

**Blair School of Music**

Presents

**Holst's *The Planets***

**Vanderbilt University Orchestra**

**Robin Fountain, conductor**

**Vanderbilt Treble Choir**

**Mary Biddlecombe, conductor**

**José Francisco Salgado, Astronomer and Visual Artist**

Saturday, September 25, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Ingram Hall

**Holst's *The Planets***

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*The Planets, Suite for Large Orchestra, Op. 32*

Gustav Holst  
(1891-1953)

- I. Mars, the Bringer of War
- II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace
- III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger
- IV. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
- V. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
- VI. Uranus, the Magician
- VII. Neptune, the Mystic

# Vanderbilt University Orchestra

## First Violin

Kingston Ho \*  
Elena Lim  
Joseph Wang  
Maxwell van Hoeij  
Vivian Kung  
Jessie Zimmermann  
Ian Stripling Jenson  
Rachel Lawton  
Monona Suzuki  
Leon Kobayashi  
Alexandra Maynard  
Sarah McGuire  
Sung-Lin Hsieh  
Catherine McLean

## Second Violin

Katharine Gao\*  
Iris Lin  
Avery Hsieh  
Abigail Harms  
Elizabeth Chun  
Annika Hsu  
Nandika Chirala  
Kate Reynolds  
Phoebe Cao  
Zoe Gotlin  
Jonathan Jesalaa  
James Thompson  
Riku Korenaga  
Melody Sim  
Gabe Esperon

## Viola

Alison Wang\*  
Charles Tucker  
Anabelle Spoto  
Shinwho Kwun  
Julia Reparip  
Lucas Legan  
Somerset Peede  
Ryan Cho  
Esther Zhu  
Ansley Moe  
Madeline Mehra

## Cello

Griffin Seuter\*  
Alexander Smith  
Alex Cho  
Catherine Choi  
Kyle Pinzon  
Aaron Chen  
Melanie Chen  
Solomon Hearn

## Bass

James Butler\*  
Luke Faessler  
Max Kalsner Kershen  
Grace Wildermuth  
Alyssa Burkhalter  
Sloan Jordan

## Flute

Sara Kang\*  
Holly Venkitaswaran  
Ashley Fang  
Steven Wu

## Oboe

Rebecca Keith\*  
Michelle Bookas  
Ashley Roh  
Ari Enav

## Clarinets

Desiree Hagg\*  
Sung Jin Lee  
Whitney Roberts  
Ryan Breen

## Bassoon

Beck Rusley\*  
Kaylin Ku  
Haley Mitchell  
Nina Susich

## Horn

John Degnan\*  
Hunter Keeran  
Harrison Lam  
Isaac Ferrell

Zach Bobbitt  
Aidan Cozzolino  
Sam Lee

## Trumpet

Olivia Achet\*  
Joshua Camper  
Krishna Palanivel  
Eliza Pastore

## Trombone

Jonathan Salcedo\*  
Riley Borklund  
Liam Barron

## Tenor Tuba

Nathan Keene\*

## Tuba

Daniel Dardon\*

## Percussion

Josh Weinfeld\*  
Julia Reda  
Nupur Thakkar  
Julian Springer  
Matthew Enfinger  
Eric Whitmer

## Harp

Emily Reader\*  
Jenna Price

## Keyboard

Cass Jackson\*

*\* Denotes principal player*

## Orchestra Managers:

Eric Whitmer\*  
Daniel Dardon

## Librarians:

Julia Reparin  
Melody Sim

## Vanderbilt Treble Choir

### Choir 1

#### Soprano 1

Lucy Calaway  
Bella Land  
Ana Soto  
Natalie Thomas

#### Soprano 2

Michelle Bramlett  
Chuhan Huang  
Ava Kuntz  
Ellie Repp  
Caroline Wilkerson

#### Alto

Xingzhu Claire Chen  
Foster Johnson  
Maggie McGowan  
Megan Walters  
Rachel-Kate Picar  
Liangyu Carole Zhou

### Choir 2

#### Soprano 1

Lily Kinnison  
Mahi Patil  
Macy Ruggiero  
Natalie Stigall

#### Soprano 2

Christina Berninger  
Amelia Donoghue  
Hannah Mikita  
Diana Nalyvaiko  
Hailey Pfeiffer

#### Alto

Hanh Cao  
Grace Chen  
Daniela Diano  
Jiyue Jacqueline Liu  
Haley Mitchell  
Lucy Zhang

## Program Notes

### **Holst The Planets, Op. 32 (1916)**

Born into a musical family (his parents were both pianists) Gustav Holst nonetheless struggled through much of the earlier part of his chosen career, suffering from physical impairment, acute emotional sensitivity/depression and less than enthusiastic critical and audience response. It was therefore a major turning point for the composer when, in 1920, the first complete public performance of *The Planets* led to international success.

The work can be thought of as a synthesis of several disparate longstanding interests, English folksong influencing the musical style, astrology determining the subject matter and mysticism (he had learned Sanskrit in order to fully understand Hindu scripture) pervading the whole. Each of the seven movements is intended to convey the astrological influence of a named planet. In his notes for the premiere, Holst wrote: “These pieces were suggested by the astrological significance of the planets; there is no programme music, neither have they any connection with the deities of classical mythology bearing the same names. If any guide to the music is required the subtitle to each piece will be found sufficient, especially if it be used in the broad sense.” Thus Mars, the first piece, is Bringer of War, Venus is Bringer of Peace, Jupiter is Bringer of Jollity, and Saturn is Bringer of Old Age. Interspersed are movements where influence is expressed as a specific character picture: Mercury the Winged Messenger, Uranus the Magician and Neptune the Mystic.

Especially notable innovations in the writing are the spectacular orchestration, featuring a very large ensemble to great effect, and the courageous “fade-out” choral ending of *Neptune*.

## Biographies

**Robin Fountain** is Professor of Conducting at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, where he serves as conductor of Vanderbilt Orchestra and as a teacher of conducting. He recently concluded a 14-year tenure as Music Director of the Southwest Michigan Symphony, following a similar period as Music Director of the Williamsport (PA) Symphony. He has guest conducted the Singapore Symphony, the Louisiana Philharmonic, and many other orchestras in Russia, Poland, France and Germany as well as the U.S.A.

Professor Fountain has led Vanderbilt Orchestra on two tours of China, and in recordings for the Navona and Blue Griffin labels. He has been awarded the Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Blair School's Faculty Excellence Award. His book *The Ensemble Musician* (co-written with Vanderbilt colleague Thomas Verrier) is published by GIA Publications.

He was educated at Oxford University, The Royal College of Music in London, and Carnegie Mellon University. He won a conducting fellowship to Aspen, participated in master classes with Lorin Maazel and Gennadi Rodhestvensky, and studied at Tanglewood with Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Sanderling and Leonard Slatkin. He was also privileged to have the opportunity to train with members of the famed Berlin Philharmonic at The Conductors Lab in Aix-en-Provence.

**Mary Biddlecombe** was recently named Director of the Vanderbilt Blair Academy and continues to serve as Artistic Director of the Blair Children's Chorus where she oversees six graded youth choirs. In addition to her work with the Blair Academy, she teaches collegiate courses in music education and choral literature and conducts the Vanderbilt University Treble Singers.

Biddlecombe is a renowned specialist in children's voices, particularly middle school, and secondary choral settings. Choirs under her direction have performed for conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and have toured nationally and internationally. The Blair Children's Chorus is also a frequent collaborator with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra with recent projects including two Mahler symphonies, John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls*, Britten's *War Requiem*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana* in Prague, CZ with the Nashville Symphony Chorus. Most recently, BCC students appeared on ABC with *The War and Treaty* performing "We Are One" during the 2021 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Biddlecombe is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician presenting numerous interest sessions for music educators. She has conducted all-state choruses for Alabama and Florida, as well as regional honor choirs in ten states. In 2022 she will serve as co-conductor of the UCTB Honor Choir for the Southern Division American Choral Directors Association Conference, the Children's Choir Clinician for the Montreat Music & Worship Conference and will conduct the Georgia All-State 6th Grade Chorus. Mary is a native of Syracuse NY and holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Music Education from the Crane School Music at SUNY Potsdam. Mary makes her home in Nashville with her husband Dr. Tucker Biddlecombe, Director of Choral Activities at Vanderbilt.

**José Francisco Salgado** is an Emmy-nominated astronomer (BS in Physics, Univ. of Puerto Rico; PhD in Astronomy, Univ. of Michigan), experimental photographer, visual artist, and public speaker who creates multimedia works that communicate science in engaging ways. As the Executive Director and co-founder of KV 265, a non-profit science and arts education organization, Salgado collaborates with orchestras, composers, and musicians to present films that provoke curiosity and a sense of wonder about the Earth and the Universe.

His Science & Symphony films have been presented in 235 concerts and 185 lectures reaching a combined audience of more than 460,000 people in 19 countries. Orchestras that have presented these works include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, the San Francisco Symphony, New World Symphony, and the Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino. His first two films were named by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO as Special Projects for the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). In 2012 his film "Gustav Holst's The Planets" was chosen for Ravinia Festival's One Score, One Chicago initiative. In 2014, his collaboration with composer Christopher Theofanidis, "The Legend of the Northern Lights" was premiered with Grant Park Orchestra to critical acclaim in front of 32,000 people. In 2016, his short film "Carol of the Lights" was commissioned by Keith Lockhart and Boston Pops and presented 33 times to almost 75,000 people.

Salgado also produces and presents short science films with musician/composer Tom Bailey (formerly of British pop group Thompson Twins) as part of the audiovisual ensemble Bailey-Salgado Project. From 2006 until 2008 Salgado hosted "Nuestra Galaxia", a weekly astronomy news segment on Univision Chicago (WGBO) for which he received an Emmy nomination. KV 265 and Dr. Salgado are a two-time recipient of NEA's Art Works grant.

As an experimental photographer, Salgado has visited more than 30 scientific sites in remote places including the Atacama Desert, the French Pyrenees, and the South African Karoo, and has contributed visuals to documentaries produced for the History, Discovery, BBC, and National Geographic channels. He is also a contributing writer for Digital Photography Review ([DPReview.com](http://DPReview.com)). As a public speaker, he has given lectures in all seven continents, including a presentation at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.



## **Upcoming Blair Events**

### **Blair Big Band**

**Ryan Middagh, director**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Ingram Hall

### **Junior Recital: Sean Yang, piano**

Saturday, October 2, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Turner Hall