



NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Amy Gillingham Culligan, *music director & conductor*

presents

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!

with special guests

Nikk Pilato, *sportscaster*
Adam White, *sportscaster*
Ron Shaw, *referee*

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 // 7 p.m.
Greaves Concert Hall

RECORDING VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO OF THIS CONCERT
AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

ABOUT THE CONCERT

Prepare yourself for an evening of delightful irreverence and musical playfulness, as we present a concert that invites you to leave your expectations at the door and indulge in a bit of spirited fun! This program, designed in the spirit of “classical pops,” is built around the wonderfully absurd Beethoven 5 Sportscast by PDQ Bach, and features a carefully curated selection of works with competitive or athletic themes—some more overt than others.

Classical music is often regarded as a realm of solemnity and refinement, but tonight, we turn that notion on its head. In a time when the world feels heavy with its seriousness and division, art has the power to respond in many ways. While there are certainly moments for deep, profound expression, tonight is a celebration of whimsy and lightness—a joyful escape from the weight of the world. So, if you’ve been craving a respite from life’s intensity, this concert is your invitation to sit back, relax, and embrace the joy of play. Feel free to tap your toes, laugh out loud, and, yes, even hoot and holler—this is your permission slip to have fun!

The program features a delightful mix of musical treasures, starting with Carmen Suite, which has been captivating audiences for decades. While the opera’s fiery protagonist, Carmen, is best known for her seductive allure, tonight we also get to meet the bullfighter, Escamillo. The suite’s movements have been reordered to align with the narrative arc of the opera, adding a layer of storytelling to the musical experience. Next, we take a spin through the iconic Overture to William Tell, a piece so synonymous with horseback riding and cinematic heroism that it has become a pop culture touchstone.

Then, we turn to a more subtle reference to sporting life: the symphony of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. A virtuoso violinist, composer, and conductor, Bologne was also a highly accomplished swordsman—an athletic skill that, though not immediately apparent in the music, gives the symphony its own sense of precision and finesse. And, of course, we have Beethoven 5 Sportscast, a cheeky take on the idea of music as sport, presented with all the exaggerated flair of a live broadcast. Expect over-the-top commentary, playful banter, and plenty of moments designed to surprise and amuse!

We conclude with a final burst of energy from Carmen, presenting some of the most popular and toe-tapping movements of the suite.

So, whether you’re here for the music, the humor, or just a chance to revel in the carefree joy of the evening, we hope you’ll leave feeling lighter, brighter, and with a smile on your face. Enjoy the performance—and remember, this is the one time it’s perfectly acceptable to have a little fun at a classical concert!

THANK YOU TO OUR GUESTS

A special thank you goes out to our guest “sportscasters” and “referee,” Nikk Pilato, Adam White, and Ron Shaw. Thank you for giving your time, talents, and humor to this production.

Another thanks go to Andrew Kiner, Bryan Spaulding, and John Paul Shannon for their narration and theatrics help during Philharmonic rehearsals.

THANK YOU TO OUR ORCHESTRA VOLUNTEERS

The art of orchestra is a communal effort. Thank you to all those involved in NKU Philharmonic volunteer leadership: stage management, set up crew, personnel, and library. Thank you so much for your time and hard work. All of you add to the climate of Philharmonic in an ongoing and positive way.

THANK YOU TO OUR SOTA AND UNIVERSITY COLLEAGUES

We gratefully acknowledge the important role our administrators, faculty, staff, and other mentors play in making our concerts and preparations possible and successful. Thank you to our colleagues in applied instruments/voice, ensembles, history, theory, aural skills, piano, technology, advising, hall management, and to those across the campus in other disciplines for the important role you play in preparing our students both musically and academically.

PROGRAM

Suite from Carmen (1874) Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
Part I Amy Culligan, *ed.*
Prelude
La Garde Montante
Habanera
Seguedille
Les Dragons d' Alcala
*Intermezzo**

Overture to William Tell (1829) Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)

HALFTIME!

<p>Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 11 No. 2 (1779) Joseph Bologne <i>Allegro Presto</i> (1745 - 1799)</p> <p>Featuring the color guard work of Annie Hovey, Olive Pfalz, Alex McCombs, and Abigail Cole</p>

Beethoven Symphony No. 5 Sportscast: P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742)
New Horizons in Music Appreciation (1967) Professor Peter Schickele, *ed.*

Suite from Carmen (1874) Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
Part I Amy Culligan, *ed.*
Aragonaise
Chanson du Toreador
Danse Boheme
Les Toreadors

*This movement is dedicated to our senior orchestra members who will either be graduating or student teaching after this orchestra concert: Abigail Cole, Lisa Malsom, Erin Mills, Peyton Wallace.

NKU PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Amy Gillingham Culligan, *music director & conductor*

VIOLIN I

Eva Vandegrift, *concertmaster*
Gracie Niehaus,
assoc. concertmaster

Maia Loiacono
James Edler
Benjamin Lorson*

VIOLIN II

Audrey Klanke, *principal*
Jacob Canada,
assoc. principal

Nozomi Watanabe*
Lindsey McMenemy
David Veshapidze*

VIOLA

Noah Wheelock, *principal*
Hagen Bramlage,
assoc. principal

Isaac Bambach
Void Turner
Darius Briscoe

VIOLONCELLO

Caden Graham, *principal*
Annie Hovey,
assoc. principal

Anna Stephens
Alex McCombs
Victoria Jackson
Emma Senn

DOUBLE BASS

Malachi Nance, *principal*
Olive Pfalz

FLUTE

Lisa Malsom, *principal*
Anna Stivers

OBOE

Bonnie Farr, *principal #*

BASSOON

Caroline Phipps, *principal*

CLARINET

Peyton Wallace, *principal*
Erin Mills

HORN (rotating principals)

Victor Cabezas #
Sabrina Harrison +
Barbara Philips #
Mason Stewart +

TRUMPET

Robbie Lasonczyk, *principal*
Abigail Cole
Max Robinette

TROMBONE

Meghan Gaitskill +
Alexander Lang,
bass trombone +

PERCUSSION

Andrew Kiner,
principal percussion
Luke Myers, *principal timpani*
& *assoc. principal percussion*
Brian Spaulding
Michael Culligan #

KEYBOARD

John Paul Shannon

HARP

Emily Stone +

STAGE CREW / SET-UP

Eva Vandegrift, *stage manager*
Darius Briscoe
Victoria Jackson
Malachi Nance
Anna Stephens

LIBRARIANS

Void Turner
Erin Mills

* denotes community member
+ denotes guest performer
denotes guest faculty performer

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