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
University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra
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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 Kucukkogan
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 Saylors
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.]