



University of Stuttgart
Academic Orchestra

conducted by Mihály Zeke

&

Puget Sound

Symphony Orchestra

conducted by Anna Wittstruck

September 23, 2022 | 07:30 PM

Schneebeck Concert Hall



ACADEMIC ORCHESTRA

Concert Program

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Tragic Overture in d-minor, Op. 81

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Concerto for viola and orchestra Sz. 120

I. Moderato

II. Adagio religioso

III. Allegro vivace

Viola - Paulina Riquelme

Intermission

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Symphony No. 4 in d-minor, Op. 120

I. Ziemlich langsam – Lebhaft

II. Romanze. Ziemlich langsam

III. Scherzo. Lebhaft

IV. Langsam. Presto

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

IX. "Nimrod" - from the "Enigma Variations", Op.36

joint orchestras, conducted by Miguel Ledezma, MAT '23

(stepping in for Dr. Anna Wittstruck)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Academic Festival Overture in c-minor, Op. 80 *joint*

orchestras, conducted by Mihály Zeke

University of Stuttgart Academic Orchestra



© Universität Stuttgart / Kovalenko

The University of Stuttgart Academic Orchestra is composed of more than a hundred musicians, mainly active students but also alumni all academic disciplines. The ensemble is a mainstay of academic life in Stuttgart, appearing on campus at important occasions, giving concerts in the Stuttgart region's greatest halls, such as the in the Liederhalle, and representing the city on a national and international level. Recent concert tours have taken the orchestra to South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in 2018, to Tallinn, Helsinki, and St. Petersburg in 2016, to South Africa in 2014 and to China in 2012. Such projects are mostly done in cooperation with partner universities across the world, whose respective orchestras often visit Stuttgart in return. These exchange programmes have given rise to many an academic cooperation as well as to lifelong friendships spanning the globe.

The orchestra devotes itself equally to symphonic and oratorio repertoire. Recent concert programmes include such works as Tchaikovsky's 5. Symphony, Elgar's "Enigma Variations", Beethoven's Ninth, Orff's "Carmina Burana", Bruckner's 9. Symphony and the "Te Deum", Mahler's 1. Symphony "Titan" and Verdi's Requiem. Another highlight are staged opera productions, most recently Mozart's "Magic Flute". Upcoming projects will include such repertoire mainstays as Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem" and Mendelssohn's "Elijah", but also Dvorak's Cello Concerto and Shostakovitch's 5. Symphony.

Participation in the orchestra demands a high level of personal commitment and volunteering, which is no matter of course given the intense workload most students experience today. This strengthens a sense of community and forges bonds of friendship and belonging. The Academic Orchestra and Choir's work is supported by a support association, composed mainly of former ensemble members.



© Gergely Máté Oláh

Mihály Zeke

Mihály Zeke (IPA z:ɛkɛ) has been in charge of the University of Stuttgart Academic Orchestra and Chorus since 2020. Born in London to a Greek-Hungarian family of musicians, Zeke studied organ, piano and conducting in Athens and Stuttgart. He has been a laureate of the Kyveli-Horn Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as member of the Dirigentenforum, the German Ministry of Culture's elite platform for young conductors. He attended numerous masterclasses with Graham Johnson, Anne Le Bozec, Stefan Parkman, Peter Dijkstra, Hans-Christoph Rademann, Howard Williams and others. As a lied duo partner, he won prizes at the Paula-Salomon-Lindberg competition Berlin in 2011 and at the Hugo-Wolf competition Slovenj Gradec in 2012.

From 2012 to 2015 Zeke was chorus master at the Dijon opera house before moving on to a freelance career based in Paris. He conducted the region of Burgundy's state funded Arsysis chamber choir until 2019, subsequently taking a number of its members and forming the independent European chamber choir Cythera. As a guest conductor he has worked among others at the English National Opera, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, the Accentus chamber choir, the Orchestre Dijon Bourgogne and the Hungarian and Hellenic Radio Choirs. He is regularly invited as a jury member on international competitions such as the Florilège Vocal de Tours.

A passionate pedagogue, Zeke has been teaching as a guest lecturer or professor since 2014 in Dijon, Paris and Tübingen as well as in various workshops and masterclasses. He currently teaches orchestral conducting at the Stuttgart Musikhochschule.

He has released two albums to date: *Naissance de Vénus* with Arsysis Bourgogne in 2018, featuring French a-cappella works from Debussy to Messiaen, was widely acclaimed by critics, while his first recording with Cythera, *Homelands Vol. 1*, featuring works by Bartók, Kodály, Dvořák/Janáček, Schönberg and Brahms was nominated for the German Record Critics Award in 2021.

Paulina Riquelme



© private

Paulina Riquelme was born in Santiago de Chile in 1989. She began studying violin at the Beethoven Stiftung when she was six years old. In 2005, she met Prof. Elena Batrakova, with whom she began her music studies at the Escuela Moderna de Música de Santiago. She then completed her Bachelor's degree at the Universidad Mayor in Santiago de Chile. Paulina Riquelme has already participated in numerous competitions of the Children and Youth Orchestra Foundation of Chile, in which she was awarded first prize in 2001, 2005 and 2009. As a result of her awards, she performed the Violin Concerto by Johannes Brahms with the Youth Orchestra of Chile. In the period from 2010 to 2013, she was a permanent violinist with the "Orquesta Marga Marga" (2010) and "Orquesta de Cámara de Valdivia" (2012-2013). Continuing her artistic career, she pursued postgraduate studies with Prof. Kolia Lessing at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, which she successfully completed in February 2016 with distinction.

At the same time, she took up viola studies while completing an internship with the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra. In February 2018, she received her masters degree in viola with Prof. Andra Darzins, again with honors, at the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart. In December 2019, she completed her concert exam (Bartók Viola Concerto with the Stuttgart University of Music Orchestra).

Paulina Riquelme has already collaborated with numerous important orchestras, such as the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the HR-Symphony Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra, the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, the Baden-Baden Philharmonic Orchestra and the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn. Chamber music plays an important role for Paulina Riquelme. She has collaborated with musicians such as Sol Gabetta, Nimrod Guez, Guido Schiefen, Norbert Kaiser, Sonja Korkeala, Ulrich Wittler and Alexei Tkachuk. Since July 2018, she has been a permanent violist with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra.



Anna Wittstruck

Anna Wittstruck joined the University of Puget Sound School of Music in 2017 as Assistant Professor, Director of Orchestra. Before that she spent two years at Stanford University as Acting Assistant Professor, serving as Interim Music Director and Conductor of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Stanford Philharmonia. In 2019 she was appointed Music Director of the West Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and currently also conducts the Federal Way Youth Symphonies.

Wittstruck has conducted concerts across the United States, in Latin America, Europe and in Asia. She has served as a guest conductor with the Harbin Symphony in China, the Northwest Sinfonietta, and the Eastern Sierra Symphony. She conducted concerts at Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and Teatro Nacional de Cuba in Havana, where she performed with Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba and the Chamber Orchestra of Havana. She has conducted concerts at the Rudolfinum in Prague and the Musikzentrum Augarten (home of the Vienna Boys' Choir) in Vienna, as well as concerts in Berlin, Bad Elster, and Teplice.

Wittstruck is also an active orchestral musician whose performances as a cellist span from the Beijing Modern Music Festival to the 2011 YouTube Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. Her string quartet gave a concert tour of Thailand sponsored by the Yonok and American-Thai Foundations, in honor of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's sixtieth birthday celebrations. She won a blind audition at the age of fourteen to become the youngest contracted member of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, and has participated in orchestra festivals such as Tanglewood, Round Top, and the National Symphony/Kennedy Center Institute. She has appeared as a soloist with the Charlotte and Hendersonville Symphonies, on the Public Radio International show, "From the Top."

Program Notes

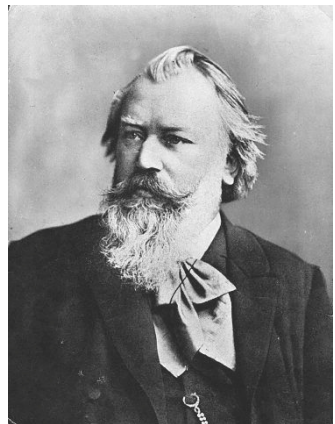
The University of Stuttgart Academic Symphony Orchestra is presenting a program of romantic works by German composers Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, paired with one of the modern repertoire's most famous concertos for the viola.

The main work is one of early Romanticism's most poignant works, Schumann's Symphony in d- minor (later numbered as the Fourth), a work "twice composed". The symphony's distinctive attribute is its cyclical structure, with different subjects permeating each of the almost seamlessly connected movements. First composed in the creative flurry of 1840-41, arguably the happiest and most creative year of Schumann's life, the symphony was reworked and more heavily orchestrated in 1853, leading to a resounding success at the Düsseldorf festival. This work, although less well known than for example Liszt's Sonata in B-minor, represents a turning point in the Romantic

Two mature works by Johannes Brahms lead us on to high Romanticism. Composed in 1878 as a gesture of gratitude for being awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Breslau, the Tragic Overture and the Academic Festival Overture are sister works: Brahms himself, referring to them, would muse "one weeps, the other one laughs". Such was the case in many of Brahms' works, tragedy and exaltation rarely appearing unmingled. In the Academic Festival Overture at least, its themes based on a collection of students' songs, one sees Brahms' humorous, even prankful side.



© Wikipedia



© Wikipedia

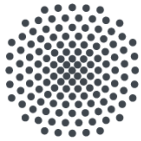
Placed between these large-scale symphonic works is Hungarian composer Béla Bartók's beautiful Viola concerto, intended for the famous virtuoso William Primrose in 1945 and left unfinished at the time of the composer's death. Bartók had emigrated with his wife Ditta to the US after the outbreak of the Second World War and was faced with grave financial and health-related difficulties. Only too late did his work begin to be recognized, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers offering him a grant and permitting a last creative phase that also produced the famous Concerto for Orchestra, the 3rd Piano concerto and the 7th String quartet. One of the most demanding works ever written for the viola, this Concerto (here completed by the composer's friend and pupil Tibor Serly) is firmly rooted in folk music modes. It is a testament to a composer's ethos faced with insurmountable illness, a work leading through nostalgia and despair to serenity and even playfulness.

If one were to describe an underlying theme to this program, it would be a reflection on life and destiny, from the individual to the cosmic scale, projected into music by composers at different stages of their creative lives. At the same time it shows the evolution of symphonic texture, from classical to more complex forms and from chamber music to large symphonic structures.



© Wikipedia

We wish to express our deepest gratitude
to our sponsors



University of Stuttgart
Germany

christian bürkert  stiftung

