

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Carolyn Watson, *conductor*

Yarong Rachel Guan, *guest artist*

Natalia Raspopova, *graduate conductor*

Foellinger Great Hall

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Friday, February 23, 2024

7:30 PM

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*Tonight's performance is dedicated to the memory of Maestro Paul Vermel, former Director of Orchestras at Illinois, who passed away last week on February 14 at the age of 99.*

ANNA CLYNE **This Midnight Hour** (2015)

(b. 1980)

Natalia Raspopova, *conductor*

BÉLA BARTÓK **Dance Suite** (1923)

(1881-1945)

*Moderato*

*Allegro molto*

*Allegro vivace*

*Molto tranquillo*

*Comodo*

MAURICE RAVEL **Piano Concerto in G major, M.83** (1929-31)

(1875-1937)

*Allegramente*

*Adagio assai*

*Presto*

Yarong Rachel Guan, *piano*

Intermission

IGOR STRAVINSKY **Petrushka, K012** (1910-11)

(1882-1971)

*Part I: Vivace-The Shrove-tide Fair*

*Part II: Impetuoso-Pétrouchka*

*Part III: L'istesso Tempo-The Blackamoor*

*Part IV: Tempo giusto-The Shrove-tide Fair*

*and the Death of Pétrouchka*

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*Flute*

Jae Hyun Moon  
Heather Swartz  
Brynna Paros  
Yishan Li

*Oboe*

Wesley Boehm  
Celia Chambers  
James Koeppen

*Clarinet*

Peter Varga  
Audrey Conklin  
Axel Aguilera

*Bassoon*

Ethan Ault  
Jadon Schuler  
Bradley Sarmiento

*Horn*

Owen Robinson  
David Martinez  
Daphne Anderson  
Analisa Cress

*Trumpet*

Joe Runkle  
Nathanael Boston  
Kevin Kierspe  
Nick Szoblik

*Trombone*

Peter Karda  
Ethan Groharing  
Jerry Min

*Tuba*

Logan Clark

*Timpani*

Adrian Silva

*Percussion*

Baryl Brandt  
Trevor Landreth  
Daisy Waters  
Jiarong Wang

*Piano*

Ming Kim  
Natalia Raspopova  
Tony Patterson

*Celesta*

Katie Barr

*Harp*

Jonathan Schneider

*Violin I*

Alice Lee  
Pyungwha Choi  
Dante Freund  
Makiba Kurita  
Yiheng Zhou  
Juliana Scofield  
Farah Wu  
Noel Chi  
Leith Mascari  
Na'ilah Ali  
HyunJin Baek  
Luke Brann  
Heather Beckman  
Richard Lu

*Violin II*

Anna Wallace  
Jacy Jacobus  
Aiden Sirotkine  
Grace Zeng  
Ayu Seiya  
Ashley Kim  
Catherine Winsor  
Samantha Irwin  
Trisha Choudhary

*Megan Hoppe*

Evan Campbell  
Sounak Sinha

*Viola*

Kun Yan  
Matthew Nowlan  
Sean Lee  
Jace Kim  
Oscar Gershfeld  
Stephen Cecil  
Katherine Moy  
Dylan Ivanov

*Cello*

Maxwell Schultz  
Wilson Burnett  
Juedy Lee  
Wyatt Sturn  
Andrew Gagi  
Oskar Norell  
Evelyn Irwin  
Holly Bleeden  
Indya Reed  
Scott Mei  
Mimi Xiao

*Bass*

Mingzi Han  
Cameron Fuller  
Nathaniel Harcar  
Naomi Loos

## Remembering Paul Vermel (1924-2024)

Paul Vermel brought to the podium over 60 years of expertise, and a highly successful career as conductor, educator, mentor and orchestra builder. He first studied conducting, organ, harmony and theory in his native Paris—studying conducting with André Cluytens and Paul Kletzki, and organ with André Fleury. In 1949 he left France to study at The Juilliard School as a student of Jean Morel. He served on the Juilliard faculty on both the orchestral and opera departments.

While in New York Paul Vermel was music director and conductor of the Hudson Valley Symphony, the Doctor's Orchestra; Society and the Brooklyn Community Orchestra and taught at Brooklyn College. For eight years he was music director of the summer opera and musical theater program at Green Mansions in the Berkshires. He made his Broadway debut as assistant conductor of Gian-Carlo Menotti's Saint of Bleeker Street. Leaving New York, Paul Vermel moved to California to become music director and conductor of the Fresno Philharmonic. He also taught at California State University, was music director of the Fresno Youth Orchestra, and conducted opera extensively. Moving back to the east coast he was appointed director of the Music in Maine Project (a Title III program) and one year later was tapped to lead the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

He led the PSO from 1967 to 1975, a time of significant musical growth. During his tenure a series of Family Concerts was begun and the first out-of-town concerts were given, starting in Augusta and eventually including several towns in New Hampshire, and Maine. Paul Vermel also conducted the Portland Community Orchestra, which was supported by the PSO.

He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Nason College in 1975. As Music Director of the PSO, he helped to found the Portland String Quartet, whose players were the string principals of the orchestra. Now in its 53rd season, The Quartet continues to perform, tour and record.

For twenty years Paul Vermel was professor of music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and conductor of both the University Symphony and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony. While at U of I he conducted many operas with Illinois Opera theatre and took the University Symphony Orchestra on tour throughout the state. He was a frequent All-State and District Festival conductor. Paul lived in the Chicago area from 1994 to 2014, and served as Music Director of the Northwest Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2013, and North Suburban Symphony from 1996 to 2007.

His guest conducting experience included performances with the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony of Washington, D.C., the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, L'Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec, and numerous regional, community and All-State orchestras.

A teacher since his Juilliard days, Paul Vermel headed the orchestral conducting program at the Aspen Music Festival and School of 14 years, and taught at the Conductors Institute at the University of South Carolina for 26 years. Many of his students are achieving success on the podiums of orchestras in the United States and Europe. Among his many awards and honors are: The Koussevitsky Memorial Award for the outstanding conductor at Tanglewood, the American Symphony Orchestra League Recognition Award, a Ford Foundation grant for advanced study and, in conjunction with the national Orchestras-On-Tour Program, the Bell Telephone Award for outstanding achievement in and contribution to the arts.

He was honored with the ASCAP Award for adventuresome programming of contemporary music. In January of 2009 he received the Max Rudolf Award from the Conductors Guild

Paul Vermel was married to Carolyn Paulin, a choral conductor who earned the DMA at the University of Illinois in 1989, and who also free-lance classical music radio producer. They returned to Maine in the summer of 2014 and lived in Scarborough.

## PROGRAM NOTES



Program notes and faculty information can be found in the digital program available by scanning the QR code.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging that these spaces stand on the traditional territories of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands carry the ongoing stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

The School of Music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign acknowledges the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We share a responsibility to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them.

The School of Music is committed to moving beyond these acknowledgements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions to promote equity for indigenous peoples.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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