

The Department of Music Proudly Presents

# The CSUSB Symphony Orchestra In Concert

Featuring *Dr. Esther Back, cello*



Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.  
CSUSB Performing Arts Building, Recital Hall

# Welcome

Good evening, and *welcome* to our first CSUSB Symphony Orchestra performance for the 2023-2024 season featuring our very own Dr. Esther Back as soloist. This concert is the very first “early autumn” concert that the orchestra has ever performed, and we are just so delighted that you are here with us tonight.

Over the last three years, we, like everyone else, have dealt with major challenges due to the pandemic, and a year ago on September 11 our Performing Arts Building flooded, and our Recital Hall and several of our instructional spaces were taken out of commission. The university worked hard to repair and restore our Performing Arts Building Recital Hall, and as of this past March, we have been absolutely thrilled to be back in our newly-refurbished performance space, and to be able to share our love of music with you, our audiences whom we treasure. You likely noticed as you walked toward our building this evening, that construction for our brand new Performing Arts Center is also moving right along. That building project is expected to be completed during the 2024-2025 academic year, and we are very much looking forward to sharing performances with you in these state-of-the-art facilities upon their completion.

The CSUSB Symphony Orchestra’s performance tonight is the beautiful culmination of focused rehearsing these first few weeks of Fall Semester 2023, and we are delighted to share with you a program that features works for full symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, and string chamber orchestra. In keeping with the spirit of the upcoming Halloween holiday, we are performing Ravel’s *Pavane for a Dead Princess*, “In the Hall of the Mountain King” from Grieg’s *Peer Gynt Suite*, and a modern work *Phantom Run*, by Menon. Be sure to check out the program notes via QR code for these pieces to understand the storytelling in these works. This program is also infused with a feeling of Americana through George Gershwin’s sleepy, romantic *Lullaby*, the first movement from Rancho Cucamonga native David Stern’s Concerto for Cello and Chamber Orchestra (you’ll have to come to our concert in May 2024 to hear the whole thing!), and Aaron Copland’s “Hoedown” from his ballet *Rodeo*. We hope you enjoy!

Thank you for joining us this evening for beautiful symphonic music. Check out our Music Department calendar for future performances and come back to visit us again soon!

With warmest wishes for a lovely autumn,



Dr. Lucy Lewis  
Director of Orchestral Studies

# Program

*Romanian Folk Dances*..... Béla Bartók  
(1881-1945)

I. "Joc cu bâț (Stick Dance)"

II. "Brâul (Sash Dance)"

III. "Pe loc (In One Spot)"

IV. "Buciumeana (Dance from Bucsum)"

V. "Poarga Româneasc (Romanian Polka)"

VI. "M run el (Fast Dance)"

VIII. "M run el (Fast Dance)"

*Pavane pour une infante défunte*..... Maurice Ravel  
(*Pavane for a Dead Princess*) (1875-1937)

*Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46*..... Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

IV. "I Dovregubbens hall (In the Hall of the Mountain King)"

*Lullaby for String Orchestra*..... George Gershwin  
1898-1937

## Intermission

*Phantom Run*..... Raphael Menon

*Concerto for Cello and Chamber Orchestra*..... David Stern  
(b.1955-)

I. *Moderato*

Dr. Esther Back, cello

*"Hoedown" from Rodeo*..... Aaron Copland  
1905-1980

# CSUSB Symphony Orchestra

## **VIOLIN I**

Austin Terry, *concertmaster*  
Linette Osorio  
Amy Macias  
Anna Caracosa  
Noah Bartlett  
Carissa Rajagukguk

## **VIOLIN II**

Heather Lee, *principal*  
Edgar Villegas  
Caitlin Fernandez  
Ruben Sarmiento  
Raul Velazquez  
Kat Wagner

## **VIOLA**

Gabriel Knights-Herrera, *principal*  
Adam Arroyo

## **CELLO**

Annabelle Su, *concertmaster*  
Karina Gomez-Torres  
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas  
Adeline Epstein  
Evan Hesskamp  
Lyla Castro  
Milena Andreola

## **DOUBLE BASS**

James McConnell, *principal*  
Evelynn Neuenswander  
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas  
Anastasia Brubaker

## **KEYBOARD**

Ian Kyle Granada, *principal*  
Allie Morones

## **FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Anaiya Blackmon, *principal*  
Alexandra Cain  
Susan Addington

## **OBOE**

Alonzo Hernandez-Diaz, *principal*  
Jessica Getman<sup>^</sup>

## **CLARINET**

Wendi Shaffer, *principal*  
Kevin Zhang<sup>^</sup>

## **BASS CLARINET**

Steven Olmos

## **BASSOON**

Kellen McNeil, *principal*

## **FRENCH HORN**

Joseph Marquez-Nieblas, *principal*  
April Christopher  
Brian Hollett<sup>^</sup>  
Isaac Aica

## **TRUMPET**

Rogelio Arredondo  
Brady Omar

## **TROMBONE**

Jack Brooks

## **TUBA**

Jorge Trevino, *principal*

## **PERCUSSION**

David Lemoine, *principal*  
Jacob Shadle  
Dylan Munger  
Edward Deyon

<sup>^</sup>Faculty

# Bios

A frequent performer praised for her “passion and expressiveness that is wholly accessible to modern ears yet entirely authentic, learned, and respectful of the sources” (D. Tenbrook), **Esther Back** is an acclaimed cellist known not only for her solo, orchestral, and chamber performances but also as an avid educator and outreach advocate. She has performed at major venues in both the US and Europe. Back also has collaborated in chamber music, concertos, and symphonies with renowned artists such as Lynn Harrell, Bernard Greenhouse, Robert Watson, and Alexander Treger. A long-term pupil of world-renowned Baroque cellist and viol player Jaap ter Linden, Back began studying at Frankfurt University at the age of eleven and came to the US sometime later. She holds BM (CSU/Fullerton), MM (University of Redlands) degrees in Cello Performance, and DMA/ Historical Performance Practices (Claremont Graduate University) degree in Baroque cello and viola da gamba. At present, she is working toward PhD/Musicology degree at CGU. An enthusiastic teacher, Back serves as a faculty member at CSU/San Bernardino and has a large private studio; her students have won top awards at various music competitions, providing them with soloist opportunities with professional orchestras and invitations to regularly perform at prestigious venues. She also is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of the CSU/San Bernardino Cello Ensemble. Under her numerous years of direction, the former Orange County Cello Ensemble (OCCE)—which she founded—performed live on 88.9 KUCI frequently as well as at Walt Disney Hall and prestigious venues in France. She also produced the CD album, “Miracle of the Cellos.” Esther Back began her professional orchestral career in 2007 and is a tenured cellist with the San Bernardino Symphony as well as a member of other noteworthy ensembles.

**Dr. Lucy Lewis** currently serves as the Music Director and Conductor of the Orchestral Studies Program at California State University, San Bernardino. She is a dedicated interdisciplinary collaborator, and her innovative season programming has featured the CSUSB Opera Theatre Program, Concert Choir & Chamber Singers, and Vocal Jazz Program, in addition to multiple guest artists. An avid supporter of the development of young musicians, Dr. Lewis founded the CSUSB Young Artist Competition and annually commissions new works by the faculty and students of the CSUSB Composition Program. Dr. Lewis is frequently engaged as an orchestral clinician and has guest conducted orchestras in California, Michigan, Tennessee, Maine, and Florida. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Lewis led the CSUSB Orchestra on an international tour to South Korea where they performed in the Seoul Center for the Arts IBK Chamber Hall. An active soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician, Dr. Lewis has performed in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Africa. Dr. Lewis holds a cognate in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Iowa and serves on the board of the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra.

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