World on Fire

UNI Concert Chorale
John Wiles, conductor

and

UNI Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center
PROGRAM

CONCERT CHORALE

Excerpts from O ignis Spiritus paracliti, Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179, Germany)

O fire of the Spirit and Defender, the life of every life created:
Holy are you – giving life to every form.

Fire ......................................................... Katerina Gimon
(b. 1993, Canada)

Holy are you – anointing the critically broken. Holy are you – cleansing the festering wounds.
“Fire of the Ancient Heart” from Considering Matthew Shepard .............. Craig Hella Johnson
(b. 1962, USA)

John Hines, bass, Tyler Snodgrass, piano,
UNI Wind Ensemble Percussion

From you the clouds flow forth, the wind takes flight, the stones their moisture hold,
the water rivers spring, and earth viridity exudes.
Ancient Prairie .......................................................... Ēriks Ešenvalds
(b. 1977, Latvia)

Nash Ryder, violin

You are the teacher of the truly learned, whose joy you grant through Wisdom’s inspiration.
Elijah Rock ................................................................. Moses Hogan
(1957-2003, USA)

- INTERMISSION -

WIND ENSEMBLE

Dancing Fire (2016) .............................................. Kevin Day
(b. 1996, USA)

Troublesome Fire (2022) ........................................... James David
(b. 1978, USA)

Embers (2015) .......................................................... Tom Davoren
(b. 1986, Wales)

Sophia Patchin, graduate conductor

Burning the Wickerman (2020) ................................... Julie Giroux
(b. 1961, USA)

Mary O’Connell, graduate conductor

WIND ENSEMBLE AND CONCERT CHORALE

Set the World on Fire (2020)* ................................... David Gillingham
(b. 1947, USA)

*World Premiere Performance
## Concert Chorale

### Soprano
- Aleigha Ausman
- Katelyn Bakker
- Sydney Barton
- Caeley Coady
  - Julia Fink
  - Lili Fischer
- Zephy Forsyth
- Emma Gardner
- Kilynn Hitchings
- Lillian Kallenberger
- Emma Malmberg
- Alison Meagher
- Ana Molano
- Elliana Nelson
- Skye Rhoten
- Adelyn Sittig

### Alto
- Emily Brennom
- Ruthellen Brooks
- Emily Carlo
- Emily Clouser
- Mattie Dooley
- Abigail Edlemon
- Braelyn Ensor
- Eileen Gavin
- Emma Hawkinson
  - Karli Jirava
- Jamie Knox
- Darby Lake
- Essie Riker
- Calista Rowe
- Akela Salter
- Davan Smith
- Sydney Tucker
- Lorelei Walker
- Emalee Warren
- Grace Welveart

### Tenor
- Matthew Anderson
- Spencer Anderson
- Samuel Bast
- Aaron Copic
- Bryson Grove
- Juan Morales
- Brennan Regan
- Matthew Richardson
- Logan Stapp
- Isaac Ullesld
- Luke Walter

### Bass
- Marcos Antunez
- Adrian Benson
- Noah Britten
- Kaleb Carda
- Travis Dodd
- Noah Fredericksen
- Noah Hartman
- Jacob Hennager
- Gage Juhl
- Micaiah Krutsinger
- Nathan Lollar
- Jackson Minton
- Gabe Mueller
- Tyler Snodgrass
- Brock Trenkamp
- Jon Turner
- Gabe Wagner
WIND ENSEMBLE

FLUTE
Juliana Becerra
*Carissa Blumka
Miranda Finn
Jennifer Valenzuela

OBOE
Lauren Geerlings
*Lin Nikkel

BASSOON
Marco Olachnovitch
*Sophia Patchin
Kate VanGorp

CLARINET
*Lindsay Davison
Angelina DeSocio
Katherine Czarnik
*Madeline Echternacht
Ben Medbourn
Elias Phipps
Brayden Stockman

SAXOPHONE
Hannah Elerding
Luke McIlhon
*Logan Neifert
Lindy Slocum
Claire Uselding

TRUMPET
*Megan Bennett
Abigail Holschlag
Sean Kiefer
Kate McAlister
Dora Roorda
Rylee Scheel
Evan Wahlstrom

HORN
Patrick Mooney
*Morgan Stumpf
+Maddy Tarantelli

TROMBONE
Jacob Chaplin
Ryan Hyslope
*Spencer O’Riley
Sophia Pastorino
Spencer Schneriton
Morgan Uitermarkt

EUPHONIUM
Morgan Westphal

TUBA
Aidan Anderson
*Isaac Sand

PERCUSSION
Bradley Bodkin
Jess Herron
Preas Hirsch
Randall Kinner
Claretta Larson
Tess Lillibridge
Jesse Sheehan
*Xander Webb
Justin Weber
Matthew Webster

PIANO
+Vakhtang Kodanashvili
Juan Dominguez Rincon

BASS
Sam Stover

HARP
Mara Caylor

* = Section Leader
+ Faculty Artist
When I was writing *Dancing Fire*, I wanted to write a piece for my high school band program and its directors for the great pieces we played, the fun times we had, and the excitement our bands created at our concerts. The picture I had in my head before I began writing was a group of people surrounding a large bonfire during the night. These people began dancing around the fire, having fun, singing songs, and ultimately, celebrating life.

Once I had that picture in my head, along with the constant repeating motif that eventually became the melody for the entire piece, the rest of the work fit together nicely, and in two weeks it was done. The composition brings this mental picture I had to life in a fun and energetic way with dance-like percussion and a constant groove, as well as its contagious melody, a mysterious soprano sax solo, and a climactic ending.

This was written in dedication to the Arlington High School Band Program in Arlington, Texas, and to my former band directors, Michael Hejny, Nathan Burum, and Nathan Hervey.

- Program Note by composer

During the summer and fall of 2020, Colorado experienced the largest and most destructive wildfires in its entire history. Western U.S. wildfires have become an all too common occurrence as human-caused climate change has continued to affect the environment in dramatic fashion. The Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fires burned hundreds of thousands of acres in portions of Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding national forests, only a couple dozen miles from my own home. A gigantic pyrocumulonimbus cloud rose above the mountains and could be seen from hundreds of miles away. Ash fell for weeks and the sun was obscured almost completely during the fire’s peak. Were it not for an unexpectedly early and heavy snow, the damage could have been exponentially worse.

My new piece deals with the anger, fear, and frustration I felt during these fires and continue to linger as our fragile and beautiful planet remains in such peril. In a single movement, my composition will depict the progression of these events, from the initial spark (theorized to be caused by stray gunfire), to the incredible destructive climax, and concluding with the anxious calm of a snow-covered field with embers still smoldering beneath. Aleatoric techniques, myriad percussion, and a digital soundscape will enhance the already dramatic palette of the wind ensemble. A major source of inspiration that is referenced throughout is Scriabin’s Vers la Flamme (“Towards the Flame”) which the pianist Horowitz claimed was a depiction of a cataclysmic heat and fire that would consume the earth.

- Program Note by composer

*Embers* is a short, lyrical concert work which evokes the subtle glow of a camp fire just after the final flame has withered.

- Program Note by composer

*Man has burned effigies of objects as a way of celebration for hundreds if not thousands of years. Historically, a wicker man was a large wicker construction in the shape of a man that was reportedly used by the ancient pagan Druids. Hollow inside, it has been recorded that the Druids would confine a human sacrifice within, usually somebody guilty of a crime worthy of a death sentence.*

This work does is not a musical reflection of ancient practices but of modern ones. There are many different celebrations using giant wicker man effigies around the world. They are used as art displays, at music festivals and a wicker man was also used as thematic material in a song by the rock band Iron Maiden.

* Burning the Wickerman is an exciting, dramatic work depicting the building of a wicker man followed by its burning. While melodically it is sinister at times, that is not a reflection on the history, but on the properties of fire itself. The piece ends with the Wickerman engulfed in flames as a celebration of new beginnings.*

- Program Note by composer

*Set the World on Fire* for SATB choir and wind ensemble uses quotes from the writings of St. Catherine of Siena. “You are an ever-burning fire; You are a fire which drives away all coldness and illumines minds with its light, and with this light you have made known your truth.” The work was composed for Siena Heights University in Michigan, but was completed in the middle of the Pandemic and therefore was never performed. Tonight is the world premiere performance of this work by renown composer David Gillingham.