



### Alejandro Drago

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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# UND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Alejandro Drago, *conductor*

## FROM THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS

*Music from the Republic of Georgia and Armenia*

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1st, 2021

Josephine Campbell Recital Hall

## PROGRAM

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### Selections from *Miniatures for String Quartet*

Sulkhan Tsintsadze (1925 – 1991)

1. Lale - ლალე
2. Suliko - სულიკო
3. Sachidao - საჭიდაო
4. Song - სიმღერა
5. Joke - ხუმრობა
6. Shepherd's song - მწყემსური
7. Spring - წინწყარო
8. The nagging wife - ცოლი გამიდიდგულდა
9. Rural dance - სოფლური საცეკვაო
10. Firefly - ციცინათელა
11. Chonguri - ჩონგური
12. Kviria - კვირია
13. Sisatura - სისატურა
14. Khasanbegura - ხასანბეგურა

### *intermission*

### Pieces for String Quartet,

Sergei Aslamazian (1897 – 1978)

based on Armenian folk tunes collected by Vardapet Komitas (1869 – 1935)

1. Dear Shoger - Շողեր ջաս
2. She's slender like a plane-tree - Չիսար ես
3. Oh Nazan... - Յոյ, Նազան իմ
4. The Crane - Կռուկ
5. The Red Shawl - Ալ այլուղս
6. Girls' Dance - Շուշիկի
7. Folk Song - Խումար
8. Echmiadzin Dance - Էջմիածնի պար
9. Stalk along! - Զեւէ՛ն- քեւէ՛ն
10. Clouds - Երկինք ամպել ա
11. Festive Song - Հաբրբան
12. Haymaker's Song - Զեւեր, ցուեր
13. Spring - Գարունս ա
14. Song of the Little Partridge - Կաքավիկ

Note: Why write the titles of the songs in their original alphabets? There are two reasons. One, is that doing so makes our UND programs searchable in the original languages these pieces were named in. The second one is that these scripts are just beautiful! Thanks to Ana Galdavdze (Georgian) and Sona Matinyan (Armenian) for the transcriptions.

## UND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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Dr. Alejandro Drago, *conductor*

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### Violin I

Ana Galdavadze - Concertmaster  
Noah Holden  
Aleksandre Khatiskatsi  
Victor Spaeth  
Grant Anderson  
Odele Rajpathy

### Violin II

Iva Pecotić - Principal  
Nicholas Sholy  
Taylor Hartze  
Taryn Trueblood  
Ian Hartwig  
Zoe-Clementine Berthe

### Violas

Cassandra Fincher - Principal  
Sibi Manian  
Erik Wheeler

### Cello

Itzel Orellana Sierra - Principal  
Isabel Moga  
Danielle Bach  
Adleigh Handeland

### Double Basses

Ketina Francois - Principal  
Brian Galdun  
Grace Klee