oskar von Riesemann, Mahler rehearsed the concerto after an electrifying reading of Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*: "At the time, Mahler was the only conductor whom I considered worthy to be classed with Nikisch. He devoted himself to the concerto until the accompaniment, which is rather complicated, had been practiced to the point of perfection, although he had already gone through another long rehearsal. According to Mahler, every detail of the score was important – an attitude too rare amongst conductors."

Rachmaninoff would eventually perform the Third Concerto with the New York Philharmonic a total of 16 times.

About Barbara Blegen

Barbara Blegen performed her first public full length recital in a music recital hall when she was 11 years old. At age 12, she was the featured soloist with the Missoula Civic Symphony Orchestra. At 15, Blegen was offered a full-ride scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studied until graduation. Barbara moved on to Baltimore and then Boston, where she landed a contract playing concerts with Columbia

Artists. Additionally, Barbara soloed with the New York Philharmonic and St. Louis and Baltimore Symphonies. She retired in 2006 when she returned to her hometown of Missoula almost 50 years later. "I performed 88 concerts in a seven-year period – it was hard work, but incredibly rewarding," Barbara says.

In her retirement, Barbara accompanies the University of Montana Opera Theater, the University Choir and Chamber Music Montana; presents master classes; accompanies vocal auditions and music recitals; performs in the UM School of Music Celebrate Piano Series; and performs in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Soirée.



Donald O. Johnston (b. 1929)

Piano Concerto

Minnesota-born composer Donald O. Johnston (b. 1929) served more than 30 years on the faculty of the University of Montana in Missoula, where he was composer in residence and professor of composition. He studied at Northwestern University and was a protégé of composer Howard Hanson at



the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. A veteran of the Korean War, he served with the 45th Infantry Division and composed marches for his division as well as music for the USO. Johnston's melodic and harmonic language is neo-romantic, embellished with strong rhythmic currents. He has written numerous works for concert band and orchestra, including six symphonies, of which his fifth ("Time and Space Studies in Three Aspects") was performed by the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra in 2011, and his third ("Scenarios Medieval") was premiered by FWCO in 2017.

Notes on Piano Concerto

"This concerto is cast in three contrasting movements. Movement One reveals the main musical thrust of the concerto. This is then followed by two shorter movements of an intense nature to provide structural balance. An interesting facet of the construction of this work is the employment of the octatonic scale for tonal source material resulting in occasional "other-worldly" harmonies."

- Donald O. Johnston



Klaus Badelt (b. 1967)

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl

When composer Alan Silvestri was fired from "Pirates of the Caribbean" by producer Jerry Bruckheimer, Zimmer was asked to

take over scoring the film. As Zimmer was busy on “The Last Samurai,” he referred the job to Badelt. The resulting “Pirates” music – completed with the help of seven assistant composers, nine orchestrators and three synth programmers (and possibly Zimmer’s help with the principal themes) – defined the “sound” of the “Pirates” franchise, though Zimmer would eventually take over as principal composer for the two sequels after Badelt left in 2004 to start his own company.

The Fort Worth Civic Orchestra provides the community with an accessible listening and educational experience of quality symphonic music, while offering an outlet for musicians who desire to perform as a vocation.



UPCOMING EVENT!

**Hear the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra at
Piano Texas Concerto Concert**

**Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 5PM
Van Cliburn Hall, TCU Music Center**

FWCO would like to thank the generous donors to the Arts Fort Worth:

\$75,000 +

City of Fort Worth
Texas Commission on
the Arts
Small Business
Administration
UnitedWay of Tarrant
County

\$25,000 - \$74,999

Anonymous
Fidelity Charitable
John W. & M. Ann
Mason
David R. & Shelly
Smith

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Fort Worth Promotion
and Development
Fund
Frost Bank
Houston & Shelia Hill
Meta Alice Keith
Bratten Foundation
The Ryan Foundation
Sid W. Richardson
Foundation
Visit Fort Worth
Virginia O'Donnell
Charitable Trust

\$2,500 - \$9,999

BNSF Railway
Foundation
Communities
Foundation of Texas
Fifth Avenue
Foundation
Junior League of Fort
Worth
North Texas
Community
Foundation
Shoot Smart
Tarrant County
The Pate Foundation
Virginia Street Smith
Charitable Fund - at
the North Texas
Community
Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Facebook
Karen & Larry Anfin
Kathleen Yacio Sargent
L.O. "Buzz" & Ruth
Brightbill
Maddie & Larry
Lesnick
Marth V. Leonard Fund

- at the North Texas

Community
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Lary
Milrany
Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass
Mrs. Rosalyn G.
Rosenthal
Ms. Peggy
Meade-Cohen
Pacheco Koch
Rachel Guy
Schwab Charitable
TransSystems
Corporation
Visiting Angels & Dale
Brock

\$500 - \$999

Cecile Montgomery
Tom Harkrider
Dione Kennedy &
Daniel Hagwood
Pam Presswood
Laura Lumley
Col. William Massad
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce H.
Weiner
Mr. & Mrs. Branford
Kling

Thank you for your dedication to the arts. Arts Fort Worth, formerly 'The Arts Council of Fort Worth' extends its gratitude to the many other contributors whom we are unable to list here due to space limitations. Please visit artsfortworth.org for a full list of donors who supported Arts Fort Worth between October 1, 2019 and August 4, 2021.

FWCO thanks their business sponsors:

ExxonMobil Foundation Bank of America Charitable Amazon Smile
BNSF Railway Foundation Foundation Fort Worth Arts Council

FWCO thanks the following donors for their support:

Anonymous	Fran Harris	Rachel Prewitt
Karen Bauer	Kathleen Holley	Tony Regalado
Keith Beckham	Genie Homeyer	Sarah Ross
Martin Blessinger	Beverly Howard	Terry Ruthruff
Michelle Burnham	Abby Jennings	Stormie Santiago
Kristin Butterworth	Nicholas Johnson	Linda Sharp
Nancy Carrier	James Kuo	Gary Shoop
Brendan Carter	Angela Lanier	Kal Silverberg
Rebecca Child	Ben Ledesma	Lucinda Skaggs
Laura Clark	Patricio Lopez	Juah Song
Wendy Daugherty	Bruce Miller	Janice Spooner
Jim Davidson	Steve Moore	Dan Stevens
Andrea Delaney	Elisa Na	Mack Ed Swindle
Anne & Byrwec Ellison	Carie Navio	Robert Taylor
Rick Estes	Gail Nelson	Albert Ting
Mike Francis	Susan O'Donnell	Joseph Tullis
Anthony Gardner	Jan Oliphant	Robert Waterbury
Suzanne Gebby	Doug & Katie Omondson	Chris White
Ginger Gleason	Jorge Orozco	Cornelia Winguth
Sheri Harber	Cara Pollard	

Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Board

Directors

Jorge Orozco, President
Anne Ellison, Treasurer
Beverly Howard, Media Relations
Dan Stevens, Business Manager
Laura Clark
Byrwec Ellison
Ginger Gleason
Tom Thompson

Ex Officio

Kurt Sprenger, Music Director
Anthony Gardener, Personnel
Manager
Steve Moore, Orchestra Committee
Chair
Trey Seastrunk, Front of House
Rebecca Child, Acting Librarian
Ron Atienza, Librarian

For more information on how to support our mission, please visit
<http://fwco.org/become-a-sponsor/> or email us at info@fwco.org

The FWCO is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Musicians

First Violin

Dan Stevens*,
Concertmaster
Dalena Klavin
Elisa Na
Byrwec Ellison
Albert Ting
Mack Ed Swindle
Katie Omundson
Becky Rathbun

Second Violin

Mike Francis*
Carie Navio
Jennifer Brinkmann
Angela Lanier
Bruce Miller
Rachel McClarty

Violas

Wendy Daugherty*
Martin Blessinger**
Juah Song
Patricio Lopez
Karen Bauer
Jess Miller
Susan O'Donnell
Tony Regalado
Christy Huff
Joshua Huff

Cellos

Anthony Gardner*
Callie Trujillo
Brendan Carter
Kasey Dixon
Lisa Young
Suzanne Gebby
Gianni Campbell
Michelle Burnham

Basses

Rick Estes
Ricardo Puche

Flutes

Janice Oliphant
Kathleen Holley

Oboe

Ginger Gleason*
Genie Homeyer

Clarinet

Fran Harris*
Cassie Conway

Bassoon

Terry Ruthruff*
Anne Ellison

Horn

Kristin Butterworth**
Ben Ledesma**
Ben Carroll
Linda Sharp
Robert Taylor

Trumpet

Keith Beckham*
Cara Pollard
John Morgan

Trombone

Peter Kroll*
Don Duncan
Benjamin Ray

Tuba

Doug Omundson

Percussion

Steve Moore*
Charlie Kennard
Gary Shoop
Tim Swanger

* principal

** co-principal

Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Contact Information

Business Address:

P.O. Box 100251
Fort Worth TX 76185

Message Us:

