

JUILLIARD PREPARATORY DIVISION PRESENTS

Pre-College Symphony



Juilliard



Photo by T. Charles Erickson

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The Juilliard School
presents

Pre-College Symphony

Kalena Bovell, Conductor
Irene Lee, Oboe

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 6pm
Peter Jay Sharp Theater

STELLA SUNG
(b. 1959)

Loco-Motion

JOHANN WENZEL KALLIWODA
(1801–66)

Oboe Concertino in F Major, Op. 110
Allegro con fuoco
Romanze: Adagio
Vivace
Irene Lee, Oboe

MARY D. WATKINS
(b. 1939)

The People's Awakening (New York premiere)

The People's Awakening was co-commissioned by the Kayden Music Commissioning Program at Juilliard Pre-College and Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Intermission

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
(1841–1904)

Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88
Allegro con brio
Adagio
Allegretto grazioso
Allegro ma non troppo

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, including an intermission



Please make certain that all electronic devices are turned off during the performance. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not permitted in this auditorium.

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This performance is supported, in part, by the Muriel Gluck Production Fund.

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Mary D. Watkins on *The People's Awakening*

I have written two operas and a suite for orchestra in five movements, each addressing issues of civil rights and social justice. For me, music has been a powerful tool for telling the true stories of social and political struggle as well as a great tool for inspiring movements striving for social justice, which are and will always be works in progress.

The People's Awakening (which receives its New York premiere at tonight's concert) is a call for unity, peace, healing, and constructive action. You will hear traditional major harmonies, often bright in color, representing hope, triumph, and universal love. You will also hear minor harmonies, in different shades arising from different circumstances. You will also hear dissonance and clashing harmonies symbolizing dissension, friction, and violence among warring factions. For me, the emotions expressed in the piece are about the dawn of an awakening, a growing awareness of the need to resolve our conflicts and focus on the common good, and a deep longing that we, the people, will find the motivation to live together in peace. Thanks again to Juilliard and Interlochen Center for the Arts for the opportunity to create this piece. I hope you enjoy it.

Mary D. Watkins

Mary D. Watkins is a prolific composer, arranger, producer, pianist, and recording artist. She has won critical praise and awards for her numerous symphonic works, film scores, songs, and pieces for classical and jazz instrumentalists. Her orchestral suite, *Five Movements in Color*, has been recorded by the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble of Chicago (released in 2009 on Albany Records, conducted by Leslie Dunner), and the second movement of that suite, *Soul of Remembrance*, has been performed by the Cleveland Symphony, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, and many other orchestras. She has also composed three full-length operas on historical themes: *Queen Clara* (about Clara Barton, 2005); *Is This America? The Fannie Lou Hamer Story* (2009); and *Emmet Till, the Opera* (2022). She also composed a segment of *Death by Life* (2021), an opera about mass incarceration produced by Boston's White Snake Projects. Watkins has a degree in classical composition from Howard University, and she has composed both classical and jazz music, often fusing the styles and incorporating other forms of American music including gospel, spiritual, and pop genres. She won a female composer grant from Opera America in 2020, and she has previously won composer fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer Foundation, and others. Watkins received a 2021 Artist Legacy Award from the California Arts Council and she was recognized with a 2022 Composers Now Visionary Award.



About the Artists



Kalena Bovell

With her distinctive voice as conductor, speaker, and poet, Panamanian-American conductor Kalena Bovell is propelled by a steadfast commitment to musical excellence and community access. Her recent achievements include receiving the 2024 Sphinx Medal of Excellence—the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization—and becoming the first Black woman to conduct an opera in Canada, conducting a world premiere reimagination of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*. The former assistant conductor of the Memphis Symphony, Bovell has also served as guest conductor with orchestras including the Minnesota Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Victoria Symphony. As a guest clinician, she has worked with programs including the New England Conservatory as well as Juilliard Pre-College.

Irene Lee

Irene Lee, who started her oboe career at age 11, has already proved herself as a talented musician. Inspired by her brother, who played the oboe before her, she fell in love with the instrument long before she began to play. After she won her first competition within six months of starting the oboe, her love for it only grew as she immersed herself deeper into the oboe repertoire. During her musical journey, Lee has won numerous international and national competitions including the NJWS Youth Soloist Competition, Adelphi Young Artists Competition, National League of Performing Arts Competition, Camerata Artists International Competition, LISMA International Music Competition, and New York Young Virtuoso Competition, among others. As a soloist, she made her debut at Merkin Concert Hall and later performed at Carnegie Hall. She has also performed with the Little Orchestra Society at the Kaye Playhouse and New Virtuoso Orchestra, and she will perform Goossens' Oboe Concerto with the New Jersey Winds Symphony this month. Lee, who was chosen to participate in the national youth orchestral program NYO2 last summer and this summer, also participated in Juilliard's summer winds festival in 2020 and 2021. She studies with Elaine Douvas and Yousun Chung at Pre-College. Beyond her musical pursuits, Lee harbors a passion for creative writing, dancing, and singing.



Pre-College Symphony

The Juilliard Pre-College Symphony is one of Pre-College's three age-based orchestras. With an average age of just over 15, the symphony's members rehearse weekly and presents three concerts each season. As a leading youth orchestra training program, Pre-College strives to prepare its members for the rigorous demands and expectations of conservatory and college orchestral programs by offering workshops and readings led by renowned guest conductors and prominent professional orchestral musicians. The Pre-College orchestras draw upon the significant resource of the College Division's students by employing them as mentors to work alongside the Pre-College students. The repertoire is guided by a progressive curriculum beginning with the youngest ensemble, the String Orchestra, and continuing through the Symphony and Orchestra, ensuring that all students have exposure to works from varied composers, musical styles, and genres. Most concerts feature concerto performances by student soloists, many of whom go on to important careers. Recent conductors of the Pre-College orchestras include Daniela Candillari, Tito Muñoz, and David Robertson.

Pre-College Symphony

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About Juilliard's Preparatory Division

The Juilliard Preparatory Division comprises two Saturday music programs for intermediate to advanced students ages 8-18: Juilliard Pre-College and the Music Advancement Program. The Preparatory Division is led by Dean and Director Weston Sprott.

Pre-College

One of the foremost music preparatory programs in the world, Juilliard Pre-College offers a comprehensive conservatory-style music program for students who exhibit the talent, potential, and ambition to pursue music study at the college level. The selective program includes instruction in a chosen major, academic study of music, and solo and ensemble performances. Recognizing the importance of early development and discipline in the music field, the program provides a caring, collaborative, and challenging atmosphere where artistic gifts and technical skills can flourish. Approximately 300 students are enrolled in Pre-College.

Music Advancement Program

MAP is a tuition-free Saturday program for intermediate and advanced music students, from New York City's five boroughs and the tristate area, who demonstrate a commitment to artistic excellence. The program actively seeks students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in the classical music field. Through a rigorous curriculum, performance opportunities, and guidance from an accomplished faculty, MAP students gain the necessary skills to pursue advanced music studies while developing their talents as artists, leaders, and global citizens. MAP is led by Artistic Director Anthony McGill and is generously supported through an endowed gift in memory of Carl K. Heyman.

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For a complete listing of all Juilliard Pre-College performances, including student, faculty, and studio recitals, please visit: events.juilliard.edu.

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As of August 31, 2023

* = Alumnus/Alumna
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