

# UBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Jonathan Girard, Director of Orchestras

**Chan Shun Concert Hall, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts  
Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 • 7:30 p.m.**

Bramwell Tovey  
(1953 - 2022)

Sky Chase

Pixinguinha  
(Alfredo da Rocha Viana Filho)  
(1897 - 1973)

Carinhoso, arr. J. Girard  
Alan Matheson, flugelhorn

Ernani Aguiar  
(b. 1950)

Sinfonietta Prima (Canadian première)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Lento assai (arrastado) Marcha-Rancho
- III. Vivace

**~ Intermission ~**

Antonín Dvořák  
(1841 - 1904)

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegretto grazioso - Molto vivace
- IV. Allegro ma non troppo

*We are gathered together for this event on the traditional, ancestral, and occupied territory of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm-speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) peoples.*

# University of British Columbia Symphony Orchestra

## Violin I

Grace M. Alexander\*  
*Plains, MT, USA; MMus '26*

Hilary Chan  
*Vancouver, BC; BMus '28*

Jocelyn Chui  
*Vancouver, BC; BMus '26*

Marina Hoffman  
*Oakland, CA, USA; BSc '26*

Nadya Nuyen  
*Surrey, BC; BMus '26*

Galland Chan  
*Burnaby, BC; BA '28*

Vickie Wang  
*Vancouver, BC; BSc '27*

Ryan Howland  
*Victoria, BC, Canada; BSc '27*

Nina Huang  
*Surrey, BC, Canada; BA '29*

Matteya Lee  
*Vancouver, BC; BMus '27*

Adrienne Marcano  
*Caracas, Venezuela; BMus '27*

Kaylee Yoong  
*Surrey, BC; BSc '26*

Anali Delshadi  
*Tehran, Iran; BSc '26*

Christie Watts  
*Winnipeg, MB; BMus '27*

Sam Daniel  
*Ottawa, ON, Canada; BMus '29*

## Violin II

Yu-Jen Hsin\*  
*Surrey, BC, Canada; MMus '27*

Yuika Ravindran  
*Vancouver, BC; BMus '27*

Alesha Chan  
*Richmond, BC, Canada; BMus '29*

Ranen Wiebe  
*Chilliwack, BC; BSc '28*

Amy Chen  
*Surrey, BC; BMus '27*

Betty He  
*Beijing, China; BMus, '28*

Evan Jung  
*Calgary, AB, Canada; BSc, '29*

Nancie Wu  
*Surrey, BC; BMus '28*

Amanda Chin  
*Coquitlam, BC; BMus '28*

Rowan Beiser-Hunt  
*Toronto, ON, Canada; BMus '29'*

Horace Yuen  
*Richmond, BC, Canada; BMus '29*

Eric Hu  
*Ottawa, ON, Canada; BSc '28*

Lucy Moon  
*Langley, BC; BMus '26*

Adrina Khakdoost  
*Vancouver, BC, Canada BMus '29*

Adron Tam  
*North Vancouver, BC; BMus '28*

## Viola

Sofiya Zavydovska\*  
*Salem, OR, USA; BMus '26*

Maia Forsyth  
*Calgary, AB; DMP '26*

Andrew Llamas  
*The Woodlands, TX, USA; BMus '28*

Cassandra Feltrin  
*Port Coquitlam, BC; BPSc '28*

Sofie (Kyueun) Sun  
*Langley, BC, Canada; BMus '29*

Alyx Triebel  
*Olympia, WA, USA; BMus '29*

Cat DeMello  
*Vancouver, BC; BMus '27*

Pin Yi Hu  
*Coquitlam, BC, Canada; BMus '29*

Jonah Cheung  
*Burnaby, BC, Canada; BSc '29*

## **Violoncello**

Julian Lee De Vita\*  
Vancouver, BC; MMus '27

Fay Wang  
Toronto, ON; BA '29

Natalie Chin  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '27

Kai Segal  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '26

Gavin Wang  
Richmond, BC; BMus '27

Alex Tuppurainen  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BMus '29

Giada Geherin  
Albuquerque, NM, USA; BMus '29

Wei-An Wang  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '28

Violet Wood  
Langley, BC, Canada; BMus '29

Hailey Kim  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BMus '29

Yi Pan  
Richmond, BC, Canada; BMus '29

Carl Lemer  
Vancouver, BC; BMus, BSc '28

## **Bass**

Jennifer Chu\*  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; DMA '29

Vivian Xu  
Nanjing, China; BMus '27

Nicholas Covaser  
West Kelowna, BC, Canada; BSc '30

Xander Delisle  
Vancouver, BC; BSc '27

Noah Alejandro Ferrera-  
Palchinski  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; MMus '27

Tony Zhou  
Burnaby BC, Canada; BCom '29

Lukas Schmidt  
Calgary, AB, Canada; BMus '26

## **Flute & Piccolo**

Smile Chow\*  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '27

Sulola Amani  
Vancouver, BC; BSc, BMus '28

Gregor Gasovic-Varga, *piccolo*  
New Westminster, BC; BMus '26

## **Oboe & English Horn**

Tina Chen\*  
Shanghai, China; BMus '26

Sayako Leznoff, *English horn*  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '26

## **Clarinet**

Francis Sadleir\*  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BMus '26

Aaron McDonald  
Joplin, MO, USA; DMA '27

Jichen Wang  
Dalian, China; MMus '26

## **Bassoon**

Connor Smith\*  
Littleton, Colorado; BMus '27

Alison Wong  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BSc '28

## **Horn**

Jeremy Solomon\*  
Vancouver, BC Canada; BMus '27

Otis M. Peake  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BMus '28

Eric Liu  
Vancouver, BC, Canada; BMus '29

Adam Nguyen\*  
Surrey, BC, Canada; BMus '28

## **Trumpet**

Lamby Si Yi Wu\*  
Port Moody, BC; DMPS '26

Lucas Jung  
Vancouver, BC; BMus '28

Benjamin Li\*  
Coquitlam, BC, Canada; BMus '26

## **Trombone**

Joel Kim\*  
Surrey, BC, Canada; BMus '28

Nicholas Hoshida  
Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA; BMus '29

## **Bass Trombone**

Pengqiu Zhang  
Shanghai, China; Unclassified

## **Tuba**

Alexander Gibson\*  
Maple Ridge, BC, Canada; BMus '29

## **Percussion**

William Huang\*, *timpani*  
Calgary, AB; BMus '27

Jerry Wang  
Vancouver, Canada; BMus '27

Matthew Lew  
Surrey, BC, Canada; BMus, BEd '27

Alisa Carter  
Portland, OR, USA; BA '26

## **UBCSO Staff**

Simón Ramírez Ortiz  
Assistant conductor  
Medellín, Colombia; MMus '26

Chengyu Zhang  
Assistant conductor  
Shanghai, China; MMus '27

Logan Lambert *librarian*

Matteya Lee, *librarian*

Jeremy Solomon, *librarian*

Nadya Nuyen, *stage manager*

Connor Smith, *stage manager*

\* denotes principal player



**Jonathan Girard** is known for his generous, sophisticated conducting and his boundless enthusiasm, on and off the podium. In the kaleidoscope of orchestral sound, he emphasizes structure, colour, and nuance.

He serves as the Director of Orchestras at the University of British Columbia and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. Girard is also the Principal Guest Conductor of the Athens Philharmonic in Greece and has guest conducted around the world. He recently made his debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and more recently returned from leading concerts in South America. Previously, he held positions with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (NY), Portland Opera Repertory Theatre (ME), and the Ohio Light Opera.

Girard is passionate about designing innovative projects involving orchestral improvisation, visual arts, climate data, and groundbreaking technology. Notable projects include Slippages, a work combining ink drawings and data from the movement of glaciers, and Kamoi Komachi, a Noh opera by Farshid Samandari integrating Japanese and Western classical music instruments and styles.

He champions new and little-performed works, particularly by women and underrepresented composers, and has offered Canadian and North American premieres of works by Kaija Saariaho and Ana Sokolović, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Óscar Navarro, Florence Price, Arvo Pärt, Francis Poulenc, and others.

Girard's work has been featured on TV on The National in Canada and broadcast on NPR (US), the CBC (Canada), and on four commercial recordings of works by Dorothy Chang, Stephen Chatman, Emmerich Kálmán, and others.

He believes in the power of orchestral music to create and share beauty that changes lives, and devotes significant time to advocating and working in music education. He has become internationally known for his conducting pedagogy and has now trained many successful emerging conductors with professional positions across the US and Canada. He has led youth orchestras across the continent and maintains a significant presence at festivals, clinics, and masterclasses across the Pacific Northwest. He led the Massachusetts All-State Orchestra during the pandemic years and served as conducting faculty at summer festivals including the Vancouver Symphony Orchestral Institute and the Marrowstone Music Festival.

Girard holds a DMA in orchestral conducting from the Eastman School of Music, an M.M. from Boston University, and a B.Mus. summa cum laude from the Hartt School of Music.

Off the podium, he takes to the skies as a pilot with multi-engine and instrument ratings. Flying mirrors music: discipline becomes freedom, precision becomes adventure, and practice becomes poetry.

Learn more at [www.jonathangirard.com](http://www.jonathangirard.com)



**Alan Matheson** is a Vancouver-based pianist, trumpeter, composer and arranger. He teaches at the University of British Columbia School of Music, where he is an instructor in jazz piano and trumpet and at the Vancouver Symphony School of Music where he lectures in jazz history and teaches jazz piano and trumpet. Alan also taught for over thirty years at the Vancouver Community College School of Music (trumpet, jazz history, jazz piano and jazz ensembles). He is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and studied with Vincent Cichowicz. Alan has also studied composition with Stephen Chatman and trumpet with Barbara Butler, Joe Newman and Clark Terry. Alan also leads his own big band, nonet, septet and trio and has written arrangements for jazz legends Clark Terry and Bud

Shank.

As well, Alan has conducted big band tributes to Duke Ellington, Paul Whiteman and Louis Armstrong. He has also performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Louis Bellson and Phil Woods.

Alan's compositions have been performed by Julia Nolan (saxophone), Sal Ferreras (percussion), David Palmer (pipe organ) and Martin Hackelman (horn). His arrangements for big band have been performed by the Tulane University Jazz Ensemble and the Northwestern University Jazz Ensemble. Alan's first CD, "Intrada", was released in 2004, and his CDs "Duetti" and "Summer Evening" (recorded in Finland with bassist Wade Mikkola) were released in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Alan's septet was featured along with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra at the 2016 Vancouver International Jazz Festival, where they premiered Alan's composition "Chaconne" for baroque and jazz chamber ensembles. In December 2017, Alan and bassist Wade Mikkola released a new CD ("Souvenirs") celebrating the music of the esteemed Finnish composers Jean Sibelius, Toivo Kärki, Erik Lindström and George de Godzinsky. The Vancouver Cantata Singers premiered Alan's most recent choral compositions, "Metsä" and "Vuodenajat" (with text by Riina Tamm) in May 2019. Since 2008, Alan has also been a regular instructor at the Otava, Finland "Classic Jazz Camp" and has performed in Helsinki with saxophonist Juli Wood and Wade Mikkola at the Storyville Jazz Club.

His composition "For The Sun's Return," written in collaboration with lyricist Riina Tamm, was premiered in December 2022 by vocalist Jennifer Scott (in the "No Chamber" music series, North Vancouver, B.C.) In 2023, Alan released a new recording with Wade Mikkola, "Rainy Night in Helsinki" which is available on Spotify and Apple Music. Alan recently appeared with the Porvoo (Finland) Big Band as a guest soloist in July 2025 and is looking forward to being a guest soloist with the UBC Symphony Orchestra this evening.

# PROGRAMME NOTES

Compiled by Simón Ramírez Ortiz and Chengyu Zhang

## **Sky Chase - Bramwell Tovey**

The late composer and conductor **Bramwell Tovey** (1953-2022) wrote *Sky Chase* for Maestro Roger Cole and the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017. The work captures the drama of the Coquihalla Highway, one of the most spectacular features of the journey through the Rockies between Banff, Alberta and Vancouver — a vital road linking British Columbia to the rest of Canada.

Tovey served as music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for 19 seasons, from 2000 until his retirement as VSO Music Director Emeritus in 2019, coinciding with the orchestra's centennial celebration. During his tenure, he was instrumental in founding the VSO School of Music in 2011, alongside VSO President Jeff Alexander and board chair Art Willms. As a composer, he received commissions from major orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

At the outset, the music is fast and driven, with woodwinds and wood block providing the motor for the rest of the orchestra. As the music becomes calmer, the pulse remains constant but the orchestra seems to take flight, gliding like a bird over the mountain landscape. A brief interlude of repose allows time to admire the view before the chase resumes and reaches its inevitable climax.

## **Carinhoso - Alfredo da Rocha Viana Filho “Pixinguinha”**

**Alfredo da Rocha Vianna Filho**, known universally as **Pixinguinha**, stands as one of the most influential musicians in 20th-century Brazilian and Latin American music. A singer, composer, conductor, and virtuoso flutist and saxophonist, he laid the foundation for modern Brazilian popular music through his inventive harmonies, counterpoint, and improvisations—particularly within the *choro* genre (literally "cry"), Brazil's instrumental serenade tradition.

Born in 1897 into a musical household, Pixinguinha grew up surrounded by sound. His father, an amateur flutist, maintained an extensive collection of choral music that shaped the young musician's early development. By age 14, Pixinguinha had composed his first piece. He soon began playing flute in local bars before forming his own ensemble.

Composed between 1916 and 1917, *Carinhoso* (meaning "tenderly" or "affectionately") captures the intoxicating intensity of romantic longing—the breathless feeling of seeing one's beloved and yearning for that love to be returned. In this arrangement by Jonathan Girard, the trumpet becomes the voice of the lover searching for their heart's desire, supported by the orchestra and *pandeiro* (a traditional Brazilian frame drum) in a tapestry of jazzy harmonies and lush complementary melodies.

## **Sinfonietta Prima - Ernani Aguiar**

Born in Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro in 1950, Ernani Aguiar ranks among Brazil's most important composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. After winning an Argentine Mozarteum scholarship, he studied chamber music at the Luigi Cherubini Conservatory in Florence, Italy, where he continued his training in conducting, violin, and music history.

While Aguiar is best known among North American choral ensembles for his celebrated *Salmo 150*, his orchestral catalogue is equally impressive. *Sinfonietta Prima* showcases his masterful use of Brazilian rhythmic patterns and indigenous sonorities, taking listeners on a vibrant journey through South America with rich melodies, infectious rhythms, and brilliant writing for percussion and brass.

The work unfolds in three movements. The *Allegro con brio* opens with fleet-footed string passages punctuated by bold brass interjections. A lyrical interlude emerges, led by cellos and bassoons, before Aguiar explores extended techniques—most notably string glissandi that serve as a bridge back to the opening material and the movement's conclusion.

The second movement, *Lento assai (arrastado) Marcha-Rancho*, begins as a solemn procession. Percussion establishes the foundation while woodwinds weave a mournful melody above. This transitions into a *Vivace* section depicting the **Cabocolinhos**—a traditional dance of Brazil's indigenous Caboclo people—which propels us into the finale.

The third movement explodes with lightning-fast string passages, powerful brass statements, and irresistible rhythmic drive from the full orchestra, building to a triumphant and exhilarating conclusion.

Aguiar's works, including this one, are published by the Academia Brasileira de Música.

## **Symphony No. 8 in G major - Antonín Dvořák**

In the spring of 1884, Czech composer **Antonín Dvořák** (1841-1904) made his first trip to England. At the time, Austria harboured strong anti-Czech sentiment for political reasons, leaving Dvořák feeling like an outsider despite Bohemia being part of the Austrian Empire. England offered a striking contrast: the British warmly embraced him and showed tremendous enthusiasm for his music. The visit proved so successful that he returned that same winter, establishing a pattern of frequent trips to Britain that would bring him international acclaim and substantial income. His English success allowed him to fulfill a long-held dream: purchasing a summer residence in Vysoká u Příbramě, Bohemia, where he and his family could enjoy a pastoral life and, in his words, “care nothing of all the world.”

With financial security and growing confidence, Dvořák devoted himself more fully to composition. In late August 1889, he began work on his Eighth Symphony in his beloved villa, completing it in just two and a half months.

The symphony marks a striking departure from the German classical tradition of his training. Rather than following the path of his early champion Brahms—with complex rhythms, chromatic melodies, and rigorous formal structures as in his Seventh Symphony—Dvořák embraced dance rhythms, lyrical folk melodies, and rhapsodic forms. The music radiates calm optimism and culminates in a triumphant orchestral celebration, reflecting the composer's contentment: established, financially secure, and surrounded by the Czech countryside that nourished his imagination.

The four movements unfold with organic freedom. The first movement opens with a Slavic melody in a loosely structured sonata form, allowing themes to enter, depart, and interweave without becoming cluttered. The second movement contrasts a broad, singing string theme with a playful idea adorned by descending scales. The third movement, though unmarked by the composer, evokes an elegant waltz before a coda transitions seamlessly into the finale. The last movement surges between moments of tranquility and blazing excitement, ultimately letting exuberance carry the day in a glorious conclusion.

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

## UBC Opera Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Old Auditorium

Tue, Oct 14 & Wed, Oct 15

Both events start at 7:00 p.m. | Old Auditorium

### UBC Choirs: Hearts All Whole

**Choral Union & University Singers | Hyejung Jun & Graeme Langager** conductors

Fri Oct 17 | 7:30 p.m. Chan Shun Concert Hall, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Music by Caroline Shaw, William Byrd, Hye-Young Cho, Urmias Sisask, Andrea Ramsey, Felix Mendelssohn, more.

### UBC Bands: Concert Winds & Symphonic Wind Ensemble

**Meijun Chen & Cheng Xin Ip**, conductors

Sat Oct 18 | 7:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Music by Frank Ticheli, Eric Whitacre, Cait Nishimura, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Julie Giroux, Philip Sparke and more.

### UBC Symphony Orchestra, Jonathan Girard, conductor

**Simón Ortíz Ramírez & Chengyu Zhang**, graduate assistant conductors

Sat Nov 8 | 7:30 p.m. Chan Shun Concert Hall, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

von Weber: *Overture to "Der Freischütz"* | Rimsky-Korsakov: *Capriccio espagnole* | Brahms: *Symphony No. 3 in F Major*

### UBC Bands: Concert Winds & Symphonic Wind Ensemble

**Meijun Chen & Cheng Xin Ip**, conductors

Wed Nov 19 | 7:30 p.m. Chan Shun Concert Hall, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

### UBC Opera: Die Zauberflöte

Thu Nov 27 - Sun Nov 30 | Old Auditorium

### UBC Choirs & UBC Symphony Orchestra: Bernstein and Holst

Sat, Dec 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Chan Shun Concert Hall, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

For details and tickets to UBC School of Music events visit [music.ubc.ca/events](https://music.ubc.ca/events)  
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Thank you for joining us!

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School of Music

