THE UNLV College of Fine Arts

Department of Music presents

Concert II.

Featuring

Bill Bernatis,
French horn

TARAS KRYSA
MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

Sunday Afternoon
October 26, 2008  2:00PM

Artemus Ham Concert Hall
Located on Campus of UNLV
4505 Maryland Pkwy

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS
W. A. Mozart
*The Magic Flute Overture, K.620*

Richard Strauss
*Horn Concerto in E-flat, Op. 11*

I. Allegro  
II. Andante  
III. Allegro - Rondo

Bill Bernatis, *French horn*

~ INTERMISSION ~

Antonin Dvořák
*Symphony No. 8 in G, Op. 88*

I. Allegro con brio  
II. Adagio  
III. Allegretto grazioso - Molto vivace  
IV. Allegro ma non troppo

THE UNLV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Symphony Orchestra at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is comprised of undergraduate/graduate music majors/minors in the UNLV College of Fine Arts as well as non-music majors.

The mission of this performing ensemble is threefold:

1). To train music majors to become professional performers and teachers;
2). To introduce non-music majors to higher quality music making.
3). To enrich the cultural life of UNLV and the greater Las Vegas community.

The UNLV orchestra presents a number of programs each season that include a variety of the orchestral standard repertoire, ranging from early Baroque through Modern Contemporary. The UNLV Symphony Orchestra performs at least one major work with chorus every year as well as one complete opera. Student soloists are featured throughout the year either on the Student Soloists Concert or as guest artists for winning the annual Solo Concerto Competition. The list of guest conductors and soloists with the UNLV Symphony Orchestra includes Oleh Krysa, Itzhak Perlman, Sarah Chang, Rachel Lee, Edgar Meyer, Wei Wei Le, Andrew Smith, Mykola Suk, Kaitlen Tully and many others. Past music directors include Jim Stivers, Tad Suzuki, Hal Weller and George Stelluto.
Bill Bernatis
French horn

Bill Bernatis is currently Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, hornist with the Sierra Winds, assistant principal horn with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and principal horn with the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Prior to his coming to UNLV, Bill was Assistant Professor of Horn at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. His performing background includes a wealth of orchestral and chamber music. He has been principal horn with the Corpus Christi Symphony, the Waco Symphony, the San Angelo Symphony, the Breckenridge Music Institute, and the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed with the Ithaca Brass, the Ithaca Wind Quintet, Baylor Chamber Players, Baylor Brass Quintet, and the Texas Brass Ensemble. He was an instructor for the Empire Brass Seminar at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and a member of the AIMS orchestra in Graz, Austria. His teachers include John Iltis, William Scharnberg, and Philip Farkas. After receiving his BM from Washburn University, Bill taught music in public school for three years, then went on to earn his MM at Indiana University and pursue doctoral studies at the University of North Texas. Over the years, Bill has performed solo recitals, judged competitions, done studio recording, and held master classes around the country. He has toured with the Dallas Brass, performed solos with the Corpus Christi Symphony, Waco Symphony, Corpus Christi Chamber Orchestra, Dallas Wind Symphony, the Victoria Bach Festival, the Penfield Symphony, and International Horn Society regional and international workshops. He is still an active recitalist and freelance performer.

Taras Krysa
Music Director & Conductor

Taras Krysa was born in Kiev, Ukraine to a musical family and began his formal studies as a violinist at the Moscow Conservatory. After moving to the United States, Mr. Krysa continued his studies at Indiana University and Northwestern University both in violin and conducting. His conducting teachers have included Victor Yampolsky, Jorma Panula and David Zinman. As a violinist, Mr. Krysa has won positions with the New World Symphony orchestra and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras. In recent seasons his conducting appearances have included National Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra van het Oosten, New World Symphony, St. Petersburg Symphony, Moscow Soloists, Slovak Sinfonietta, Spoleto Festival Chamber Orchestra, Kiev Chamber Orchestra and the Lublin Philharmonic Orchestra. He has made three critically acclaimed recordings for the Brilliant Classics label. In addition, Mr. Krysa has served as Principal Conductor of the Ukrainian State Pops Symphony Orchestra, which he led on several European tours with an appearance at the Concertgebouw Hall. Currently, Taras Krysa is serving as the Director of Orchestras at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Music Director of the Henderson Symphony Orchestra.
Piano Concerto in G minor, Opus 25

Mozart was born on January 27, 1756, in Salzburg, Austria, and died on December 7, 1791, in Vienna. He wrote his singspiel Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) to a libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, mostly between April and July of his final year, although the opera's Overture and its Act II March of the Priests were apparently completed later, since in his personal catalogue Mozart dated them September 28—only two days before the work was premiered, at Vienna's Freihaus-Theater auf der Wieden.

Scoring: 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, and strings.

Approximate performance time: 7 minutes.

Mozart had finished almost all of The Magic Flute during the spring and early summer of 1791 when, in July, he was invited to compose an opera to Metastasio's already much-used libretto La Clemenza di Tito, for the festivities surrounding the coronation in Prague of Emperor Leopold II as King of Bohemia. He gladly accepted, plunging into a flurry of composition that continued until the eve of the performance, which took place on September 6. La clemenza di Tito enjoyed only a moderate reception at first, due in large part to deficiencies in the casting, but audiences gradually warmed to it, and its final performance, on September 30, was a resounding success.

Mozart had to enjoy this cliffhanger of a triumph from a distance, since he had returned to Vienna two weeks earlier to oversee final preparations for the premiere of The Magic Flute. This opera marked an important new path for the composer. It was the first stage work he had written for the commercial theater, rather than on commission from an aristocratic court. This realignment may have been born out of necessity. In recent years, Mozart's principal link to the Italian-dominated Viennese court opera had been the librettist Lorenzo da Ponte. But in the spring of 1791, a series of scandals caught up with da Ponte, and the Emperor was compelled to dismiss him from his post as librettist to the royal court.

Mozart was badly in need of income, and the best way to earn serious money was through an imperial appointment (which was not likely at the moment) or a successful opera. He was already giving music lessons, playing piano recitals, and writing bushels of instrumental music, but none of this provided a sense of economic stability. Mozart's wife was not in good health and was forced to spend the summer at the spa in Baden-Baden with their five-year-old son; and another child was due in the course of the summer. The composer had begun to borrow substantial sums and, although his condition was far from desperate, he was flirting with what could easily escalate into financial disaster.

At about this time, Mozart renewed a friendship with Emanuel Schikaneder, a singer-actor-dancer-manager-playwright who had had regular contact with the Mozart family since 1780, when a company he directed appeared in Salzburg. Mozart's father referred to Schikaneder as a "good honest fellow," and the warm relationship must have only increased when, four years later, Schikaneder produced a revival of Mozart's singspiel The Abduction from the Seraglio at Vienna's Kärntnertor Theater, which he was by then managing. Several years later, Schikaneder re-emerged at the helm of the city's thousand-seat Freihaus-Theater auf der Wieden, where he specialized in presenting lighthearted German-language singspiels, sometimes to his own librettos. His resident musical ensemble was impressive, including an orchestra of thirty-five players and a troupe of singing actors. In crafting the libretto for The Magic Flute, Schikaneder drew on several collections of stories and fairytales popular in Germany and Austria at the time. His audience did not embrace the new work immediately but soon fell to its charms. Finally, Mozart had a hit on his hands. If he had not died little more than two months following the premiere, The Magic Flute would doubtless have changed his life.
Schikaneder’s libretto has perplexed commentators ever since, as it effects something of an about-face halfway through the action. The heroic Tamino is sent by the Queen of the Night to rescue her daughter, Pamina, who she says has been kidnapped by Sarastro, her “ex,” a sort of cult leader. Tamino sets out on his mission (accompanied by Papageno, a curious being who is half-man and half-bird) but soon discovers that Sarastro is actually the good guy, that he has in fact rescued Pamina from the evil Queen. In the course of his quest, Tamino falls in love with Pamina, and the two prove their steadfastness through various trials in Sarastro’s realm before the Queen and her wicked minions are banished.

There does seem to be a good deal of hocus-pocus going on in The Magic Flute, and much of it, we are told, makes sense only when one understands that the work is an allegory for Masonic beliefs and rites. Schikaneder was a Freemason, and Mozart had also joined a Masonic lodge in 1784. The number three is said to hold mystical significance to Freemasons. Accordingly, the overriding key of The Magic Flute is E-flat major, with three flats in the key signature, and the Overture opens with a grand proclamation of each of the three notes of the tonic triad. Following this grave introduction, the orchestra skips off in a gleeful, fugal Allegro, only to be interrupted by another solemn proclamation of the three chords (this time in the dominant key of B-flat). The remainder of the Overture is notable for Mozart’s brilliant use of counterpoint and dynamic contrasts, building a considerably more complex piece than one might expect from what is really only a single theme.

—James M. Keller

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Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 11

Richard Strauss was born in Munich on June 11, 1964; he died in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on September 8, 1949. The E-flat horn concerto was first performed in Meiningen in 1885, with Hans von Bülow conducting and Gustav Leinhos as soloist.

In addition to the solo horn, the score calls for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, timpani, and strings.

Approximate performance time: 18 minutes.

The son of a professional horn player, Richard Strauss composed the first of his two concertos for horn and orchestra in 1882, when he was only 18. His Horn Concerto No. 1, Op. 11, reportedly impressed and pleased his horn-playing father. Small wonder, for it features a virtuoso solo part that highlights both the heroic and lyrical aspects of the instrument. Yet the elder Strauss never performed the piece in public. Already past 60 years of age, Franz Strauss found the horn writing too demanding to risk a public rendition. Strauss prefaces his concerto with a four-measure horn call, a solo that conjures up age-old associations between the instrument and hunting, the woods, and nature generally. This figure also provides the basis for the opening movement’s initial theme, which now blazes forth in the orchestra. The ensuing Andante provides a contemplative interlude, while the finale stands in the tradition of “hunting rondo” music cultivated by Haydn, Mozart (particularly in his horn concertos), and other Classical-period composers.
Symphony No. 8 in G, Op. 88

Antonín Dvořák was born in Nelahozeves, Bohemia on September 8, 1841; he died in Prague on May 1, 1904.

Scoring: 2 flutes, piccolo, 2 oboes, English horn, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, and strings.

Approximate performance time: 34 minutes.

Warmth of heart is perhaps the most pervasive quality of Dvořák's music. That is not to suggest that it was a substitute for substance or technical skill; it was simply part of the man's nature—as was the innate sense of tastefulness that kept it from overwhelming the other strong points that earned him the admiration of his colleagues as well as the enduring love of a large international audience.

Another prominent element in his work, of course, was his spontaneous and enthusiastic response to his native culture. This too was part of his nature as a creative artist, and it is not at all surprising that he recommended a similar approach on the part of the aspiring American composers who were his pupils during his three fertile years as director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York (1892-1895). The Symphony in G major was already behind him when he arrived in the New World, and it marked some notable occasions for him here, as it had done earlier in England.

This eminently lovable and truly great work was composed at a time when Dvořák had achieved not only the recognition already noted, but, far more importantly, the self-confidence of knowing he had chosen the right path. Not at all surprisingly for a musician of his time, he was strongly influenced by Wagner in his early works. For him, in fact, that influence was strengthened by direct contact: he actually played the viola in an orchestra Wagner conducted in a concert of his own works on a visit to Prague in 1863. The early symphonies and other works Dvořák composed in the dozen years that followed that event carry the Bayreuth master's strong imprint, with fairly direct allusions in the Third and Fourth symphonies to Tannhäuser, the Overture to which was the concluding number in that 1863 concert.

But it was with music influenced more strongly still by the songs and dances of his native soil—specifically a set of Moravian Duets for soprano and alto—that Dvořák attracted the admiration and meaningful support of Johannes Brahms, who not only recommended him for an Imperial Prize in Vienna but put him in the good hands of his own publisher, Simrock of Berlin. Simrock had enjoyed a great success with Brahms's own Hungarian Dances, originally for piano duet, and it was he who urged Dvořák to undertake a similar cycle, his Slavonic Dances. Not only did he compose the first of his two books of those dances (the eight that constitute his Op. 46) as soon as he came under Simrock's wing, in 1876, but he then proceeded to orchestrate all of them, and in that form they reached a far wider audience and made a much deeper impression.

At that time Dvořák composed several other works in various forms with specifically Czech content. There was a triptych of Slavonic Rhapsodies for orchestra (Op. 45), and such dance forms as the furiant and the sousedska found their way into symphonies and chamber music. The last of his four piano trios, Op. 90 in E minor, is built entirely on the form known as the dumka, in consequence of which that work is known by the plural form of that term: it is the Dumky Trio.

Dvořák composed his Symphony in G major in 1889 and conducted the premiere in Prague on January 2 of the following year. Less than three months later he introduced the work in London at a concert of the Philharmonic Society, the organization that had commissioned Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and had provided the commission for his own splendid Seventh, which he had introduced there in April 1885. He conducted the Eighth in England again in June 1891, when he was given an honorary doctorate at Cambridge University. For some time the work was called his "English" Symphony, simply because its first publication was in England, when Dvořák was briefly on
the outs with Simrock. But the work is Czech through and through, and Dvořák seemed to be pleased that it was received that way.

There is a conspicuous interrelationship of themes from one movement to another in several of Dvořák's symphonies and chamber works, among which are examples of "cyclical" treatment of a basic theme or motif. The last and best-known of his symphonies, the one in E minor which he composed in America and called From the New World, is an especially clear example of this characteristic practice, mingling variation, metamorphosis, inversion, and outright quotation of themes as the respective movements succeed one another. The Symphony in G major, which stands next in the hearts of so many listeners (and is ranked a bit higher by more than a few musicians), perhaps goes farther than any of the others in this respect, but also in a somewhat subtler way than the others.

Every theme and sub-motif in this radiant and robust work would appear to be developed from the opening phrase, the cumulative effect of the first three movements being to point to a finale in variation form as their inevitable consequence (not that this is an unusual phenomenon among symphonies with variation-finales). To note the citation of one of Dvořák's own earlier tunes in the third movement, and of a theme in the finale that Smetana had used, in no way invalidates this notion, for both of these tunes happen to show the same sort of relationship to the preceding ones as all the others in this work. There are, after all, more than a few similar instances of composers' having arrived at pre-existing tunes in the working-out of variations on unrelated (or apparently unrelated) themes. One of the best-known such examples is Beethoven's citation of Leporello's opening aria in Mozart's Don Giovanni, "Notte e giorno faticar," in his Diabelli Variations for piano. Rachmaninoff, to no one's surprise, arrived at the Dies irae in working out his variations on Paganini's famous Twenty-fourth Caprice; Tchaikovsky arrived at the same tune in his variations on an original theme. This list of such things in variation works is quite endless. While this marked thematic interrelationship will strike some listeners more strongly than others, none need be unduly concerned about it. It is simply one of the underpinnings of a work in which Dvořák's abundant warmth of heart communicates itself with characteristic directness and rhythmic strength, and with a melodic richness (however derived) and feeling for color seldom equaled and never surpassed even among his finest orchestral scores.

An atmosphere of fairy tales and forest legends is evoked in a brief perambulatory section, and then a sequence of birdcalls, woodland sounds and bluff Slavonic marches fills out the first movement. The second, informed with what might be called a devotional element as well as further pastoral idylls, is not without its sterner moments: toward the end a moment of hushed tranquility is shattered by a somber transformation of the movement's opening motif—still discernible as being related to the birdcalls in the preceding movement. The third movement is not the specifically categorizable Czech dance Dvořák used in place of a conventional scherzo in some of his other works (though elements of the špacírka, sousedská and mazurka may be heard in it), but is a voluptuous waltz which just as surely evokes a village festival. Its bucolic trio is a tune Dvořák recycled from his 1874 opera The Pigheaded Peasants.

The capstone of the Symphony is its stunning finale, exuding good-natured pomp and revelry in its brilliant fanfares, dizzyingly whirling variation figures and fierce march episodes—one of which crests in a tune cited earlier by Smetana in "Harvest Home," the last of the six pieces for piano which the older composer produced in 1875 under the collective title Dreams. (While Dvořák hardly ever quoted folk tunes in his works—his Slavonic Dances are built almost entirely on original themes—this would appear to be one of the few exceptions, and also one of the three or four folk tunes used by both him and Smetana.) Dvořák made no fewer than ten false starts before he was able to shape the theme of this variation movement to his satisfaction, but once he succeeded the music came pouring out with a grand, unforced sweep. At the end there is his characteristic falling back to a quiet, nostalgic episode before the jubilant concluding gesture.

Concluding work on that occasion was the Symphony in G major, with which he scored a still grander triumph on "Bohemian Day" at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, August 12, 1893, conducting an orchestra of 114 players for a wildly
enthusiastic audience of some 8,000—a demonstration that surpassed even the one that greeted the New World Symphony at its premiere in New York four months later.

In those days, and for some fifty years after Dvořák’s death, his Symphony in G major was billed as No. 4, the number he assigned when he gave the score to his English publisher. His final symphony, From the New World, was originally published as No. 5. It was only in the 1950s that all his symphonies, a total of nine rather than five, were renumbered chronologically and the four early ones Dvořák had left unpublished began to be heard.

UNLV Symphony Orchestra Personnel
Taras Krysa, Music Director

Violin I
Brian Hwang
Christina Riegert
Sandro Ladu
Barbara Ellis
Thomas Keesey
Brandy Frias
Amanda Gentile
Angela LaBella
Zach McBride
Belinda Martinez
Lydia Scheve

Violin II
Zach McBride
Mina Park
Kellon Davis
Alexandria Ludwig
Samantha Alterman
Marla Huizar
Andrew Ferral
Janay Harris
Malvyn Barlaw
Jose Orozco
Jason Hung

Viola
Merietta Oviatt
John Pollock
Izzy Trinkle
Megan Muse
Gerardo Polanco
Vasheral Carter
Michael Karargiozis

Violoncello
Jessika Soli
Columban Heo
Courtney Waldron
Leigh Wardle
Joe Griego
Nicole Johnson
Courtney Thomas
Alyssa Ledesma
Kathryn Runyon-Walker
Anthony Rodriguez

Double Bass
Alex Arnold
Zuriel Santoyo
Korey Mueller

Flute
Clare Birmingham
Kristen Mosca
Asuka Kawashima

Oboe
Mark Runkles
Alex Hayashi

Clarinet
Aki Oshima
Kanade Oi
Jonathan Cannon

Bassoon
Brian Marsh (contrabassoon)
Eric Foote
Leigh Anne Duncan

French Horn
Bryce Nakaoka
Fred Stone

Trumpet
Megumi Kurokawa
Travis Higa

Trombone
James Nelson
Russell Koester
John Riley

Tuba
Husten Pullen

Percussion
Corene Peltier
Charles Gott
Alfonse Anderson
Virko Baley
Juline Barol-Gilmore
Anthony Barone
Bill Bernatis
Beverly Bias
Tony Branco
Tom Bruner
Eugenie Burkett
Stephen Caplan
Michael Cochran
Kim Delibro
Bernie Dresel
Paul Firak
Nathan Fischer
Tod Fitzpatrick
Charles Foley
Juline Gilmore
Jonathan Good
Jennifer Grim
Dean Gronemeier
Jorge Grossmann
Kenneth Hanlon
James Harvey
Paul Hesselink
David Holben
Serdar Ilban
Julie Ivy
Jocelyn Jensen
Timothy Jones
Voice, UnderGrad. Coordinator
Composition
Voice
Music History
Horn, Assistant Dept. Chairman
Viola
Jazz, Keyboard
Film Scoring
Music Education
Oboe
Voice, Diction
Harp
Drumset
String Bass
Classical Guitar
Voice, Vocal Coordinator
Recording Studio
Voice, Opera Theatre
Department Chairman
Flute
Percussion, Associate Dean
Music Theory/Composition
Music Theory
Violin
Organ
Tuba
Voice, Opera Theatre
Music Theory
Music Theory/Choral
Percussion
Gil Kaupp
Anna Kijanowski
Taras Krysa
Anthony LaBounty
Joe Lano
Weiwei Le
Thomas Leslie
David Loeb
Sheri Manning
Jim McIntosh
Janis McKay
Sue Mueller
Karen Park
Bruce Paulson
Larry Pellegrino
David Perrico
Kurt Rasmussen
Barbara Riske
Paul Seitz
Andrew Smith
Lindsey Springer
Marina Sturm
Mykola Suk
Tad Suzuki
Cheryl Taranto
Steve Trinkle
Thomas Warrington
David Weiller
JoBelle Yonelly
Recording Studio
Piano
Director of Orchestras
Assoc. Director of Bands
Jazz Guitar, Arranging
Violin, Chamber Music
Director of Bands
Director of Jazz Studies
Woodwind Methods
History of Rock Music
Bassoon, Grad Coordinator
Music Education
Music Theory/Composition
Jazz, Trombone
History of the Beatles
Jazz Ensembles
World Drumming
Piano
Music Theory
Violoncello
String Methods
Clarinet, Chamber Music
Piano
Conducting
Music Librarian, Music History
Trumpet
Jazz, Bass
Director of Choral Studies
Vocal Jazz
2008

Concert III: Virko's Birthday
Tuesday, November 25, 2008
Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
7:30pm

2009

Concert IV: Wagner and Berloiz
Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
7:30pm

Concert V: Mahler I
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
7:30pm