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Concerto Evening, Celebrating the Winners of the Annual Student Concerto Competition

USU Symphony Orchestra

Sergio Bernal  
_Utah State University_

Stephanie England  
_Utah State University_

Emily Cottam  
_Utah State University_

Amy Thacker  
_Utah State University_

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USU Symphony Orchestra, Sergio Bernal, Stephanie England, Emily Cottam, Amy Thacker, Benjamin Krutsch, Josiah Cordes, and Ethan Seegmiller

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**Mission Statement**

The Caine College of the Arts serves the people of the State of Utah and supports the mission of Utah State University by cultivating artistic and academic excellence; by preparing our students to realize their full creative potential as artists and citizens; by increasing the visibility of the college and university; and by fostering professionalism and collegial relationships in all aspects of our operations.
PROGRAM

Stephanie England
Johann Baptist Georg Neruda: Trumpet Concerto, 1st mov.  
(ca. 1760)

Emily Cottam
Charles Gounod: Que fais-tu from Romeo and Juliet  
(1867)

Amy Thacker
Max Bruch: Scottish Fantasy, 2nd and 3rd mov.  
(1880)

Benjamin Krutsch
Franz Lehar: Maxim from The Merry Widow  
(1905)

Josiah Cordes
Antonín Dvořák: Cello Concerto, 1st mov.  
(1895)

Ethan Seegmiller
Maurice Ravel: Piano Concerto in G, 1st mov.  
(1931)

including a lecture recital on Bach’s Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 6. In addition to playing the cello, he is a composer, writing pieces that are mainly in the Baroque idiom. He also enjoys hiking, unicycling, and a good book. Josiah has lived in Lewiston, Utah for the past eighteen years, and he performs on a cello generously gifted to him by USU Alumna Cheryl Freeman.

Ethan Seegmiller. Ethan Seegmiller is a junior in piano performance. He studied piano in high school from Dr. Del Parkinson at Boise State and has since worked with Professor Dennis Hirst and Professor Gary Amano. Due to his academic and artistic achievements, Ethan is a Presidential Scholar and a Caine Scholar for Excellence. With a passion for teaching, Ethan was recognized as the Youth Conservatory Teaching Assistant of the Year in 2016. He recently received an Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities grant to study contemporary classical music in London. When he isn’t practicing, Ethan spends his time teaching, reading, or with his wife, Shayla.

USU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Utah State University Symphony Orchestra provides music majors and non-majors interested in continuing their instrumental studies with high-quality performance experience that will strengthen their command and increase their enjoyment of the symphonic repertoire. Under the direction of Sergio Bernal, the orchestra performs several concerts every year at the Chase Fine Arts Center as well as special outreach performances in Logan and other parts of Utah. Guest and faculty soloists are regularly featured in the orchestra’s concert series, as are performing organizations from campus and the community. Recent guests include Deutsche Grammophon recording artist Francisco “Pacho” Flores (Trumpet) and Maestro Delta David Gier, Music Director of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. Joint productions with the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Cache Civic Ballet, the University of Utah Philharmonia, the Utah State Theatre, the USU Choral Ensembles, and the USU Opera have contributed to the cultural life of Northern Utah.

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MEET OUR SOLOISTS

Stephanie England. Stephanie England, 21, is a senior in the music program. “I started to play trumpet when I was 11 years old, because I thought it made funny noises, and it must be easy since it only has 3 buttons. I still think it makes funny noises, but have gotten past thinking 3 buttons (valves) makes it easier.” Having not taken private lessons before studying at Utah State University, her only private instructor has been Dr. Max Matzen. Her father Geoffrey England raised her and her sisters Rachel and Jaqueline after settling in Southeastern Idaho. Her family’s support has been instrumental to her success as a musician. During her 4 years at USU, her experiences in the trumpet studio have allowed her to achieve the position of principal trumpet in the Wind Orchestra, the Caine Scholarship Brass quintet, and the USU Symphony Orchestra. She is the current Caine College of the Arts nominee for the Legacy of Utah State award and for the last 3 years has been a section leader in the Aggie Marching Band. After graduating from Utah State, she aspires to obtain a master’s degree in Trumpet Performance and eventually become a college trumpet professor.

Emily Cottam. Hailing from Kaysville, UT, Emily is a senior in the CCA Vocal Performance program. Daughter of Jeongim and Duke Cottam, Emily’s relationship with music began at the age of seven when she took her first piano lesson, developing throughout her teenage years as she participated in band and choir. It wasn’t until her junior year of high school that Emily was introduced to classical singing, and since then she has devoted herself to the study of vocal performance for five years, working under the guidance of Marta Rigby, Brianna Krause, Prof. Dallas Heaton, and Dr. Cindy Dewey. Since arriving at USU, Emily has been involved in a variety of performances, competing in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, placing in the NATS Cal-Western Regional Conference, and has performed as a member of the USU Chamber Singers, Choral Scholars, and USU Opera Productions. To supplement her performing experience, she has been pursuing a Minor in Theatre. Emily is a USU Caine Scholar, Honors Student, Writing Fellow, and Undergraduate Teaching Fellow, and has served as the CCA Arts Council Chair and USU SNATS Chapter President. She is a recipient of the Hansen Scholarship, Regents’ Exemplary Academic Achievement Award, USU Presidential Academic Scholarship, USU A-Pin Award, USU Applied Diversity Scholarship, and USU Vocal Talent Award.

Amy Thacker. Amy Thacker is currently a junior at Utah State University studying Violin Performance with Robert Waters. The daughter of Kent and Catherine Thacker, Amy was born and raised in the Salt Lake Valley. Both her parents had a deep desire for each of their children to study music. Amy began playing the violin when she was four years old. Her teacher, Ramona Sterling, had the patient of a saint, as Amy was a stubborn little girl, and she taught Amy to love music and performing. In high school, Amy’s family moved to Boston, Massachusetts where she benefited from studying with the principal violist of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, David Rubenstein. She also participated in the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, led by conductor and philanthropist Benjamin Zander. Through this organization, she had the opportunity to play in Carnegie Hall, Boston’s Symphony Hall, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam during the group’s European tour. Besides the violin, Amy enjoys hiking, crochet, knitting, being with friends, and traveling.

Benjamin Krutsch. Benjamin Krutsch, tenor, is a junior vocal performance major from Springville, UT. He has studied with with Dr. Cindy Dewey for three years. Benjamin recently appeared in the USU Opera Theatre’s production of Mozart’s La Finta Giardiniera as Il Podestà. He also performed in USU’s productions of La liberazione di Ruggiero dall’isola di Alcina, Trial By Jury, and Die Fledermaus and will be seen as Amos Calloway in Big Fish this coming April. Benjamin is a member of the USU Chamber Singers, where he has appeared as a featured soloist on National Public Radio and two albums. He took second place at the Cal-Western Region NATS Vocal Competition in 2016 and was the winner of the 2012 Utah County Ladies of the Elks soloist competition. He was also selected as Springville High School’s 2012 Deseret News Sterling Scholar of Music. He is the son of John and Alison Krutsch. His favorite pastimes include playing video games, wrestling, watching college football, and composing his own music.

Josiah Cordes. Josiah Cordes is a senior at Utah State University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Cello Performance as a student of Anne Francis Bayless. Previous teachers include Ethan Fallis and Ariel Haubner. Josiah is a two-time winner of the USU Concerto Competition, and has been a member of the Caine Undergraduate Research Quartet. He has performed in master classes for Paul Katz and Pieter Wispelwey, as well as members of Faure Quartett and the Jerusalem and St. Lawrence Quartets. Josiah has given seven solo recitals while at USU,