



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**®

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

# **University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra**

Harvey Felder, conductor  
Fabian Schneider, graduate assistant

## **“From the New World”**

October 27, 2022  
7:30 PM

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music  
Harris Concert Hall

**Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music**  
Kevin Sanders, Director

**College of Communication and Fine Arts**  
Ryan Fisher, Interim Dean

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## "From the New World"

Starburst

Jessie Montgomery  
(b. 1981)  
arr. Jannina Norpoth

"...with their names upon their arms..."

Mark Nowakowski  
(b. 1978)

*Commissioned for the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra  
Premiered, October 18, 2018*

Kimberly Patterson, cello  
Marcin Jozef Arendt, violin

### *Intermission*

Symphony no. 9, in E minor, op. 95 (From the New World)

Antonín Dvořák  
(1841-1904)

- I. Adagio—Allegro molto
- II. Largo
- III. Scherzo (Molto vivace)
- IV. Allegro con fuoco

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## VIOLIN 1

Sofia Alvarado,  
co-concertmaster  
Keiber Utrera,  
co-concertmaster  
Michael Brennan  
Lindsay Keck  
Idil Kucukdogan  
Elizabeth Betrous  
Abigail Webber

## VIOLIN 2

Noel Medford,  
co-principal  
Isabella Palmer,  
co-principal  
Anne Reeman  
Lucian Severs  
Emily Cooley  
Langston Suggs  
Catherine Baum

## VIOLA

Matthew Finley,  
principal  
Vivian McDermott  
Svetlana Choumiatsky  
Dane Perugini-Cripps

## CELLO

Christine Sears,  
principal  
Bryan Edward Henderson  
Roberta Dos Santos  
Jacob Saunders  
Abigail Powell  
Claire Fletcher  
Nazira Wali

## DOUBLE BASS

Garrett Kirk,  
principal  
Liam O'Dell\*  
Kedrick Cottrell  
Joshua Sheperd  
Grace Williams

## FLUTE

Catie Balsamo,  
principal  
Mackenzie Saylor  
Micayla Scott

## OBOE

Ty Matthews,  
principal  
Jalen Gales  
Jesus Salazar

## CLARINET

Fernando Martinez,  
principal  
Kendall Howard  
James Cutter

## BASSOON

Tina Hazell,  
principal  
Kristopher Carter  
Jacob Bridges

## HORN

Eric Sorensen,  
principal  
Nathan Olusemire  
Madeline Miller  
Steven Groff

## TRUMPET

Yiming Zhang,  
principal  
Lacey Peschel  
Tyler Helms

## TROMBONE

Nathan Hiers,  
principal  
Gus Bradbury  
Jasmine Lockwood

## TUBA

Bryson Harding

## PERCUSSION

Dwight Van de Vate,  
principal  
Marvin Shaw  
Susannah Clabough  
Daniel Padron

# PROGRAM NOTES

## Starburst (2020)

This brief one-movement work, originally for string orchestra and arranged and expanded for orchestra by Jannina Norpoth, is a play on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors. Exploding gestures are juxtaposed with gentle fleeting melodies in an attempt to create a multidimensional soundscape. A common definition of a starburst: “The rapid formation of large numbers of new stars in a galaxy at a rate high enough to alter the structure of the galaxy significantly.”

*Jessie Montgomery*

[Montgomery is the Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra]

## “...with their names upon their arms...” (2018)

The harrowing Polish book “Medallions” – an unflinching series of eyewitness accounts of the worst of Nazi brutality – begins with the haunting phrase: “People dealt this fate to people.” While in the sketching phase of this musical project I began to read more intensely about the recent trials and travails of religious minorities in the Middle East. I came across one heartbreaking story of a Yazidi mother whose family found itself in the path of ISIS. She witnessed children being stripped from their parents, and girls being renamed with Islamic names and forced into being child brides or worse. Fearing that this would happen to her children, she earned the ire of her captors when she made crude tattoos of each child’s name on their arms, so that “they would not forget who they are.”

Moving from this theme, I can only express what I was thinking about as I wrote this music, a music which passes across west and east and from darkness into light: From the beginning of the first world war up until our own time, we have witnessed an unceasing torrent of human hate and brutality, seemingly only deepening in fury and gaining in efficiency as our technological capacity has expanded. And yet in every case of such massed evil, men have risen up both in quiet and open rebellion. From the Warsaw Uprising to the March across Edmund Pettus Bridge, from Kurdish women battling against Daesh to the unnamed North Korean dissident secretly passing banned information on a SIM card, men have moved purposefully against every darkness of our age. And yet so many have passed from this life in the midst of their battles, not knowing the outcome of their great struggle and surely often fearing that their cause was lost. I’ve long had a strong mental image of the transmigration of heroic souls, who in transitioning from the darkness of human misery towards the reality of the unapproachable light, receive also a beatific vision of the full nature of their struggle. In that moment, greeted by shouts of triumph and the full nature and goodness of reality, they come to understand the ultimate value of their suffering, entering eternity with their names upon their arms...

*Mark Nowakowski*

[April 2022, Yet Again: As Ukrainians fled the initial invasion of the Russian army, parents were seen writing names and contact information on their children’s backs.]