A Note on the Program

How does the human brain process music? Does music have a direct impact on our emotions or are there additional cognitive processes at work? Understanding the connections between music and human emotion has long been of interest to musicians, philosophers and scientists alike. Already by the 3rd century, B.C.E., the Ancient Greeks had devised a theory that associated particular musical sounds with specific emotions. Today, these ideas continue to color our perceptions: for example, music composed in a minor mode is often described as sad whereas major mode compositions are often considered happy.

What about music and humor? How do certain musical works make us laugh? The UIS Orchestra’s “Music and Comedy Concert” is an exploration of musical humor, featuring well-known works of Western art music – a genre often associated with serious emotion – that are ripe with comedic elements. Parody, irony, and farce dominate as we explore a range of humorous musical expression. For example, the program includes a number of recent compositions that celebrate a comical blending of music and technology: Leroy Anderson’s “The Syncopated Clock” depicts a clock that does not keep perfect time and “The Typewriter” features as its solo instrument, a typewriter! Igudesman and Gürler’s “Sebastian the Cyber Conductor,” expands our musical imagination as the orchestra is operated entirely by a remote control.

Even when the UIS Orchestra encountered pieces that were not necessarily composed with comedy in mind, the musicians added in their own humor. In Musetta’s famous “Quando m’en vo” from Puccini’s La Bohème, we offer a unique and humorous transliteration that provides new light on this coquettish aria. And in the Allegro movement of Bach’s “Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor,” we depict the struggle of the under-rehearsed and uninterested performer. Of course, no comedy concert would be complete, without the famous “New Horizons in Music Education” by Prof. Peter Shickele that features the first movement of Beethoven’s famous “Symphony No. 5” narrated like a baseball game.

So, sit back and relax, silence your cell phones, and enjoy the music and the humor! And be sure to think of your best music joke to submit to the Music Joke Competition!

- Dr. Yona Stamatis
PROGRAM

Syncopated Clock  
Leroy Anderson  
(1908-1975)

La Bohème  
Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)  
“Quando m’en vo”  
Sherri Mitchell, voice;  
Winner of the UIS Music Soloist Competition

The Typewriter  
Leroy Anderson  
(1908-1975)  
Yona Stamatis, typewriter;  
Jeni Phelps, conductor

Sebastian the Cyber Conductor  
Aleksey Igudesman  
Sebastian Gürtler  
(1973-)  
Sherri Mitchell, actress

Symphony No. 45 in F# Minor “Farewell”  
Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)  
Finale: Presto & Adagio

INTERMISSION

Submit your favorite music joke by the start of intermission for a chance to win a prize!  
- **First Place:** Conduct a piece on the next UIS Orchestra Concert  
- **Second Place:** Sit on-stage with the orchestra at the next UIS Orchestra Concert  
- **Third Place:** Mystery Prize!
She Loves Me  Jerry Block
“Vanilla Ice Cream”  (1928-2010)
Sherri Mitchell, voice; Samantha Hwang, piano

Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor  Johann Sebastian Bach
Allegro  (1685-1750)
Natalie Kerr, Samantha Hwang, violin
Winners of the UIS Music Soloist Competition

Carnival of the Animals  Camille Saint-Saëns
“The Hen and the Rooster”  (1835-1921)
“The Elephant”
“The Aviary”
“Pianists”
Abigail Walsh, flute;
Ruyue Li & Maryna Meshcherskaya, piano
Harvey Mack & Brandon Smith, bass

New Horizons in Music Education*  Prof. Peter Shickele
Harvey Mack, Sherri Mitchell, Chantz Pinder, Melissa Thibodeaux-Thompson, actors

Please join us after the concert in the Sangamon Auditorium Lobby for refreshments and for the UIS Music Information Session.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES

*Special gratitude is owed to UIS clarinetist Gary Kerr for funding the performance of this work.
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD ORCHESTRA
Dr. Yona Stamatis, Conductor

VIOLIN I
Natalie Kerr* s
Tiffani Saunders f
Savannah Brannan s
William Zimmer c
Rodolfo Cueva s
Teddy Killian s
Deb Steele c
Elyse Morehead c
Jurnee Banks s

VIOLIN II
Samanthan Hwang s
Don Daniels c
Joanie Darneille c
Lonna Lee c
Lydia Schillinger f
Mary Kroner c
Jenny Viramontes s
Ben Jacob c
Grace Portz c

VIOLA
Sara Callahan c
Jonathan Perkins f
Sharon Graf f
Victoria Voumard c

CELLO
Kevin Loitz s
Lynn Fisher f
YiPing Zou s
Peter Shapinsky f
Cheryl Broughton c
Bev Rogers c

BASS
Brandon Smith s
Harvey Mack c

FLUTE
Abigail Walsh f
Michelle Bagby c
Madison Ruess s

OBOE
Shari Randall c
Louie Yockey c
Jaden Saunders c

CLARINET
Greg Cohill c
Gary Kerr c

BASSOON
Jeni Phelps c
Sarah Rheaume c

HORN
Gillian Bauer c
Christopher Lynch c

TRUMPET
Olivia Loshe s
Sarah Jansen s

TROMBONE
Chantz Pinder s

TUBA
Kelsey Armstrong s

PERCUSSION
Brandon Thorson s
Jonathan Davis s

PIANO
Ruyue Li a
Maryna Mescherska c

s=student, f=faculty/staff, c=community, a=alumni, *=concertmaster
Meet the Soloists

Samantha Hwang is a junior at UIS, double-majoring in Sociology/Anthropology and Psychology and minoring in Music. She has played violin and piano for 17 years and currently enjoys teaching private lessons. Samantha works at the Sangamon Auditorium ticket office. In her spare time, Samantha travels to Taiwan to visit friends and family. Samantha hopes to pursue a career as an event planner or as a multicultural therapist.

Natalie Kerr from Washington, Il, is a sophomore in the CAP Honors program, majoring in Biology with a concentration in Science of the Environment and minoring in Music. An alumna of the Central Illinois Youth Symphony, she plays violin and sings in three small ensembles as part of the UIS Camerata, and has performed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra. She also works for ICGA/CBMP as a field technician. In her free time, she is president of the UIS disc golf club, is rebooting the Sailing Club, and likes to go home to see her farm animals.

Harvey Mack is a local actor and musician. His foray into the world of public performance began four years ago when he decided to learn to play the bass. His first concert – after only eighteen months of lessons – included Beethoven’s 5th Symphony. Though technically challenged, he managed to stifle a giggle of joy at actually playing that four note motif/theme. Harvey is especially overjoyed to be working with Sherri Mitchell after fifteen years of respecting her work in Springfield theater, and he offers his sincere thanks to Yona Stamatis for putting up with his creative intonation. Also, he is grateful for a second chance to get “The Elephant” right.

To purchase a DVD of the “Music and Comedy” concert, contact the Office of Electronic Media at (217) 206-6799.

www.uis.edu/music
Sherri Mitchell is a local soprano and actress who has performed in venues from the East to West coast for over forty years. Some of her favorite performing opportunities include: *A Mozartian Montage*: a recital in collaboration with pianist Anna Ferraro; one-woman Chautauqua presentations of historical figures such as soprano Jenny Lind, Shakespearean actress Mary Anderson, and WWI nurse Ellen LaMotte; Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*; Vivien Leigh in *Vivien Leigh: the Last Press Conference*; Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*; Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, Mrs. Anna in *The King and I*, and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. This school year, Sherri has been enrolled at UIS as a Theatre Major/Music Minor. In addition, she teaches private voice and piano lessons and is the pianist at UCC Congregational Church in Jacksonville Illinois. Sherri is the mother of four wonderful children.

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Meet the Conductor

Yona Stamatis is Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois Springfield where she teaches courses in world music and directs the UIS Orchestra. Specializing in rebetika music of Greece, her recent publications appear in various journals including *Voices: A World Forum for Music Therapy* and *Echo: A Music-Centered Journal*. Currently, she is co-chair of the Society for Ethnomusicology Anatolian Ecumene Special Interest Group and a member of the College Music Society Ethnomusicology Advisory Board. As a violinist, she performs with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra. She is the program annotator for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the host of its Special Arts Broadcast Concerts on WUIS-NPR.

All UIS music events are free and open to the public. Donations benefit the UIS Music Student Merit Award.
Join Us! – An Open Call for Musicians –

**UIS Music Ensembles** welcome UIS students, faculty, staff, and community musicians!

- **UIS Orchestra** – Thurs. 5:40-7:30 p.m.
- **UIS Band** – Mon. 4:00-5:50 p.m.
- **UIS Choir** – Tues. 7:00-9:15 p.m. & Thurs. 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- **UIS Jazz Band** – Tuesday, TBA
- **Old Time Jam** – Every 2nd Wednesday, 7:00–9:30 p.m.