

WUSTL **MUSIC**

Sunday, October 31, 2021 - 3:00 P.M.
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center



WU Symphony Orchestra

presents

"Triumph and Landscapes"

Darwin Aquino,
Conductor-in-Residence

Program

Die Hebriden, Op. 26 (1829)

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 - 1847)

Petite Suite (1886-89)

- I. *En Bateau*
- II. *Cortège*
- III. *Menuet*
- IV. *Ballet*

Claude Debussy
(1862 - 1918)

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 7, Op. 92 (1811-12)

- I. *Poco sostenuto–Vivace*
- II. *Allegretto*
- III. *Presto*
- IV. *Allegro con brio*

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

...and a spooky surprise!

Conductor-in-Residence

Dominican conductor and composer Darwin Aquino appears internationally and is regarded as among the most accomplished Caribbean artists of his generation in both symphonic and operatic fields.



Having recently conducted Vincenzo Bellini's monumental opera *Norma*, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch remarked, "Darwin had the orchestra sounding great from the first measures of the overture and maintained a good balance between stage and pit. He has a fine feel for the nuances of the bel canto style, and knows to breathe with the singers."

A sought-after guest conductor known for his "moving, absorbing and robust performances," Darwin enjoys regular engagements around the world, including the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Mainz, Saarländisches Staatsorchester, National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, ADCA Symphony Orchestra Filarmónica Boca del Rio, Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra, Alfredo Saint Malo Festival Orchestra in Panama, FIU Symphony Orchestra in Miami, and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, among others. Aquino was also selected as Music Director by the world acclaimed Italian tenors Il Volo, for concert tours in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

An opera conductor regarded for his "passionate and precise baton," Darwin has received outstanding reviews and public praise for his interpretations of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri*, Donizetti's *Elisir D'Amore* and Bizet's *Pearl Fishers*. He served as Music Director for Winter Opera St. Louis for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons. Early in his career he was appointed Cover Conductor at the Florida Grand Opera (*Don Pasquale*, *Carmen*, *Norma*, *Barber of Seville*), Opera Naples (*La Boheme*), the Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida International University Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the Dominican premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 7 with the Música Sacra Philharmonic to great acclaim and received the prestigious Premio Soberano as Successful Dominican Artist Abroad.

As a passionate advocate of social change through classical music, Darwin worked closely for many years with Gustavo Dudamel in Venezuela and previously held posts as Artistic Director of *El Sistema*, Director of the National Conservatory of Music and Music Director of the National Youth Symphony Orchestra, in his homeland the Dominican Republic. Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu, founder of the world-known Venezuelan *Sistema*, referred to Darwin as "a great conductor, excellent composer, and eminent violinist. A pioneer for classical music." Darwin was awarded for his service to the youth with the Hildegard Behrens Young Artist Prize and the Arts Advocacy Award, both in the United States.

Currently, he serves as Music Director for the Música Sacra concert series in Santo Domingo, Music Director of the Gateway Festival Orchestra, Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Conductor-in-Residence for the Washington University Symphony Orchestra, and Cover Conductor for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and St. Louis Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Darwin's principal teachers were Grzegorz Nowak and Ramon Tebar, with additional studies and masterclasses from Benjamin Zander, Colin Metters, Jose Serebrier, Carlos Miguel Prieto and James Judd. He holds a Master's in Music in Orchestral Conducting from the Florida International University, where he received the Graduate Performer Award for his conducting of E. Chabrier opera *L'Etoile*.

Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Caroline Chou
Charlie Wheelock
Charles McGrath
Yoo-Jin Ahn
Nora Navid
Jiawei Hu
Meredith Levin
Caroline Kaplan
Matthew Du
Eva Markowitz
Tatiana Flores
David Decker
Jerry Sun
Ann Zhang
Jevon Bonner
Caroline Ferry
Kate Blythe
Esther Merczynski
Rebecca Sears

Violin II

John Geogiades
Noah Kennedy
Matthew Forman
Mahtab Chaudry
Eric Kwon
Irene Wang
Gabris Ni
Sabrina Baggstrom
Eric Lei
Junseo Shin
Frank Jiang
Zichen Yuan
Frankie Lynch
Ciara Cunningham
Carly Ramacher
Eric Montufar-Morales
Jane Price *

Viola

John Christian
Junyi Su
Anne Bedford
Megha Prasad
Geoffrey Lien
Henry Kessler
Micah Benson
Vincent Xu
Sneha Manikandan
Haley Rhodes
MacKenzie Larkin
Amy Greenhalgh*

Cello

Maria Crusey
Katie Lund
Eric Liu
Chloe Hughlett
Jordan Thomson
Colette Wicks
Elaine Choy
Nathalie Morton
Jeremy Lin
Wonsang Lee
Spencer Linenberg
Toni Taylor
Matthew Kim
Ken Kulosa*

Bass

Karen Tarman
Gabe Hamburg
Taraneh Atri
Serene Tomaszewski
Tim Weddle*

Flute

Emily Angstreich
Maria Schmeer
Elizabeth Chen
Cynthia Yan

Piccolo

Maria Schmeer

Oboe

Mia Phutrakul
Ethan Penn

Clarinet

Peter Kotecki
Finley Li

Bassoon

Peg Bumb**
Henry Skolnick**

French Horn

Thomas McGrath
Tricia Jöstlein**

Trumpet

Gabbi Grasso
Anais Beauvais

Timpani

Becky Sun

Harp

Nathan Springman

* Music Faculty

** Community Member

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