University of North Dakota

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Alejandro Drago, conductor

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 | 7:30 PM
HOPPER DANLEY MEMORIAL CHAPEL

MUSIC AT UND
Chaconne in G minor for violin and continuo  
(arrangement for violin and string orchestra)  
Tomaso Vitali (1663 – 1745) /  
Léopold Charlier (1867 – 1936)  
Noah Holden, violin  
Alejandro Drago, conductor

Symphony No. 29 in A major, K. 201/186a  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)  
I. Allegro moderato  
II. Andante in D major  
III. Menuetto: Allegretto – Trio  
IV. Allegro con spirito  
Rodrigo Amorim, guest conductor

intermission

Two Elegiac Melodies, Op. 34  
Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907)  
I. The Wounded Heart  
II. The Last Spring

Romance in C, Op. 42  
Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957)

St Paul’s Suite in C major, Op. 29, No. 2  
Gustav Theodore Holst (1874 – 1934)  
I. Jig: Vivace  
II. Ostinato: Presto  
III. Intermezzo: Andante con moto  
IV. Finale (The Dargason): Allegro  
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
Ligia Feo **^*

Violas:
Mario Batista (principal)
Cassandra Fincher (assistant principal)
Kyle Erickson
David Manzke
Rodrigo Amorim
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

Oboes:
Clark Hall *
Sydney Johnson *

French Horns:
Tyler York * ^
Nick Helfrich *

(*) guest musician
(^) UND alumnus/alumna
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.

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