Upcoming Events

Glee Club Christmas Variety Shows
Friday-Saturday, December 1-2
Great Hall, GBPAC

Spotlight Series: UNI Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

The School of Music Calendar of Events is available online at music.uni.edu/events.

In consideration of the performers and other members of the audience, please enter or leave a performance at the end of a composition. Cameras and recording equipment are not permitted. Please turn off all electronic devices, and be sure that all emergency contact cell phones and pagers are set to silent or vibrate. In the event of an emergency, please use the exit nearest to you. Please contact the usher staff if you need assistance.

This event is free to all UNI students, courtesy of the Panther Pass Program.

The University of Northern Iowa honors the ancestral stewards of the land on which our university rests. Through the work we do every day to live our mission, the University of Northern Iowa aspires for you to see a community that: honors Native and Indigenous People and culture, lives the 7th Generation Principle, does good for the people and communities we serve, and embraces stewardship of our mission and land. Please see our full stewardship statement at president.uni.edu/stewardship-statement.

Performances like this are made possible through private support from patrons like you! Please consider contributing to School of Music scholarships or guest artist programs. Call 319-273-3915 or visit www.uni.edu/music to make your gift.

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Erik Rohde, conductor

With
Hannah Porter-Occeña, flute

And

UNI Suzuki School’s Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra

Monday, November 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, Gallagher Bluedorn
Program

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (1894) . . . . . . . . . Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)

The Light That We Can Hear (2022) . . . . . . . . Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)
Hannah Porter-Occeña, flute

INTERMISSION

String Symphony No.9 in C major (1823) . . . . . . . . . . . . Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)
I. Grave – Allegro
Side-by-side with the Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra

Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo (1943) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Aaron Copland (1900 – 1990)
I. Buckaroo Holiday
II. Corral Nocturne
III. Saturday Night Waltz
IV. Hoe-Down

Featured Composer Biography

Jennifer Higdon is one of America’s most acclaimed figures in contemporary classical music, receiving the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto, a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto and, most recently, a 2020 Grammy for her Harp Concerto. Higdon’s first opera, Cold Mountain, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere and the opera recording was nominated for 2 Grammy awards. In 2018, Higdon received the prestigious Nemmers Prize from Northwestern University, awarded to contemporary classical composers of exceptional achievement who have significantly influenced the field of composition. Most recently, she was inducted in to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works and her works have been recorded on more than seventy CDs.

About Our Featured Faculty Artist

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing “rich tone and deft technique,” Hannah Porter Occeña is Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa and Principal Flutist of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (Topeka, KS). Previous positions include Principal Flute of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble (Prairie Village, KS) and Associate Principal Flute of the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra (Bismarck, ND). The 2012 Irene Burchard prizewinner at the Royal Academy of Music, Dr. Occeña has performed as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and clinician throughout the US and abroad.

Committed to the rich heritage and new horizons of the repertoire, Dr. Occeña strives to make classical works accessible and engaging to diverse audiences. Between her performance schedule and collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Occeña participates in outreach concerts and programs at schools and community centers. Some of her most meaningful musical experiences have taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Occeña has worked to bring works by living composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has co-premiered works by Zhou Long (Confluence, 2015) and Carter Pann (Giantess, 2018). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, most recently Shenandoah Variations for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern in March 2019.

A dedicated scholar, Dr. Occeña has recently presented at the National Flute Association conventions in Orlando and Salt Lake City as well as the Rochester Flute Fair. She has collaborated on new editions of the Sonata in B minor by Amanda Maier and the Sonata op. 94 by Sergei Prokofiev and serves on the National Flute Association Special Publications Committee.

Dr. Occeña is a 2018 DMA graduate of Stony Brook University, where she studied with Carol Wincenc; she holds a Master of Music Dip.RAM from the Royal Academy of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. When not performing, Dr. Occeña enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. She can be heard on New Beginnings: American and Australian Duos for Flute and Piano with the Occeña-Chen Duo, and Voices from the Middle and Spohr, Forevermore! with the Midwest Chamber Ensemble. She is a Miyazawa Artist and plays on a Miyazawa Elite. For more information, please visit http://hannahporter.instantencore.com.
Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra

**Flute**
Aubrey Williamson
Emily Paul
Martin Paulin, piccolo

**Oboe**
Lin Nikkel
Caroline McReynolds
Lauren Geerlings, English Horn

**Clarinet**
Madeline Echtemacht
Lindsay Davison
Elias Phipps

**Bassoon**
Sophia Patchin
Kate Van Gorp
Michael Andrews

**Horn**
Patrick Mooney
J.D. Deninger

**Trumpet**
Megan Bennett
Rylee Scheel
Trey Blaser

**Trombone**
Owen Weimer
Levi Temple
Nathan Boorman, bass

**Tuba**
Mason Bush

**Percussion**
Aiden Endres, principal
Sean Middleton
Tess Lillbridge
Jesse Sheehan
Quinn Wubbena

**Piano**
Juan David Dominguez

**Harp**
Mara Caylor

Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra

**Violin I**
Emma Andersen, concertmaster
Kellie Connolly
Lauren Geerlings
Lily Stevens
Nathan Fornal
Emma Hawkinson

**Violin II**
Emma Becker
Arwen Hansen
Lyuda Haines
Karina Rivera-Andrade
Emmalee Goldensoph
Zihan Yan

**Viola**
Andrew Acosta
Skylar Hartson
Julian Perez
Gale Lesemann
Caitlyn McCracken
Sammie McDonald

**Violoncello**
Tumer Sperry
Elliot Purdum
Ruthellen Brooks
Amilya Renaud
Max Stezer
Sidnie Clark
Alexandra Hook

**Bass**
Sam Stover
McCaffrey Brandt
Martin Hachmann
Vincent Valadez
Henry Giddens

**Violin I**
Summer Lim
Emma Halvorsen
Esther Shin
Lillian Eagan
Mihika Iyer
Kevin Du
Diya Pradeep
Phillip Boesen

**Violin II**
Ian Simpson
Chandler Taylor
Rana Teke
Clayton Lauritsen
Reagen Easter
Cade Frost
Rishika Shettigar

**Viola**
Mason Munnik
Anton Hesselink
Drew Ludeman
Lily Mymo

**Violoncello**
Elliot Purdum
Alex Christ
Abby Siwiński
Gabe Eagan
James Peng
Zander Christensen
Varun Gulwadi
Percy Batista-Pedro

**Bass**
Asa Posey
Paxton Posey

About the Youth Orchestra

The mission of the UNI Suzuki School is to enrich the lives of children and adults through the study of music. Guided by the teachings of Dr. Suzuki, the Suzuki School believes in the potential of all children to learn within the framework of the parent-teacher-child relationship.

The Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra (NIYO) offers two concerts during the year, tours locally and regionally, and participates in side-by-side events with the wcfsymphony, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, and Northern Iowa Junior Orchestra.

NIYO is for advanced string, percussion, winds, and brass students currently in grades 9 – 12 who are members in good standing of their high school orchestra or band, if available. Placement is by audition. Students (wind, brass, percussion) currently in grade 8 may be considered at NIYO music director's discretion.

Learn more at suzuki.uni.edu.
Support NISO as we prepare for our tour to Italy!

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