

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

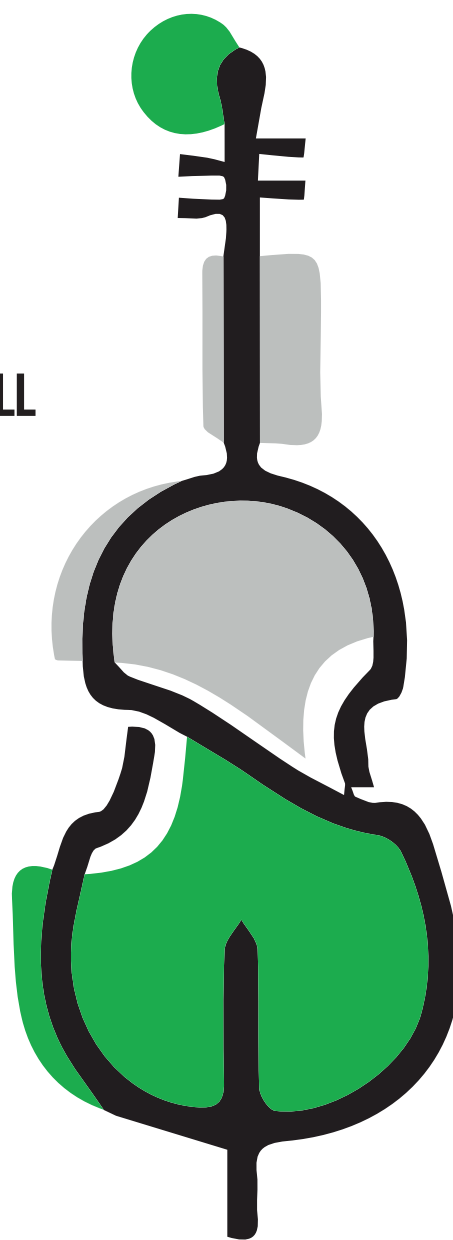
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Alejandro Drago, conductor

Solist: Simona Barbu, cello

OCTOBER 5, 2023 | 7:30 PM

JOSEPHINE CAMPBELL RECITAL HALL
HUGHES FINE ARTS CENTER



MUSIC **AT UND**

Program

Overture (Symphony) from Messiah (HWV 56)

George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)

Cello Concerto No.1 in C major, Hob.VIIb:1

Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

- I. Moderato
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro molto

Simona Barbu, *cello*.

intermission

Capriol Suite

Peter Warlock (1894 – 1930)

- I. Basse-Danse
- II. Pavane
- III. Tordion
- IV. Bransles
- V. Pieds-en-l'air
- VI. Mattachins (Sword Dance)

**Antiche arie e danze (Ancient Airs and Dances),
Suite No. 3, P 172**

Ottorino Respighi (1879 – 1936)

- I. Italiana (Anonymous: Italiana (Fine sec. XVI))
- II. Arie di corte (Jean-Baptiste Besard: Arie di corte (Sec. XVI))
- III. Siciliana (Anonymous: Siciliana (Fine sec. XVI))
- IV. Passacaglia (Lodovico Roncalli: Passacaglia (1692))

Alejandro Drago, *conductor*.

Personnel

First Violins:

Sofia Morales (concertmistress)
Noah Holden (assistant concertmaster)
Nicholas Sholy
Mimi Hays
Elizabeth Boyle

Second Violins:

Mason Fuller (principal)
Lainey Searles
Eliza Dodds
Emma Mekkes
Daliana Martines-Cabellero
Ligia Feo ^{*^}

Violas:

Mario Batista (principal)
Cassandra Fincher (assistant principal)
Kyle Erickson
David Manzke
Rodrigo Amorim
Sophia Frank
Meghan Hemmer

Cellos:

Ana Castro (principal)
Eduardo García
Victor Chukwu
Jaydin Bjorland
Elizabeth (Lizzy) Parton
Zachary Nelson
Angela Zaruba
Margaret Heikes

Double Basses:

Bryan Galdun (principal)
Grace Miller
Kétina François

(*) guest musician

(^) UND alumnus/alumna

The University of North Dakota Department of Music is a vibrant, collaborative, NASM-accredited program with undergraduate and graduate degree programs that equip students with 21st-century skills through their studies with our world-class faculty. Schedule a visit, learn about our programs and scholarships, and find your place making great music at UND.
UND.edu/music



Hailed by music critics as “a superb musician” with the “classical virtuosity of a Heifetz or Perlman,” the “suave café style of Florian Zabach” and the “jazzy insouciance of Stephane Grappelli,” Alejandro Drago has “crisscrossed the line between concerto virtuoso and jazz soloist.” His versatile musicianship has allowed him to be successful with many diverse styles and genres. His discography in France, USA and Argentina includes string quartets, concertos, avant-garde tangos for the EMI International label and works for solo violin CD distributed internationally by Naxos Music Library Japan and CD Tradition.

As a soloist, Alejandro has performed in the Great Hall at the Moscow Conservatory, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Hall (with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra), Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires, The Kennedy Center and the Kolarac Zal of Belgrade. He has toured extensively in Russia, the United States, China, Austria, Switzerland, Lithuania, Taiwan, Belarus, France, Brazil, ex-Yugoslavia (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina), Romania, Portugal, Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, Ecuador and Haiti.

As a conductor, Alejandro began his training with the CCBA Chamber Orchestra in Buenos Aires. In 1991 he assisted in the preparation of Handel’s Messiah with the Chamber Orchestra of the Argentine-American Cultural Institute. Alejandro’s recognized expertise in the field of string studies has led him to coach regularly a number of youth and professional ensembles, including Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra in Ecuador and the MERCOSUR Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has been a guest conductor with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Tandil Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Argentine Library of Congress and the MERCOSUR Academic Camerata. From 2005 to 2008 he was the Assistant Conductor of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Southern Mississippi Chamber Orchestra. Since 2008, he has appeared on a number of occasions as a guest conductor with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra.

In July 2008, Alejandro joined the faculty at the University of North Dakota Department of Music as the Professor of Violin and Viola and Director of the UND Chamber Orchestra.



An astounding international cellist and educator, Dr. Simona Barbu began her musical studies at age seven and gained public attention as a member of the leading string quartet of the Conservatory of Timisoara in her native Romania, where she made her solo debut in Tchaikovsky’s Variations on a Rococo Theme with the conservatory’s symphonic orchestra. Ever since, she has traveled to Asia, South America, Europe, and the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, clinician, and orchestra musician. She has collaborated with world class musicians such as Emilio Colón, Edward Auer, Emile Naoumoff, Lydia Artymiw and Milton Masciadri. Barbu has been an active orchestral musician, performing with Memphis Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, and serving as principal with the Eroica Ensemble in Memphis, Starkville Symphony Orchestra and most recently with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra.

In 2012, Barbu formed the Duo Cantabile together with pianist Dr. Nariaki Sugiura. The duo traveled extensively and gave performances, clinics, lectures, and master classes at prestigious institutions around the world, including Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und

Darstellende Kunst in Mannheim (Germany), Zoltan Kodaly EZI Kecskemet (Hungary), Xinghai Conservatory of Music (China), National Taipei University of Arts (Taiwan), University of Antioquia (Colombia), and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. The duo has also participated in the performance series including North Dakota Museum of Art Concert Series, Greencastle Summer Music Festival in Indiana, Masterworks Music Festival in Ohio and the latest in Warsaw Summer Classical Concert Series in Indiana. Their concert programs often include duo’s transcriptions and newly commissioned pieces by living American composers. Two of the latest commissions were Bruce Stark’s Suite for Cello and Piano (2021) and Dr. Alejandro Drago’s “Suite for Cello and Piano «A Universal History of Nobleness»” (2022), included in the duo’s latest audio recording soon to be released.

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Barbu has served as the string faculty at Mississippi State University for four years, where she taught strings and conducted the symphonic orchestra. In 2011, she was appointed Burgum Endowed Chair at the University of North Dakota, where she currently teaches cello, string bass, chamber music and conducts the UND Honor String Orchestra. During summers, she performs and teaches at various music festivals.

Barbu plays a beautiful modern instrument made by Andrew Carruth in 2003 in Santa Rosa, California.

