



UNIVERSITY OF
Redlands
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PRESIDENT’S HONOR RECITAL

Thursday, February 22, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THE PRESIDENT’S HONOR RECITAL

Since 1983 the President’s Honor Recital has provided a public showcase for outstanding performers in the University of Redlands School of Music. The students performing on today’s concert are the winners of the 2023-2024 University of Redlands Conservatory of Music Auditions which were held in December 2023 and January 2024. All University students taking private lessons on an instrument or in voice with a Conservatory of Music faculty member are eligible to enter the annual competition.

PROGRAM

Fantaisie-Caprice, Op. 118 Charles-Edouard Lefebvre (1843-1917)

Derrick Williams, clarinet
Dr. Lara Urrutia, piano

Sonatine for Flute & Piano Henri Dutilleux (1916-2013)

Jair Lopez, flute
Sophie Tait, piano

Merlin for solo marimba Andrew Thomas (b. 1939)

Matthew Tashima, marimba

Violin Concerto, Op. 64 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

III. Allegretto non troppo

Ethan Vo, violin
Hanako Duffie, piano

"Senza mamma"
from *Suor Angelica*

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

"Song to the Moon"
from *Rusalka*

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Alexandra Muyshondt, soprano
Malcolm Swan, piano

Carmen Fantasy

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
arr. Ransom Wilson (b. 1951)

Christopher Figueroa, flute
Hanako Duffie, piano

Phoenix for French Horn & Orchestra Anthony DiLorenzo (b. 1967)

Jezreel Sanchez, french horn
Dr. Lara Urrutia, piano

ABOUT THE YOUNG ARTISTS



Derrick Williams, Clarinet

Derrick Williams is a first-year Master’s Student at the University of Redlands. A native of Miami, Florida, he obtained his Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University. Following the completion of his degree at FSU, Williams has dedicated the past 13 years teaching grades K-12 in both Florida and California. Recently, he achieved recognition as a quarter finalist for the 2024 Music Educator Grammy award.



Jair Lopez, Flute

Jair Lopez is currently in his fourth year studying at the University of Redlands Conservatory of Music majoring in Flute Performance under the mentorship of Sara Andon, Artist Teacher of Flute. Jair’s journey as a flutist began when he was very young after being encouraged by his grandmother to join band in elementary school. While he did not initially prioritize the flute and focused on other hobbies, continuing band into middle school at first

only to avoid P.E. class, he eventually developed a love and passion for music and continued into high school.

With encouragement from his family and high school private flute teacher Michelle Chavez, an alumna of the University of Redlands, Jair applied to the U of R Conservatory of Music. Highlighted accomplishments while at the University of Redlands include being awarded the Director's Award Scholarship, performing in the 2023 President's Honor Recital, being selected to play as a student substitute for the Redlands Symphony Orchestra, and having won the 2023 University of Redlands Concerto Competition. Jair has also participated in numerous master classes led by world-class flutists including Denis Bouriakov, principal flute of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

In addition to Jair's great passion for music, he also loves to draw cartoons and play video games including *Sonic the Hedgehog* and *Resident Evil*, and enjoys sitcoms such as *The Nanny* and animated series *Family Guy* and *King of the Hill*.

Future goals for Jair include going on to graduate school to further his music education, with the desire to become a teacher, wanting to share what he has learned to encourage the next generation of music students, as well as become an orchestral flutist, and studio musician to play on film scores and video games and more.

Jair will be performing his senior recital on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:00pm.



Matthew Tashima, Marimba

Matt Tashima '24 is pursuing an undergraduate degree in percussion performance. He has performed in almost all of the university's performance ensembles which include the wind ensemble, orchestra, theater orchestra, symphonic band, percussion ensemble, and others. He has also premiered a number of works for percussion by student composers Noah Parady and Paul Dempsey. Matt studies closely with Redlands Symphony principal percussionist, Yuri Inoo, as

well as Los Angeles Philharmonic principal percussionist, Matt Howard. He is also a marimba player for the indoor marching percussion group, Pulse Percussion. Matt plans to hone his craft throughout the rest of his years as a student until he becomes a professor of percussion at the university level, while also performing across the world.



Ethan Vo, Violin

Ethan Vo is a sophomore working towards his Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance at the University of Redlands under the guidance of Professor Sam Fischer. He is grateful to attend the University of Redlands with the Director's Award Scholarship. His musical journey started with the piano when he was five years old. However, when he was first introduced to the violin ten years ago, he fell in love with the soul-lifting sound of the instrument. From 2014-2022, Ethan studied with

violin professor Gary Hung from Cal State University of Fullerton. As a sophomore at the University of Redlands, Ethan is humbled and proud to be one of the finalists of the 2024 President's Honor Recital. He is currently a third chair of Violin I of the University of Redlands Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Co Nguyen.

Before the University of Redlands, Ethan had played for the Orange County Youth Symphony since 2019 and was a member of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association since middle school. Ethan has been fortunate to perform at prestigious Southern California venues such as the Musco Performing Arts Center and Segerstrom Concert Hall. He has attended several summer music festivals such as the Satori Music Summer Competition, CSUF Violin Summer Camp, Sewanee Music Festival, and the Montecito International Music Festival. In 2020, Ethan won 2nd place at the Satori String Competition.

Ethan's goals include playing for some of the prestigious orchestras and teaching violin in his private studio to pass on his musical talent and knowledge to future musicians.



Alexandra Muyschondt, Soprano

Alexandra Muyschondt was born in Miami, Florida to her family from El Salvador. She was raised in Santa Monica, California where she began her studies in choir as a young middle schooler. At age 14 she performed at Carnegie Hall conducted by Sally Allbrecht. At Santa Monica High School she flourished under conductor Jeffe Huls and performed as both Alto and Soprano as well as section leader. She was part of the last choir to

perform live at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris the day before the historic fire. She is a two time award finalist for the Kiwanis Music Competition, and recipient of the Bel Canto award at Santa Monica High School. At the University of Redlands, she is a member of the Chapel Singers directed by Dr. Nicholle Andrews. She has thrived at the Conservatory of Music, most recently performing as Gretel in Humperdinck's Hänsel and

Gretel under the direction of Cindy Snyder. She has been her happiest at UofR and she hopes she can continue to be a part of this prodigious family for many years to come!



Christopher Figueroa, Flute

From Pomona, California, Christopher started their music journey in the fourth grade when they decided to play trumpet in the beginning band ensemble in elementary school. It was through that program that Christopher found their love for music through the encouragement of their teacher as well as their mom.

In high school, Christopher received many awards such as Most Improved Musician, Outstanding Leadership, the John Philip Sousa Award, as well as being in several executive leadership positions including Section Leader and Assistant Drum Major. However, Christopher soon found their passion for yet another instrument, the flute. Before their final year of high school, Christopher committed to switching to flute. The flute inspired their love for music in a new way. Constantly hearing the flute's beautiful, melodic lines in orchestral and film scores motivated Christopher to pursue the instrument into higher education.

They only started receiving lessons once they reached the University of Redlands with Artist Teacher, Sara Andon, and she has helped them grow exponentially as a musician. Christopher has received a Bachelor's of Music in Music Performance at the University, and is continuing their education with their Master's of Music in Music Performance. During their time here, they have earned a student sub-seat for the Redlands Symphony Orchestra, has been a finalist for the President's Honor Recital and Concerto Competition, has participated in the Redlands Flute Festival and several masterclasses, has been initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota and earned the Sigma Alpha Iota Performance Award, as well as being principal flutist for the University of Redlands Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. While being an instrumentalist, Christopher has also been dedicated to the choral program, being in Chapel Singers and even being a featured soloist in the 2023 Feast of Lights.

Christopher aspires to receive their Doctorate in Performance to become an educator at the collegiate level and be able to address the socioeconomic inequalities in music education and be a mentor for minorities in music.



Jezreel Sanchez, French Horn

Jezreel Sanchez is a native Southern Californian and proud Chicana. She has performed with the Redlands Symphony Orchestra for the '23/'24 season as assistant horn and fourth horn, the Inland Master Chorale in 2023, and the California State University, San Bernardino Orchestra for their performance in South Korea in 2019.

Jezreel aspires to play in movie soundtracks as well as continue to pursue solo work and inspire Latino horn players. Her junior recital shed light on the lack of Latino composed horn repertoire. She has made it a lifelong goal to cultivate this community as well as encourage young musicians to expand their research in recital programming.

She is currently pursuing her Masters degree with Adam Wolf at the University of Redlands, where she also completed her Bachelor of Music in 2023. In her free time, Jezreel loves to volunteer at her church playing bass on the worship team. Her other passions include flamenco and travel.

Jezreel would like to thank and acknowledge her family and friends for all their support and guidance, the UoR horn studio from 2019-2023, and Adam Wolf for creating a wonderful atmosphere here at Redlands.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

UPCOMING EVENTS

Defiant Requiem

Saturday, March 16 | 8:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel



The signature concert of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín, tells the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín) during World War II who performed Verdi's Requiem while experiencing the depths of human degradation. With only a single smuggled score, they performed the celebrated masterpiece sixteen times, including one performance before senior SS officials from Berlin and an International Red Cross delegation. Conductor Rafael Schächter told the choir, "We will sing to the Nazis what we cannot say to them."

Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín is a concert-drama that was conceived and created by Foundation President, Maestro Murry Sidlin. It combines the magnificent music of Verdi with video testimony from survivors of the original Terezín chorus and footage from the 1944 Nazi propaganda film about Theresienstadt. The performance also includes actors who speak the words of imprisoned conductor Rafael Schächter and others.

Defiant Requiem is not just a performance of the Verdi Requiem, but a tribute to the inspired leadership of Rafael Schächter who was forced to reconstitute the choir three times as members were transported to Auschwitz. The performances came to symbolize resistance and defiance and demonstrated the prisoners' courage to confront the worst of mankind with the best of mankind. Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín is powerful, dramatic and inspirational.

Jazz Improvisation Ensemble

Tuesday, March 19 | 8:00 p.m. | Frederick Loewe Performane Hall

Vocal Jazz Concert

Sunday, March 24 | 7:00 p.m. | University Hall

Studio Big Band

Wednesday, March 27 | 8:00 p.m. | Casa Loma Room

For a complete calendar of Conservatory of Music Events visit
www.redlands.edu/music

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the land of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples, and we acknowledge the important contributions of this community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. The University of Redlands Conservatory of Music is committed to continuing to learn about the land we inhabit, the people who have been displaced from this land, and building community with its original caretakers.