

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Chamber
Orchestra
in concert



MAY 1, 2026

7:30 PM

**Josephine Campbell
Recital Hall**

UND MUSIC

Program

PART I

Impromptu for String Orchestra

Jean Sibelius (1865–1957)

Two Elegiac Melodies, Op. 34

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Hjertesår (Heart Wounds)

Våren (The Last Spring)

Two Swedish Folk Melodies, Op. 27

Johan Svendsen (1840–1911)

Allt under himmelens fäste (All Beneath the Vault of Heaven)

Du gamla, du friska, du fjällhöga nord (Thou Ancient, Thou Free, Thou Mountainous North)

Dances of Transylvania

Béla Bartók (1881–1945)

I. Dudások (Bagpipers)

(arr. Gábor Darvas)

II. Medvetánc (Bear Dance)

III. Finale

INTERMISSION

PART II

Capriol Suite

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

I. Basse-Danse

II. Pavane

III. Tordion

IV. Bransles

V. Pieds-en-l'air

VI. Mattachins (Sword Dance)

Concerto in D major for Piano & Orchestra, Hob. XVIII:11

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

I. Vivace

II. Un poco adagio

III. Rondo all'Ungarese: Allegro assai

Nariaki Sugiura, *piano*

Personnel

UND Chamber Orchestra

Alejandro Drago, conductor

First Violins:

Baumgardner, Ross (Concertmaster)
Holden, Noah
Hays, Leanna
Hogberg, Ryah

Second Violins:

Rhyner, Benjamin (Principal)
McLeod, Kaden (Assistant Principal)
Dendy, Alivia
Freiberg, Seija

Violas:

Papashvili, Ana (Principal)
Fercho, Ben
Wermager, Josh
Schwan, Enslie
Hemmer, Meghan-Makana

Cellos:

Peterson, Garrett (Principal)
Tzab Pool, Ana Leticia
Chukwu, Victor Chukwuemelie
Tyson, Madelyn
Xia, Nanqing
Bjorland, Jaydin
Johnson, Aidan
Steiner, Owen

Double Basses:

Parton, Elizabeth (Principal)
Hayes, Kalli
Peterson, James

Oboes:

Lucas Daubel
Clark Hall

Horns:

Daviti Sharikadze
Caitlyn Demouth



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.



Music critics in Europe have praised pianist Dr. Nariaki Sugiura for his artistry, describing him as possessing “the most sensitive touch on the piano” and “the rigueur, passion, and discipline of an old Samurai.” An internationally acclaimed concert artist, he has performed throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Asia, appearing at venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Shenzhen Symphony Hall, the Ferenc Liszt Academy, and Kioi Hall.

As a concerto soloist, he has collaborated with orchestras including the Greater Grand Forks Symphony and the Purdue University Philharmonic. A highly sought-after collaborative pianist, he has performed with distinguished artists including Astrid Schween, László Varga, and Emilio Colón. With his wife, cellist Simona Barbu, he is a founding member of Duo Cantabile, an internationally active cello–piano ensemble.

Dr. Sugiura has released nine albums on major classical labels, with recent recordings including Introspections (Centaur Records, 2024) and Unbound (Centaur Records, 2026), featuring American piano music for the left hand. He is also active as an editor and arranger, with publications through Ludwig Masters, and has collaborated with leading composers such as Joan Tower and Libby Larsen.

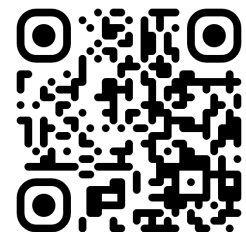
A dedicated educator, he serves as Professor of Piano at the University of North Dakota. His students have earned top awards and academic appointments worldwide. Deeply committed to outreach, he co-founded music academies and initiatives including Harmonies for Peace, expanding access to classical music in underserved communities.

A native of Japan, Dr. Sugiura studied at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he earned his doctoral degree.

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