

Alliance Symphony ORCHESTRA

Back Together Again

Sunday, October 10, 2021, 3 p.m.

Brush Performance Hall

Giese Center for the Performing Arts



Remembering Craig Henschen

Craig Henschen grew up in a household full of the joy of music. His mother was well-known harpist, Dorothy Henschen, who taught harp at Mount Union, Akron University, Malone and Walsh for almost fifty years. Craig and his two brothers, Mark and Ross, enjoyed going to Cope (now the Giese Center for the



Performing Arts); they had the run of the building while Dorothy was teaching harp. The brothers got along well and enjoyed each other's company. They loved the full-size player piano that held a prominent position in their home while growing up. They played the pump rolls continually for hours. It was a great source of entertainment well into their lives as adults when they would return home for holiday visits.

The eldest son of Charles & Dorothy, Craig had a natural talent for music and could play just about any musical instrument -- piano, flute, clarinet, although his life-long favorite was the saxophone of which he had a collection of all different sizes. A 1968 graduate of Alliance High School, Craig played in the AHS Marching Band under the direction of John Weitzel during the "Days of Glory." He founded his first group in high school, The Night-Life Quartet, and in later years the Kool Knights Band.

Craig took flying lessons, soloed at the age of 16, and was one of those unique teenagers who earned his private pilot's license before his driver's license. After graduation from The Ohio State University - ROTC Program, Craig served in the US Air Force as a Military Officer and retired in 1993 after 21 years of service to his country. Craig was proud of his beautiful family including his wife, Susan, their two daughters, Amy and Amanda, three grandchildren, Jacob, Bergen and Benjamin, and nieces and nephews.

Craig returned to Alliance after he retired and joined the ASO Board filling his mother's vacancy on the Board of Directors in 1997, and a year later, was



elected as President of the Board, a position he held for 23 years. He also enjoyed being a member of the Alliance Big Band.

Thank you, Craig. Your quiet contribution, support and dedication to the Alliance Symphony Orchestra, promoting a true cultural gem in Alliance, will always be appreciated.

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The Program

Anniversary Fanfare
Jeffrey Cruz Williams
(b. 1995)

Elegie for Cello and Orchestra, Op. 24
Molly Muckleroy, cello
Gabriel Fauré
(1845—1924)

Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 25
Andantino semplice – Prestissimo – Tempo I
Jenna Hoffman, piano
Peter Tchaikovsky
(1840—1893)

Change
Jeffrey Cruz Williams

Intermission

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 66
Allegro maestoso
(1810—1849)
Larghetto
Rondo Vivace
Frédéric Chopin

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80
Johannes Brahms
(1833—1897)

The Alliance Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

**Bohdan Subchak
(Peter Synnestvedt
Memorial Chair)
Linda Dragomir
Susan Nupp
Georgene Recchio
Brooklyn Smith
Ali Williams
Katerina Wuchnick

Violin II

*Susan Haddox
Emily Becker
Alexandra Cox
Patty Criss
Kollin Klingler
Savannah Kole
Andrew McMillen
Samantha Murphey
Benjamin Wykoff

Viola

*Cathy Hill
Dylaina Campbell
Max Dudack
Jennifer Henry
Reagan Kole
Jerry Miskell
Hunter Powell

Cello

*Molly Muckleroy
Linda Adler
Elaine Anderson
Arianna Bloom
Deborah Martin
Lance Tomasko

Bass

*Alan Purdum
Lindsey Nicholson

Flute/Piccolo

*Brianna Gaskins
Lisa Price
Aleana Smiley

Oboe/English Horn

*Betty Shultz
Leann Rich

Clarinet

*Christopher Jones
BilliJo Byram

Bassoon

*Ian Bell
TBA

French Horn

*Lori Burse
Katy Borland
Amanda deFays
Heather Shive

Trumpet

*Brian Burse
Thomas Gaskins
Alan Howenstine

Trombone

*Mike Montgomery
Matt Stemple
Bo Violette

Tuba

*Jonathon Stuck

Percussion

*Cody L. Liska
*Victor Lee
Tim Topoly
Patrick Burse

Orchestra Manager

Cynthia Kreiner

Orchestra Assistants

Tim Topoly
Members of Mu Phi
Epsilon including
Natalie Kaufman,
Benjamin Wykoff,
Noah Stewart, Kollin
Klingler
**Concertmaster
*Principal

The Conductor



Eric Benjamin has served as music director of the Alliance Symphony since the 2010-2011 season. He graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with degrees in music education and orchestral conducting and began his professional conducting career as resident conductor of the Akron Symphony. He also serves as music director of the Tuscarawas Philharmonic and has appeared as guest conductor with orchestras in Canton, Columbus, Cleveland, Wooster and Erie, PA. Active as a composer and arranger, his works have been performed by orchestras nationally.

Mr. Benjamin is a committed educator and has taught music at the elementary, secondary, and college level. He has directed youth orchestras in Akron, Canton and Cleveland and has appeared as guest conductor at numerous student music festivals. "I love to engineer interactions between young people and music - events that hook up scholarship, creativity, performance, and achievement with that electric current that makes a student want to do music in the first place."

Featured Composer and Soloist

Jeffrey Cruz is a songwriter, arranger and musician from Cleveland, Ohio. He studied classical piano at the University of Mount Union and went on to receive a master's degree at Youngstown State University while studying composition. Jeffrey draws inspiration from artists such as Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and Kendrick Lamar. By using fun grooves and story telling lyrics; he aspires to write music that motivates, resonates, and empathizes with whoever the listener may be.



The Soloists

Jenna Hoffman graduated from Mount Union in May of 2020 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. She loves teaching piano lessons to about 40 students in her home studio in Canton, Ohio. In addition to teaching, she enjoys sharing music with others by playing in the community and serving as the music director for Church of the Covenant in Canton. She is



currently the president of the Stark County Music Teachers' Association. When not playing the piano, she pursues many other hobbies including gardening and sewing, as well as spending time with her pets.

Cellist **Molly Muckleroy**, a senior majoring in biology and minoring in music, is a native of Uniontown, Ohio and a 2018 graduate of Hoover High School. Molly comes from a family of professional musicians that includes her parents, an aunt and several cousins. She began studying cello at the age of five, first with Katie Griesinger, then continuing with Miles Richardson and Milena Albrecht. Her orchestral experience includes two years as principal cellist of the Canton Youth Symphony, as well as two



years with the Akron Youth Symphony. Richardson and Milena Albrecht. Her orchestral experience includes two years as principal cellist of the Canton Youth Symphony, as well as two years with the Akron Youth Symphony. Molly is also a four-year member of the Mount Union swim team. She currently studies cello with Dr. Elaine Anderson. Her future plans include attending physician assistant school next year and becoming a practicing physician assistant.

The Soloists



Currently a professor of music at the University of Mount Union, Maira Liliestedt received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Bowling Green State University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where she studied with Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff. In addition to numerous academic awards, Liliestedt has twice been the recipient of the prestigious Presser Music Award. Active as a performer, pedagogue, and adjudicator, Liliestedt maintains a regular schedule of solo, chamber, and concerto performances. Her performances of the Liszt First Piano Concerto were received enthusiastically; in conductor Eric Benjamin's words: "hearing Maira Liliestedt play [this concerto] is like watching an Indy race driver take the car out for a spin."

Recently, Liliestedt presented solo and violin/piano recitals at many universities in the Midwest and abroad, as well as duo and solo concerto performances. Her recent and upcoming engagements include solo recitals featuring Bach's B-flat Major Partita and the Liszt B Minor Sonata, orchestral collaboration on Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, and Appassionata Piano Duo work on Brahms's complete Hungarian Dances.

Since 1996, she has been a member of the Appassionata Piano Duo, a successful musical partnership with pianist Janelle Phinney. The ensemble has garnered praise for its "wonderful ensemble, balance, and unity of purpose," and its "terrific collaboration full of grace and passion." The duo's playing has been described as "a warm and deft joining of palpable grace with flawless, often fiery technique," displaying a "riveting, lucid finesse alternately muscular and delicate."

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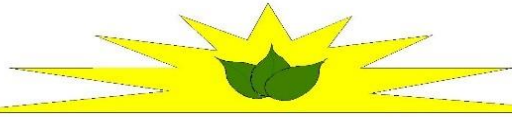
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Alliance Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Mission, Our Passion

The mission of the Alliance Symphony Association is to foster and promote musical appreciation and understanding through orchestral performance and other educational activities to benefit its audience, performers, and the greater Alliance community.

Exciting things are happening in the arts in Alliance, Ohio. The Alliance Symphony Orchestra is proud to be a part of it all, from performances during the Greater Alliance Carnation Festival to our role as the resident orchestra at the Giese Center for the Performing Arts.

The ASO seeks more opportunities to enhance the community of Alliance through education and music performance. Even though we utilize volunteer musicians, our average concert costs around \$3000 to produce. Please consider becoming a financial supporter of our work to bring you Alliance's artistic and educational best.

There are many ways to support the Alliance Symphony.

Do you appreciate the ASO? We can always use new ideas and volunteers to help us in our mission. Please reach out to a board member if you would like to become involved. In order to continue to thrive and grow, we also need financial support to further our mission. Please consider opportunities for corporate and individual support. For more information on charitable giving, please visit us at <http://www.alliancesymphony.org/about-aso/join-the-friends-of-the-aso/>

Besides presenting concerts, our orchestra has recently commissioned new music for the occasion of Mount Union's 175th anniversary. Another project we are supporting is utilizing the Mount Union Preparatory Division and University of Mount Union music faculty members to provide private music instruction to students involved in the symphony. If you would like to provide a private lesson scholarship to a student, please reach out to Elaine Anderson at andersem@mountunion.edu for more information.

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The Alliance Symphony Orchestra would like to THANK YOU for your generous support; it ensures that we can continue to provide the highest-quality music programs to our area's residents. Less than a third of the symphony's costs are covered by ticket sales. Please consider making a tax-deductible [donation](#) to support our programs and have a lasting impact on your Symphony and the Alliance community.

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Save the Dates for our 32nd Season!

October 10, 2021, ASO Concert, Brush Performance Hall 3 p.m.

April 24, 2022, ASO Concert, UMU's Brush Performance Hall 3 p.m.