



Clark College Orchestra
Fall Concert—
Greetings

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Clark College Orchestra

Greetings!

Debut of Conductor

Dr. Rafael Rodriguez

Director of Orchestral Activities

PROGRAM

Overture to La Gazza Ladra	Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
Sweep	Reinaldo Moya (b. 1984)
Come Sunday	Omar Thomas (b. 1984)
I Testimony	
II Shout!	

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88	Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
I Allegro con brio	
II Adagio	
III Allegretto grazioso—Molto vivace	
IV Allegro ma non troppo	

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Meet the Conductor

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Program Notes

Dr. Rodriguez: I am delighted to share this first concert program with you as the new artistic director and conductor of the Clark College Orchestra. I am humbled by the outstanding legacy of this orchestra and the artistic vision of its previous conductor, Dr. Don Appert, and am excited to join this vibrant group of musicians on the stage.

¡Saludos!

Overture to La Gazza Ladra by Gioachino Rossini

Our program begins with the overture to Rossini's opera *La Gazza Ladra* (or "the thieving magpie"). Written and premiered at the Teatro Alla Scala in Milan just two years after the end of the Napoleonic wars and the fall of the French dictatorship in northern Italy, this humorous work with its unlikely premise provided just the release that the people needed. Among Rossini's most famous musical devices and a favorite among his many fans, listen for the "Rossini rocket," a long, never-ending crescendo that finally releases in a virtuosic display of glorious sound and emotion!

Sweep by Reinaldo Moya

Reinaldo Moya is the current composer-in-residence for the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra and has had his works premiered or performed by the Minnesota Orchestra (with Osmo Vänskä, Sarah Hicks, and Chia-hsuan Lin), the San Diego Symphony (with Fafael Payare), the Juilliard Orchestra (with Carlos Miguel Prieto, and Jeffrey Milarsky), the New Jersey Symphony (with Joann Falletta), the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra (with Matthew Kraemer), the Lakes Area Music Festival Orchestra (with Gemma New), the Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra (with Ben Rous), the Orquesta Sinfónica de San Juan, Argentina (with Emmanuel Siffert), the Orquesta de Cámara de Bellas Artes in México (with Ludwig Carrasco), and many others. Sweep was premiered in May 2022 at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, MN.



Program Notes cont.

The work begins with a short two-chord gesture that suggests a kind of “sweeping motion” and competes for attention with a “searching melody” introduced in the low strings. Energetic and rollicking, soaring and expressive, *Sweep* provides a great introduction for this young composer emerging on the national scene.



Come Sunday by Omar Thomas

Come Sunday is a two-movement tribute to the Hammond organ’s central role in black worship services. The first movement, *Testimony*, follows the Hammond organ as it readies the congregation’s hearts, minds, and spirits to receive the word via a magical union of bach, blues, jazz, and r&b. The second movement, *Shout!*, is a virtuosic celebration - the frenzied and joyous climactic moments when the spirit has taken over the service. (Omar Thomas)

Symphony 8 by Antonín Dvořák

Antonín Dvořák composed his eighth symphony in 1889 while at his summer resort in the Bohemian countryside and conducted the premiere in Prague the following year. Cheerful, optimistic, and relentlessly lyrical, Dvořák had by this time achieved a high level of recognition as a composer with international appeal. The symphony is characterized by musical gestures and a noticeably nationalistic spirit that give voice to a distinctly Czech identity, an often-perilous exercise under the oppressive Austrian-Hapsburg rule. Just two years later, Dvořák was invited to New York City as director of the National Conservatory of Music and stayed in that post for three years before ultimately returning to his beloved Bohemia. On a personal note, this symphony is the first large-scale work that I ever conducted and remains among my favorites.



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Meet the Conductor

Dr. Rafael Antonio Rodriguez joined Clark College this fall as the Director of Orchestral Activities. In addition to his podium work, he teaches all levels of music theory and ear training in the music program. Rafael's background as a jazz pianist brings a unique and intimate perspective to his musical interpretations. Phrase and detail, emotive, energetic and purposeful, these are the characteristics that make Rafael Antonio so compelling on the podium.

Born in Mexico, raised in the United States, Rafael made his orchestral debut with the Romanian National Opera and Ballet Orchestra in Constanța in 2013. Selected as a Conducting Fellow with the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica (2015), Rafael served as Assistant Conductor with the Boulder Philharmonic for two years during his doctoral residency. Recent engagements include with the National Symphony Orchestra of Cusco (Peru) where he has been invited for a third appearance to conduct Mozart's Réquiem in the Catedral Basílica de la Virgen de la Asunción on the main square.

Rafael served as Artistic Director for the Orquesta Sinfónica Manuel María Gutiérrez, the national youth symphony orchestra representing the Sistema Nacional de Educación Musical (SiNEM) in the Ministry of Culture of Costa Rica. He regularly appears as guest conductor with the National Bands of Costa Rica, sharing his interpretive experience as an orchestral conductor with these fine professional ensembles.

Rafael taught music in public and private schools for fourteen years and is credentialed to teach in the State of California. Most recently he was the Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Memphis in Tennessee, previously serving as Director of Orchestra & Jazz at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rafael received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado in Boulder. His conducting studies include with Italian maestro Alfredo Bonavera, winner of the prestigious Mitropoulos conducting competition in 1969 and Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic from 1969 – 1970, with American conductor Carl St. Clair, director of the Pacific Symphony in California and the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, and with Gary Lewis, director of the West Texas Symphony and Chorale, and head of the conducting studio at the University of Colorado Boulder.



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Clark College Orchestra

VIOLIN I

*Jeong Yoon Lee,
Concertmaster
Darien Bills
Chela Donaldson
Domer Dougherty
Greg Gillespie
Katherine Landes
Jonathan Pelayo Briceno
Isabella Quinones
Sophie Webster

VIOLIN II

*Stephen Shepherd
Kevin Chacon
Matthew Ngo
Patrick Tappe
Melinda Helms
Carolyn Shefler
Bill Owen
Nicholas Macias
Angelica Perov
Valerie Tolmachev
Joceline Leon
Danya Marquardt
Sue Hammann

VIOLA

*Wendy Edgar
Whitney Henion
Sue Coates
Jeff Walter
Hannah Boxberger
Randy Weidemann
Abigayle Bel Air
Stefanie Aschmann

CELLO

*Elizabeth Byrd
Nathan Bonnell
Ben Beam
Jordan Livesay
Roegan Jones
Kathryn Pearson
Evan Gillespie
Kathie Loveall
Kai Hargis
Caleb Cox
Mia Lorimor-Mills
Alexsandra Ceniceros-
Sanchez

BASS

*Bill Athens
Nathan Hall
Lela Pierce

FLUTE

Nancy Garrett
Zoe Templin
Rachael Wyman

OBOE

Ben Serna-Gray
Michael Holmes

ENG HORN

Michael Holmes

CLARINET

Katie Matsuura
*Kelly Ritter

BASS CLARINET

Thilo Kluth

BASSOON

Kathy Staller
Georg Jarrell

TENOR SAX

Parker Bruning

HORN

*James Cameron
Fiona Rice
John Schuster
Bob Gillaspay

TRUMPET

*Jeff Snyder
Alice Stone
Josh Reyes

TROMBONE

Grant Carson
Frankie Yu
Anastasia Ryder

TUBA

Max Hilton

TIMPANI

Jacob Scott

PERCUSSION

Avery Berg
Blake Bruning
Tolen Spring

PIANO

Thilo Kluth

HARP

Judy Krohn

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Music at Clark

The **Clark College Orchestra** is a student and community member orchestra that performs both standard repertoire and new works. For audition information contact rarodriguez@clark.edu or 360-992-2195.

The **Clark College Concert Band** is one of the oldest instrumental performing groups in the history of Clark College and has a proud heritage of musical excellence throughout Southwest Washington. The **Jazz Band** is another integral part of our program as well as the Annual Jazz Festival held each January. For audition information please contact Dr. Doug Harris at daharris@clark.edu or 360-992-2188.

There are three choral groups on campus: the **Treble Ensemble** and the **Concert Choir** rehearse during the day while the **Clark College Chorale** meets weekly on Wednesday evenings. For audition information please contact Director Dr. Jacob Funk at jfunk@clark.edu or 360-992-2245.

If you would like to be on our email list to receive Clark College Concert information please send your email address to sjwilliams@clark.edu.

Music Scholarships at Clark

The Music Department offers a variety of scholarships through the Clark College Foundation that are available to both music majors and non-music majors. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donors who continue to place a high value on music education and who have created and sustained scholarships. Your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation help support the orchestra program and our students. Thank you!



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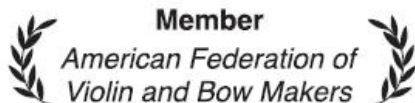


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