

University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Roger Zahab, director

October 12, 2022, Wednesday at 8 pm
Bellefield Hall Auditorium

La Novia de Tola (2013)

Gilda Lyons

Third Concerto for violin and orchestra, op. 61 (1880)

Camille Saint-Saëns

I. Allegro non troppo

II. Andantino quasi allegretto

III. Molto moderato e maestoso – Allegro non troppo

Matthew Alford, solo violin

intermission

Adagietto (from the Fifth Symphony, 1901-2)

Gustav Mahler

Symphony no. 40 in g minor, K 550 (1788-91)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Molto Allegro

Andante

Menuetto Allegretto

Allegro assai

*Special thanks for support to
Office of the Provost - Pitt Arts Initiative
The Bessie Pearl Snyder Music Legacy Fund*

A few notes on the program

Gilda Lyons (b. 1975), composer, vocalist, and visual artist, combines elements of renaissance, neo-baroque, spectral, folk, agitprop Music Theater, and extended vocalism to create works of uncompromising emotional honesty and melodic beauty.

The premiere of *A New Kind of Fallout*—Lyons' mainstage opera inspired by the life and work of environmentalist Rachel Carson, written with librettist Tammy Ryan, and commissioned by Opera Theater of Pittsburgh—was described as "powerfully effective" (*Pittsburgh Stage Magazine*), "haunting" (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*) and "spot-on at re-creating the atmosphere of the early '60s" (*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*).

Lyons currently serves as Co-Chair of the Composition Program at Wintergreen Music Academy and as Assistant Professor of Composition at The Hartt School. She is the Executive Director of the Richard P. Garmany Chamber Music Series, Founding Director of The Phoenix Concerts, New York's "intrepid Upper West Side new-music series" (*The New Yorker*), and serves on the Board of Advisors of Composers Now, the Steven R. Gerber Trust, and Sparks & Wiry Cries. Lyons served as Composer-in-Residence of Chautauqua Opera in the 2019 season. In 2021, she returns as composition faculty for Connecticut Summerfest.

A quirky dance, "**La Novia de Tola**" alternates between manic and static states, referencing folk gestures and an imagined folk tune that could have been drawn directly from my Nicaraguan family's musical traditions. The work takes its title from the Nicaraguan folktale "The Bride from Tola" in which a young bride is abandoned by the love of her life on her wedding day (though whether her fiancé was shot by his would-be brother-in-law, seduced by his ex-lover, or drunk in another town depends on who tells the tale). La Novia's story gave rise to the uniquely Nicaraguan idiom "left waiting like the bride from Tola" which translates loosely as "left holding the bag."

Matthew Alford, our violin soloist, writes:

I am currently a senior at the University of Pittsburgh. I am majoring in applied mathematics with minors in applied statistics and economics. Though I have focused my college education in these areas, I have had a passion for playing the violin ever since I picked up the instrument at ten years old. Throughout my life, I have participated in many different ensembles, such as the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra and the All-East Honors Orchestra. For the past four years, I have proudly been a member of the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and I am honored to perform the Saint-Saëns 3rd Violin Concerto with such talented musicians.

Roger Zahab enjoys instigating fairly complex and unpredictable interactions through his activities as composer, violinist/violist, improviser, conductor, teacher, and writer. As performer/conductor he has fostered premieres of more than 200 works and his repertoire, spanning some 700 years from Guillaume de Machaut to the present.

Roger's work as composer and improviser is primarily focused on the intersections of time, memory, and music's place in the community and society at large. His worklist for performers and listeners (from young students, avocational players to experienced new music specialists) approaches more than 400 compositions. Some are available on many labels and sites including Albany, Bandcamp, Crystal Records, Koch International Classics, Naxos, and Truemedias as well as through iTunes, Spotify and YouTube.

He teaches at the University of Pittsburgh and is a Core Founding Faculty member of Vermont College of Fine Art's MFA in Music Composition program.

www.rogerzahab.net

University of Pittsburgh Orchestra Personnel
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Emanuel Berrido, assistant conductor
Charandeep Kota, stage manager

Gilda Lyons – La Novia de Tola

flutes – Makaylia Gerver (+piccolo) Karinna Martin
oboes – Kaylyn Shearer*, Amelia Van Howe (+English Horn)*
clarinets – Claire Cheng (+ E flat clarinet), Morgan Polen
bassoons – Ben Franks-Meinert, Michael McAleese
horns – Niobe Tsoutsouris, Megumi Barclay
trumpets – Andrew Levin, David Levin*
trombones – Ryan Harden, Jacob Lombardi
timpani – Satyaj Bhargava
perc – Robert Frankenberry*
piano – Manny Berrido

Camille Saint-Saëns: Third Violin Concerto op 61

flutes – Karinna Martin, Makaylia Gerver
oboes – Kaylyn Shearer*, Amelia Van Howe*
clarinets in A – Claire Cheng, Katrina Rakusan
bassoons – Ben Franks-Meinert, Michael McAleese
horns – Prashanth Kumaran, Kevin Jiang
trumpets in E – Andrew Levin, David Levin*
trombones – Ryan Harden, Josh Branstetter
bass trombone – Jacob Lombardi
timpani – Satyaj Bhargava

Gustav Mahler: Adagietto from the Fifth Symphony

Harp – Sofia Schwartz

W.A.Mozart: Symphony no. 40 in g minor, K 550 (2nd version with clarinets)

flute – Karinna Martin
oboes – Amelia Van Howe*, Kaylyn Shearer *
clarinets in b flat – Meliksah Dolap, John Oths
bassoons – Ben Franks-Meinert, Michael McAleese
horns – Niobe Tsoutsouris, Megumi Barclay

Strings

Violin 1 (for Lyons and Saint-Saëns)
Julia Kebuladze, Alyssa Depaoli
Jeremy Luu, Sasha Sluis-Cremer
Miriam Layne, Siri Harish
Saira Torres, Haiwei Hu

Violins 1 (for Mahler)
Matthew Alford, Julia Kebuladze
Alyssa Depaoli, Jeremy Luu
Sasha Sluis-Cremer, Miriam Layne
Siri Harish, Saira Torres

Haiwei Hu

Violins 1 (for Mozart)

Matthew Alford, Julia Kebuladze
Alyssa Depaoli, Jeremy Luu
Sasha Sluis-Cremer, Miriam Layne
Siri Harish, Saira Torres

Violins 2 (for Lyons, Saint-Saëns, Mahler)

Sam Smith, Alex Preble
Elsie Campbell, Rishika Sau
Jessica Knapp, Kevin Gu
Maria Schrecengost, Olivia Sinciline
Georgia Paraskos, Kyoungah Lee

Violins 2 (for Mozart)

Sam Smith, Alex Preble
Elsie Campbell, Rishika Sau
Jessica Knapp, Kevin Gu
Maria Schrecengost, Olivia Sinciline

Violas (throughout)

Loghan Hawkes, Robbie Fishel
Kimia Rafiee, Ben Green
Maija Anstine*

Cellos (for Lyons, Saint-Saëns, Mahler)

Hannah Neiderhiser, Alicia Loui
Graham Smith, Rena Li,
Amarie Williams, Helayna Baer
Alex Johnson, Cheyenne Toma
Allison Lin, Talia Mekinulov

Cellos (for Mozart)

Hannah Neiderhiser, Graham Smith
Alicia Loui, Rena Li
Amarie Williams, Helayna Baer
Alex Johnson, Cheyenne Toma

bass

Spencer Levering
Andrew Kohn*
Miranda Bartira Sousa*

* Guest artist