



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Olivia Maia**
Natalie Cohen ^
Nia Batiashvili
Vida Altoe ^
Heloisa Fochesato
Marina Weideman
Nathan Aguirre
Aaron Sheffield
Asmara Bhattacharya +
Krisztina Sanderling +

Violin II

Lorenzo Gallegos*
Nicolas Armer ^
Autumn Crabb
Hollie White
Ashley Warden
Cindy Verde
Jeffrey Smith +
Sheila McLay +

Viola

Luis DeVargas* ^
Lilly Porter
Cory McBride
Tyler Stevens
Jaimie Ritchie ^
Haley Myler
Mariajosé Garcia ^

Cello

Lais Gomes* ^
Lucas Santiago ^
Marco Melendez
Zea Rose ^
Sam Martinez ^
Emiliano Lopez
Sofia Martin

Double Bass

Jose Gardea*
Antonio Neto
Elijah Giron
Joshua Duran
William Morrow

Piccolo/Flute

Olivia Banks*
Skye Stone
Alejandra Valencia

Oboe/English Horn

Myra Bernard*
Meredith Koza
Sachi Barnaby ^

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Kasey Cote*
Tyler Roberts
Gabrielle Abbott ^
Mike Roach

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Levi Walsh*
Ron Thurman ^
Natalie Whitby
Josh Castro

Saxophone

Alejandro Alva ^
Miguel Filerio
Edwin Anthony ^

Horn

Terrence Perrier* ^
Hollis Smith
Damon Hess ^
Benjamin Anyanonu
Apolo Figueroa

Trumpet

Alexander Hardin* ^
Samuel Dickson ^
Hannah Wren
Felipe Hernandez

Trombone

Ricardo Zamora Torres* ^
Samuel van den Bosch
Mauricio Fortuna ^

Tuba

Marlin Thomas* ^
Benjamin Hopkins ^

Harp

Tashina Parker

Celesta

William Blind

Percussion

Zach Schoonmaker* ^
Andrew Thompson ^
Carolina Muñoz
Jojo Nieto
Thomas Icken

**principal*

^ associate principal

***concertmaster*

+ guest artist



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Presents

UNM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Sebastián Serrano-Ayala, conductor
Michael Sanderling, guest conductor
Dr. Cármelo de los Santos, violin
Dr. Christoph Wagner, violoncello
Falko Steinbach, piano

Thursday, May 8, 7:30pm
Center for the Arts
Popejoy Hall

^ We offer our warmest congratulations to the students graduating this season for all they've shared with us, in rehearsal, in performance, and in community. Their journey continues, and we're proud to be a part of it.

SYMPHONIC BRIDGES

PROGRAM

Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

Richard Wagner (1813–1883)

Michael Sanderling, conductor

Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano in C major, Op. 56

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

I. Allegro

II. Largo

III. Rondo alla Polacca

Michael Sanderling, conductor

Carmelo de los Santos, violin

Christoph Wagner, violoncello

Falko Steinbach, piano

~ INTERMISSION ~

Recognition of the 2025 UNM Fine Arts Distinguished Alumni

An American in Paris

George Gershwin (1898–1937)

Sebastián Serrano-Ayala, conductor

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This evening's program explores the idea of musical connection—bridging traditions, cultures, and generations through sound. From the grandeur of Wagner's Romantic overture, through Beethoven's virtuosic dialogue among soloists, to Gershwin's jazzy portrait of Paris, each work acts as a bridge between worlds: opera and concert hall, classical and popular, Europe and America.

#### *Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Wagner's *Meistersinger* Prelude is a rousing celebration of music, craftsmanship, and tradition. It opens with a noble brass fanfare, soon weaving together lyrical themes from the full opera. Written as a standalone concert piece, this overture brims with contrapuntal brilliance and radiant orchestration, honoring the guild of master singers while elevating song itself to a symbol of cultural unity. Under Michael Sanderling's direction, the orchestra brings out both the ceremonial dignity and the joyful exuberance that define this masterwork.

### Department of Music: Andrew Megill, 1987, Bachelor of Music

Andrew Megill is professor of conducting and director of choral organizations at the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music, where he holds the Carol F. and Arthur L. Rice, Jr. University Professorship in Performance. He leads choir of the Music of the Baroque, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale, and Fuma Sacra. Megill earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of New Mexico in 1987. Megill is recognized as one of the leading choral conductors of his generation, admired for both his passionate artistry and his unusually wide-ranging repertoire, which extends from early music to newly composed works. Megill is particularly admired for his performances of Baroque choral works. He collaborates with leaders in the field of historically-informed performance, and has conducted many period orchestras, including Piffaro, Rebel, Sinfonia NYC, Brandywine Baroque, the Sebastians, Tempesta di Mare, and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra. A frequent champion of music of our own time, he has also conducted regional or world premieres of works by Caleb Burhans, Paul Chihara, Dominic DiOrio, Sven-David Sandström, Caroline Shaw, Lewis Spratlan, Steven Stucky, Jon Magnussen, Arvo Pärt, and Krzysztof Penderecki.

### Department of Theatre & Dance: Mónica Sánchez, 2018, MFA in Dramatic Writing

Mónica Sánchez heard her calling in the theatre 40 years ago when she became a company member of La Compañía de Teatro de Albuquerque. Her life-long vocation as a theatre artist includes 20+ years in California beginning with a residency at El Teatro Campesino, the preeminent Chicano theatre company founded by Luís Valdez during the nascent civil rights movement led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta to unionize farmworkers. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, she honed the craft of professional actor in theatre, film and television, all the while enjoying a multitude of posts as a teaching artist and facilitating community engagements. In 2015 she embarked on her MFA in Dramatic Writing at UNM, graduating in 2018. Recent projects include her role onstage at the Yale Repertory Theatre in Luís Alfaro's play, "Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles;" and a micro-commission from Lortel Theatre's Alcove initiative for her new play, "Voy." She has been on faculty at Colorado College since 2019 as Assistant Professor of Playwriting and Performance. In May 2025, she will return to New Mexico full-time to embrace the next phase of her work as an actor, playwright, director, and educator in independent and community.

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS 2025 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### Department of Art: Eric-Paul Riege 2017, BFA in Art Studio & Ecology

Eric-Paul Riege (Diné) is a weaver and fiber artist working in collage, durational performance, installation, woven sculpture, and wearable art. Using weaving as both means and metaphor to tell hybrid tales that interlace stories from Diné spirituality with his own interpretations and cosmology, he understands his artworks as animate and mobile. His practice pays homage and links him to generations of weavers in his family, which aids him in generating spaces of sanctuary. Riege's recent solo exhibitions include "Hammer Projects: Eric Paul Riege" at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2022–2023), "Larger than Memory" at the Heard Museum, Phoenix (2020), and "Hóló—it xistz" at the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami (2019). His recent group exhibitions include the "Prospect.5 Triennial" in New Orleans (2022), the "Toronto Biennial of Art" (2022), and "SITElines Biennial," presented by SITE SANTA FE (2018). He holds a BFA in Art Studio and Ecology from The University of New Mexico. His work is collected by Forge Project and ICA Miami, among others. Riege is a member of the Charcoal Streaked Division of the Red Running Into the Water clan. He was born and is based in Gallup, New Mexico.

### Department of Film & Digital Arts: Ramona Emerson, 1997, BA in Media Arts

Ramona Emerson is a Diné writer and filmmaker originally from Tohatchi, New Mexico. She received her degree in Media Arts in 1997 from the University of New Mexico and her MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) in 2015 from the Institute of American Indian Arts. She has worked as a professional cinematographer, writer, and editor for over twenty-five years and is currently working on her 8th and 9th film project, *Crossing the Line and Through Her Lens*. She is an Emmy nominee, a Sundance Native Lab Fellow, a Time-Warner Storyteller Fellow, a Tribeca All-Access Grantee and a WGBH Producer Fellow. Ramona just released her second novel, *Exposure*, the follow-up to her debut novel *Shutter*, which was published by SOHO Press in 2022 and long listed for the National Book Award, a finalist for the PEN Hemingway, PEN Open Book and Edgar Awards among others. Through her storytelling, Emerson looks at contemporary stories about her people and aims to question and redefine the expectations of Native cultural identity, highlighting stories that are not a part of mainstream media. She currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she and her husband/producer, Kelly Byars run their production company Reel Indian Pictures. Ramona is also an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico in the department of Film and Digital Arts.

### Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano in C major, Op. 56

Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* is a rare gem—a conversation among three soloists and orchestra, composed with elegance and innovation.

**I. Allegro** – The work opens with a noble orchestral statement, gradually introducing the three soloists in elegant interplay. Their dialogue unfolds with grace, wit, and mutual responsiveness.

**II. Largo** – A brief but haunting slow movement led by the cello, offering a moment of profound introspection.

**III. Rondo alla Polacca** – A buoyant finale modeled after a Polish dance, brimming with rhythmic sparkle, charm, and playful exchanges among the soloists.

### An American in Paris

With *An American in Paris*, Gershwin paints a vivid sonic portrait of a traveler abroad. The score—featuring car horns, jazzy rhythms, and sweeping melodies—captures the excitement, loneliness, and wonder of being in a foreign city. Originally premiered in 1928, the piece fuses European symphonic tradition with American jazz, embodying a cultural crossroads unique to its time. From bustling boulevards to introspective café scenes, Gershwin's music bridges continents, moods, and genres—capturing the pulse of a vibrant cultural exchange.

### About the Soloists

#### Cármelo de los Santos – Violin

Brazilian-born violinist Cármelo de los Santos has captivated audiences worldwide with his expressive artistry and technical brilliance. A laureate of several international competitions, including the Júlio Cardona International String Competition, he has performed as a guest soloist with over 40 orchestras across the Americas and Europe. In 2002, he made his New York debut as soloist and conductor at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Currently, he serves as Professor of Violin at the University of New Mexico and Concertmaster of the New Mexico Philharmonic. He performs on a 1791 Angelo Soliani violin.

#### Christoph Wagner – Violoncello

Dr. Christoph Wagner is an award-winning cellist whose performances have taken him across four continents, appearing in venues such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts. A first-prize winner at competitions such as Jugend Musiziert (Germany), Ribalta Mozart Italia (Italy), and the National Society of Arts and Letters Competition (U.S.), he was honored

with prestigious fellowships including the Sviatoslav Richter Grant, Amici di Via Gabina Fellowship, and DA CAMERA Young Artist Fellowship. Currently Assistant Professor of Cello and Head of Strings at the University of New Mexico, he combines a versatile performance career with a deep commitment to music education.

### Falko Steinbach – Piano

Falko Steinbach is Professor of Piano at the University of New Mexico and an internationally recognized concert pianist, composer, and pedagogue. A native of Germany, he has performed in major venues throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Known for his virtuosic command and interpretive insight, Steinbach is also an advocate for contemporary music, often performing premieres of new works—including his own compositions. He has released numerous critically acclaimed recordings and published groundbreaking work on piano technique and musical interpretation.

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### About the Conductors

#### Michael Sanderling

German conductor Michael Sanderling has earned international acclaim for his expressive interpretations and distinctive musical insight. Since 2021, he has served as Chief Conductor of the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, with whom he has toured extensively and recorded a celebrated Brahms symphony cycle for Warner Classics. He previously held the post of Chief Conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic, where his leadership brought global recognition and resulted in acclaimed recordings of the complete Beethoven and Shostakovich symphonies for Sony Classical.

As a guest conductor, Sanderling has led many of the world's foremost orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Wiener Symphoniker, Philharmonia Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

A dedicated educator, he teaches conducting at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts and regularly mentors young musicians through programs such as the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra.

#### Sebastián Serrano-Ayala

Colombian conductor Sebastián Serrano-Ayala is recognized for his dynamic leadership, innovative programming, and cross-cultural artistry. He has conducted ensembles across the United States, Colombia, the

Netherlands, and the Philippines, including the Tacoma Symphony, Skagit Symphony, and Saratoga Orchestra.

His engagements include fellowships with the Cabrillo Festival, National Orchestral Institute, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and the Mostly Modern Festival, where he premiered works with the American Modern Ensemble. As Director of Orchestras at the University of New Mexico, he leads the UNM Symphony and Sinfonia and mentors the next generation of conductors. His work bridges tradition and innovation, inspiring communities through bold, inclusive musical storytelling.

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COLLABORATIVE ARTS  
& TECHNOLOGY



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Scheduled for completion in Fall 2026, CCAT will be home to a state-of-the-art concert hall, with cutting-edge acoustics, designed by world-renowned architects at Diller Scofidio + Renfro in partnership with the award-winning local firm ROMA Architecture. Make a gift or pledge of \$2,500 today to name a seat and be our guest at the UNM Symphony Orchestra concert on May 8th.

For more information, please visit [finearts.unm.edu/ccat](https://finearts.unm.edu/ccat)

