

Lamont School of Music

Lamont Symphony Orchestra

Bryant Denmark, Conductor
Ke-Yuan Hsin, Conductor
Maggie Sczekan, Soprano

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
7:30 p.m.
June Swaner Gates Concert Hall



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER



Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts

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Program

Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

Johann Strauss II
(1825-1889)

Passacaglia from *Peter Grimes*

Benjamin Britten
(1936-1976)

Dances in the Canebrakes

Florence Price
(1887-1953)

- I. Nimble Feet
- II. Tropical Noon
- III. Silk Hat and Walking Cane

orch. William Grant Still

Intermission

Knoxville: Summer of 1915

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Maggie Sczekan, Soprano

Dedicated to Bernard Sczekan, Algui Aréchiga, June and Charles Pinnell, and anyone you may be missing tonight.

**Symphony No. 64 in A Major
“Tempora Mutantur”**

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

- I. Allegro con spirito
- II. Largo
- III. Menuet. Allegretto
- IV. Finale. Presto

LSO Roster 2025

Violin I

Alayna McNeil
Auty Scherden
Calvin Luo
Annabelle Linke
Cesar Reyes Ceniceros
Madelyn Munley
Sarina Paolini
Grace Olivier
Collin Hartman

Viola

Sebastian Saiz-Harrison
Gregory Moix
Ansel Klucsor
Veronica Gil Amarista
Elidi Clark
Anya Valadez
Baron Balfour

Bass

Merritt Silfer
Ronan Caci-Kukelka
Justine Barrera
Dominic Smallwood
Ashley White
Joia Masse

Flute/ Piccolo*

Ellie Colson*
Ivy Cuda*
Katherine Neisen
Sarah Hutchings

Oboe/ English Horn*

Rosy Barba*, Co-Principal
Gabby Gillespie, Co-Principal
Júlia Ribeiro

Violin II

Timoteo Cruz-Leyva
Breanna Lee
Ju-Young Kim
Joshua Wyly
Daniela Pacheco Gomez
Kate Kaczmarek
Bohan Hou
Melissa Monjaraas
Idil Olgar

Cello

Richard Jones
Hudson Schill
Ian Emmer
Bethany Hovermale
Jaxon Cox
Molly Urbon-Bonine
Kristian Dillon
Katreia Mori

Harp

Mia Butler
Alex Wong
Anastasia Arango

Keyboard

Runqi Duan

Bassoon/ Contrabassoon*

Luca Dovalina
Phillip Aleshire
Timothy Norrad*

Clarinet/ Bass Clarinet*

Mason Sangster
Timothy Coffey*

Trumpet

Andrew Kagerer
Isabella DeRollo
Eviatar Shlosberg

Trombone

Nathan Smith
Antonio Ricafort
Gianni Milano

Tuba

Sam Funk

Orchestra Manager

Ke-Yuan Hsin

Librarian

Bryant Denmark

Horn

Zachary Regin
Katelyn Marsh
Cooper Donley

Trombone

Nathan Smith
Antonio Ricafort
Gianni Milano

Percussion

Adria Shields
Jakob Garcia
Tres Salas

LSO Assistant

Auty Scherden

Program Notes

Knoxville: Summer of 1915

We are talking now of summer evenings in Knoxville, Tennessee in the time that I lived there so successfully disguised to myself as a child.

... It has become that time of evening when people sit on their porches, rocking gently and talking gently and watching the street and the standing up into their sphere of possession of the trees, of birds' hung havens, hangars. People go by; things go by. A horse, drawing a buggy, breaking his hollow iron music on the asphalt: a loud auto: a quiet auto: people in pairs, not in a hurry, scuffling, switching their weight of aestival body, talking casually, the taste hovering over them of vanilla, strawberry, pasteboard, and starched milk, the image upon them of lovers and horsemen, squared with clowns in hueless amber. A streetcar raising its iron moan; stopping; belling and starting, stertorous; rousing and raising again its iron increasing moan and swimming its gold windows and straw seats on past and past and past, the bleak spark crackling and cursing above it like a small malignant spirit set to dog its tracks; the iron whine rises on rising speed; still risen, faints; halts; the faint stinging bell; rises again, still fainter; fainting, lifting, lifts, faints foregone: forgotten. Now is the night one blue dew.

Now is the night one blue dew, my father has drained, he has coiled the hose.

Low on the length of lawns, a frailling of fire who breathes...

Parents on porches: rock and rock. From damp strings morning glories hang their ancient faces.

The dry and exalted noise of the locusts from all the air at once enchants my eardrums.

On the rough wet grass of the back yard my father and mother have spread quilts. We all lie there, my mother, my father, my uncle, my aunt, and I too am lying there.... They are not talking much, and the talk is quiet, of nothing in particular, of nothing at all in particular, of nothing at all. The stars are wide and alive, they seem each like a smile of great sweetness, and the seem very near. All my people are larger bodies than mine,... with voices gentle and meaningless like the voices of sleeping birds. One is an artist, he is living at home. One is a musician, she is living at home. One is my mother who is good to me. One is my father who is good to me. By some chance, here they are, all on this earth; and who shall ever tell the sorrow of being on this earth, lying, on quilts, on the grass, in a summer evening, among the sounds of the night. May God bless my people, my uncle, my aunt, my mother, my good father, oh, remember them kindly in their time of trouble; and in the hour of their taking away.

After a little I am taken in and put to bed. Sleep, soft smiling, draws me unto her; and those receive me, who quietly treat me, as one familiar and well-beloved in that home: but will not, oh, will not, not now, not ever; but will not ever tell me who I am.

- James Agee

Biographies

Bryant Denmark is a conductor with a diverse background spanning symphonic, choral, contemporary music, and musical theatre. Originally from Tennessee, he began his musical journey studying violin and voice, developing a deep appreciation for large ensemble collaboration. He remains active as an instrumentalist, frequently performing in orchestras and chamber ensembles.

Bryant earned his Bachelor of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the Mannes School of Music, where he worked extensively with the Mannes Orchestra, Mannes Opera, Mannes Composers Ensemble, and New School Community Orchestra. He was also named the Julius Rudel Conducting Fellow in partnership with the Buffalo Philharmonic in 2022. Following his time at Mannes, Bryant worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a score reader for video productions. In summer 2025, Bryant was awarded the Cascade Conducting Fellowship at Orquesta Northwest's Cascade Masterclass. Throughout his years as a conductor, Bryant has received mentorship from JoAnn Falletta, Sarah Ioannides, Lawrence Golan, Scott O'Neil, David Hayes, Diane Wittry, Anna Edwards, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and Ankush Kumar Bahl.

Currently pursuing his Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at the Lamont School of Music, Bryant continues to refine his artistry and leadership on the podium. Bryant also works as the associate conductor of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra. Bryant's main goals as a conductor include engaging with as many living composers as possible, uncovering neglected orchestral works from the 20th century, and fostering community between orchestras and audiences. His passion for music is driven by a commitment to facilitating meaningful collaboration with musicians and creating compelling, empathic performances that engage audiences and spread joy.

Ke-Yuan Hsin is a Taiwanese conductor who received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin. He currently serves as Cover Conductor of the Colorado Symphony, Associate Conductor of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Yakima Symphony Orchestra, and Boulder Symphony. He also appears as a guest conductor with the Symphony of the Rockies. From 2019 to 2024, he served as Music Director of the University of Texas University Orchestra. Since 2022, he has appeared frequently as a guest conductor with the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra, leading more than thirteen performances, one

of which was recognized with Third Prize in the 2025 American Prize in Orchestral Conducting.

Ke-Yuan has been recognized internationally as a semi-finalist in conducting competitions including the Khachaturian International Conducting Competition in Armenia and the Lliria City of Music International Conducting Competition in Spain. He has collaborated with orchestras across Europe, Asia, and North America, including the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, and the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine.

As an international artist and conductor, Ke-Yuan has given masterclasses and presentations throughout the United States and abroad, and has conducted professionally in numerous states and countries. His primary mentors include Farkhad Khudyev, Douglas Kinney Frost, and Paul Chiang, with additional guidance from Riccardo Muti, Daniele Gatti, Carl St. Clair, Luciano Acocella, Jerry Junkin, Larry Rachleff, Donald Schleicher, Rodney Winther, Yan Huichang, Apo Hsu, and Tsung Yeh.

Maggie Sczekan, soprano and storyteller, is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She is currently pursuing her master's degree at the Lamont School of Music in Denver, Colorado, where she was recently featured as Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas* and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*. She was last seen on the operatic stage as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Prague Summer Nights program. Other favorite roles include Despina in *Cosi fan tutte* (with Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance program in NYC) and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* (with Eklund Opera in Boulder, CO). A lover of chamber music, she recently performed as soloist for Bach's *Weichert nur cantata* with the Lamont Baroque Orchestra and will perform as the soprano soloist for Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with the Lamont Symphony Orchestra in February. In March 2026, she will feature music in Czech, German, Hebrew, Norwegian, and Polish in recital. Later this spring she will perform the dual roles of Narrator and Desdemona in the chamber opera *Telaio: Desdemona*. Maggie has also been seen on the largest professional stages for musical theatre in the Denver region, covering and presenting lead roles and appearing with the Denver Center, Arvada Center, Lone Tree Arts Center, and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. When she's not on stage she can be found teaching piano and voice, taking ballet, or reading fiction at her favorite pho restaurant.



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Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Clarinet Studio Recital

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free admission

Friday February 6, 2:30 p.m.

Winter Convocation with guest Vijay Gupta

Gates Concert Hall

Free admission, ticket not required

Friday February 6, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital Series: Linda Wang, violin & friends

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$12, \$3 fee to purchase online, free for students and faculty

Wednesday February 11, 7:30 p.m.

Lamont Wind Ensemble

Gates Concert Hall

\$5 for reserved parterre seats, or FREE general admission, \$3 fee to purchase online

Friday February 13, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital Series: Heidi Melton & Sahar Nouri

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$12, \$3 fee to purchase online, free for students and faculty

Wednesday March 4, 7:30 p.m.

Lamont Symphony Orchestra & Choirs

Gates Concert Hall

\$5 for reserved parterre seats, or FREE general admission, \$3 fee to purchase online

Saturday March 7, 7:30 p.m.

String Chamber Ensembles

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free admission

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Full events list: liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/performances-events



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