

*Illinois Wesleyan University*  
*School of Music presents*

# **Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra**

**Sey Ahn**  
*Music Director and Conductor*

Friday, February 26, 2020  
7:45PM  
Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall



## **Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra**

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Finalist in the American Prize in Orchestral Performance 2016/17, the IWSO was founded in 1984 and is made up of students from music and non-music disciplines who have performed with many esteemed guest soloists.

The ensemble has performed alongside various eminent musical personalities, including virtuoso string bassist Edgar Meyer and Grammy Award-Winning soprano Dawn Upshaw, who is also an Illinois Wesleyan alumna, and many others. Other distinguished guests that the ensemble has hosted throughout its tenure include Armando Ghitalla, Roger Roloff, and Laszlo Varga. In addition, IWSO has played in concert with the Volgograd Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Edward Serov and Peter Schickele. The Orchestra has performed on CBS's Sunday Morning and participated in frequent tours throughout the United States.

The annual Concerto-Aria concert showcases the school's finest musicians by allowing them the opportunity to perform with the IWSO.



## Sey Ahn

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A 2015 fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival, Sey Ahn is currently the Director of Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble at Illinois Wesleyan University. Ahn has served as the Guest Conductor in Residence at Diamond Bar High School for over ten years, whose Symphony Orchestra has won numerous national accolades. Ahn is a frequent Evaluator and Clinician at the annual Music for All Festival held in Indianapolis. She has also been the Assistant Conductor of the Music for All Honor Orchestra of America since 2012. Ahn previously held the position of Music Director and Professor of Conducting at the University of California Santa Barbara. Ahn has worked extensively with young musicians in many youth orchestras around the country. She has been invited as a guest conductor of All-State Festivals in states such as Missouri, Louisiana, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Tennessee, Iowa, and Kentucky. Ahn has led orchestral performances in Walt Disney Concert Hall and Royce Hall in Los Angeles, Benedict Music Tent in Aspen, Hilbert Theater in Indianapolis and Alice Tully Hall in New York.

Sey Ahn earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Northwestern University, where she studied piano with Alan Chow and James Giles, and started her conducting studies with Victor Yampolsky. She earned two Master of Music degrees, in piano and orchestral conducting, from the University of Southern California, where she studied piano with Norman Krieger, and conducting with Larry Livingston. She earned a Doctorate in orchestral conducting at the University of Kentucky, where she studied with John Nardolillo, and served as Assistant Conductor to the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra and University of Kentucky Opera Theatre.



## Program

***Serenade No. 13 in G Major, K. 525***      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
***“Eine Kleine Nachtmusik”***      (1756-1791)

*I. Allegro*

*II. Romanze: Andante*

*III. Menuetto: Allegretto*

*IV. Rondo: Allegro*

***Serenade for Strings in E Major, Op. 22***      Antonín Dvořák  
*I. Moderato*      (1910-1981)

*II. Tempo di Valse*

*III. Scherzo: Vivace*

*IV. Larghetto*

*V. Finale: Allegro Vivace*

***St. Paul's Suite in C Major, Op. 29, No. 2***      Gustav Holst  
*I. Jig*      (1874-1934)

*II. Ostinato*

*III. Intermezzo*

*IV. Finale (The Dargason)*

## Program Notes

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### **Eine Kleine Nachtmusik**

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

Although composed in Vienna, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (1787) recalls the several serenades Mozart wrote while in Salzburg. Having lost one of its five original movements, it now follows the patterns of a standard symphony. The expansive opening theme of the Allegro suggests a larger group than a quintet, and charms the listener with Mozart's coy, almost manipulative sense of symmetry. The suaveness spills over into the Romance, where a hesitant, sigh-filled melody is varied three times. The brevity of the Menuetto again reminds the listener that this is a serenade, in which dance movements are frequently shorter and more numerous. The work closes with a Rondo in Allegro tempo, which is an abridged sonata form full of Mozartean verve and dash

*(Note by Paul J. Horsley, edited by Meghan Griffin)*

Duration: 20 minutes

### **Serenade for Strings**

*Antonín Dvořák*

Just like delivering good news to someone has a positive rub-off effect on the messenger, performing Dvorak's Serenade is really a very therapeutic endeavor for performers. There is so much "pure goodness" in it. Somehow even the moments which could cast a gloomy shadow - light melancholy of the Waltz, or the fragility of the opening of Larghetto - retain the wonderfully cloudless atmosphere.

While the circumstances surrounding the creation of the work and the emotional content of the resulting composition far not always go hand in hand, in this particular instance they do. In the summer of 1874, the recently married Dvořáks were expecting their first child. Dvorak was employed as the organist at one of Prague's churches - a position which did not create any problems for getting qualifying papers from the City Hall, documenting his poverty. With these papers and a healthy stack of his recent scores, he applied for a government grant. A distinguished jury, which included Johannes Brahms, did not fail to recognize the "genuine and original gifts," and on their recommendation, the Minister of Culture presented Dvorak with the highest stipend available under this program. Little wonder that the announcement of this grant stimulated an outburst of creativity. And it was in this happy wave, that Serenade for Strings was completed in just 11 days.

*(Note by Misha Rachlevsky, edited by Meghan Griffin)*

Duration: 28 minutes

## **St. Paul's Suite**

*Gustav Holst*

In the earlier days of his career, Gustav Holst (1874-1934) struggled to earn a living as a full-time composer. In 1904, after holding an array of different teaching positions, he was appointed as Musical Director at St Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith. This became his biggest and longest teaching commitment he held in his lifetime. Luckily for Holst, in 1912 the new music wing of St Paul's was open for teaching, and the composer spent extra hours in there composing and using his creativity within music.

*St. Paul's Suite* was the first work to be composed in the room, with the name naturally paying homage to the building that Holst spent a large amount of time in. Arranged for string orchestra, Holst also wrote extra parts in if a full orchestra was necessary at the school. Comprised of four short movements the work is simple, straightforward and pleasing to the ear. Holst, like many of his British contemporaries, took inspiration from British folk songs, with each movement reflecting a different dance, genre or style.

*(Note by Alex Burns, edited by Meghan Griffin)*

Duration: 13 minutes

# Personnel

## VIOLINI

Daria Dodonova  
Caleb Kosinski  
Oliwia Cieslak  
Alex Eby  
Barb Lemmon+

## VIOLIN II

Ethan Schuller  
Michelle Lu  
Jazalyn Belz  
Itzel Mendoza  
Noelle Simms+  
Fred Moore+

## VIOLA

Isaiah Crews  
Julia Hilt  
Monique Isom  
Jonah Choi  
Robin Hurst  
Ella Escobedo+

## CELLO

Daria Van De Loo  
Kira Gurovich  
Kathryn Jefferson  
Jordan Bach  
Mars Mulvin

## BASS

Meghan Griffin  
Jasil Olabode  
John Lovingood

+indicates community member

## *Upcoming Concerts and Recitals*

### **March**

- 4 General Recital; 4:00pm; *virtual*
- 21 Tuba and Euphonium Studio Recital; *virtual*

### **April**

- 3 *Così fan tutte* performance; *virtual*
- 7 Student Composition Concert; *virtual*
- 11 Illinois Wesleyan Winds Concert; 7:45pm; *virtual*
- 12 Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Ensemble Concert; *virtual*
- 16 Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra Concert; 7:45pm; *virtual*
- 18 Spring Choral Concert; *virtual*

Link to performances available at  
[www.iwu.edu/music/events](http://www.iwu.edu/music/events)

*Thank you for joining us for this performance!*

**Ensemble Staff**

Meghan Griffin, *Librarian*



Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra



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For more information about the Illinois Wesleyan  
Symphony Orchestra, email [iwso@iwu.edu](mailto:iwso@iwu.edu).