



Fall 2025 Concert Series

Opening Nights

Ryan Webber, conductor

Steve Zander, violin

Saturday, October 11, 2025 | 7:30 PM | Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Little Falls

Sunday, October 12, 2025 | 2:30 PM | Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

Kyle W. Brown	<i>Radiant*</i>	ca. 5.5'
Edward Elgar	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March No. 2, Op. 39</i>	ca. 5'
Ralph Vaughan Williams	<i>The Lark Ascending**</i> Steve Zander, violin	ca. 15'
Ruth Gipps	<i>Song for Orchestra, Op. 33</i>	ca. 6'
arr. Russ Peterson	<i>Video Game Fantasy</i>	ca. 6.5'
Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Todd Parrish	<i>An Ode to Joy Festival***</i>	ca. 4.5'

* World premiere

** Published by Boosey & Hawkes

*** St. Francis Orchestras, Melissa von Itter, Director (Little Falls)
Brainerd High School Sinfonia, Leslie Zander, Director (Brainerd)

HEARTLAND **SYMPHONY**
O R C H E S T R A

Kyle W. Brown (b. 1995)

Radiant (2025)

Radiant takes its inspiration from the winter landscapes of northern Minnesota, where dazzling sunlight often meets the biting chill of subzero air. The title reflects that paradox: how a world blanketed in snow can appear breathtakingly bright, yet remain edged with an unforgiving cold.

The piece unfolds in three broad sections, all derived from a single musical motive that shifts and transforms throughout the work. It begins with a bold, dramatic fanfare, evoking the brilliance of sunlight reflecting off freshly fallen snow. The middle section turns inward, weaving chaos and lyricism together in unexpected ways, like the stark beauty of a landscape both serene and hostile. The final section surges forward with relentless momentum, an exhilarating race to the finish that mirrors the tension between radiant light and frigid wind—always luminous, yet perpetually on the verge of collapse. *Radiant* was composed in 2025 and premiered by the Heartland Symphony Orchestra.

**Program notes for Radiant written by Kyle W. Brown*

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 2, Op. 39 (1902)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The first movie theatre in the United States opens in Los Angeles.
- The first teddy bear, inspired by U.S. President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt, was created in New York City.
- Tally’s Electric Theater, the first permanent movie theater, opened in Los Angeles.

What should I know about this composer?

- Elgar is among the most influential English composers of the 19th & 20th centuries.
- In 1911, Elgar was appointed to the Order of Merit, which was an honor reserved for distinguished individuals involved with the armed forces, sciences, or the arts within the British Commonwealth.

What should I know about this piece?

- *Pomp & Circumstance March No. 2* is one of six marches written by Elgar.
- This piece is the shortest of those six marches.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Lark Ascending (1914)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The Great War, now known as World War I, breaks out in Europe.
- The Panama Canal is opened and ships are welcomed through for the first time.
- Attempting to cross the landmass of the Antarctic, The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition begins.

What should I know about this composer?

- Ralph Vaughan Williams, while having a wide variety of works, is often considered one of the founding figures of wind band literature.
- During World War I, Vaughan Williams fought in the British Army.
- Like many of his contemporaries such as Gustav Holst or Percy Grainger, a large portion of his work was based on folk songs.

What should I know about this piece?

- *The Lark Ascending* is based on a poem written in 1881 of the same name by writer George Meredith.
- This piece is considered among Vaughan Williams's best works in his repertoire.
- Vaughan Williams was a trained violinist himself and that fact likely lends to the quality and artistry of *The Lark Ascending*.

Ruth Gipps (1921-1999)

Song for Orchestra, Op. 33 (1948)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in the city of New Delhi.
- NASCAR is founded in the United States.
- Due to a blockade of supplies, the Berlin airlift began.

What should I know about this composer?

- Besides her work as a composer, Gipps was a pianist, oboist, conductor, and teacher.
- Gipps was born in England and is considered an English composer, but her parents were originally from Germany and Switzerland.
- The Royal College of Music accepted her at age sixteen. While in school, she studied composition under Gordon Jacobs and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

What should I know about this piece?

- It is believed by some that Song for Orchestra was heavily influenced by the styles and techniques of her teacher, Ralph Vaughan Williams.
- This work is considered to be in the tone poem genre of orchestra works.

arr. Russel M. Peterson (b. 1969)

Video Game Fantasy (2024)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The 2024 Summer Olympics were held in Paris, France.
- Japan becomes the fifth country to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

What should I know about this composer?

- Russ Peterson is currently the Associate Professor of Saxophone and Bassoon at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. He also directs the Jazz I ensemble.
- As an active chamber and jazz musician, Peterson has toured and performed at countless venues across the United States and Europe.

What should I know about this piece?

- Video Game Fantasy arranges themes from a popular video game series, The Legend of Zelda.
- The original Legend of Zelda theme was written by Koji Kondo, who is also responsible for much of the original music for the Super Mario series and other Nintendo properties since the 1980s.

**Program notes written by Tristen Heller*

◆ STEVE ZANDER ◆



Steve Zander is in frequent demand as an orchestral violinist, studio musician, and chamber music collaborator. Based in Malibu, CA, Steve is a member of the Santa Barbara Symphony, associate concertmaster of Opera Santa Barbara, and performs in many other professional orchestras in the Los Angeles area, including the Pasadena Symphony, New West Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Since 2011, Steve has

performed in the orchestra at the Lakes Area Music Festival each summer. As a concerto soloist, Steve has appeared with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, the Eastern Sierra Symphony, and the Malibu Coast Chamber Orchestra. Prior to moving to California, Steve was a member of the Madison Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, as well as a substitute with the Houston Symphony. As a chamber musician, Steve has collaborated with principal members of the Boston Symphony, Houston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and with members of the Pro Arte Quartet. Steve can also be heard on many motion picture and television soundtracks, including “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,” “Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice,” “Logan,” and “A Quiet Place.” Since 2023, Steve has been on the violin faculty at Westmont College, in Santa Barbara, CA.

Steve began his violin studies at the age of four at the Aber Suzuki Center in Stevens Point, WI. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a Master of Music from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His principal teachers were Patricia D’Ercole, Vartan Manoogian, and Sergiu Luca.

◆ KYLE BROWN ◆

Kyle W. Brown is a composer and flutist with a passion for new music. As a composer, Kyle's music explores a variety of styles and instrumentations, focusing on the intersection of chromaticism and minimalism, as well as electroacoustic music and works for wind instruments. Collaboration is at the forefront of his compositional process, prioritizing an open dialogue with the performing ensemble.



Kyle has collaborated with numerous chamber ensembles, including the International Contemporary Ensemble, the American Modern Ensemble, Unheard-of//Ensemble, and Civitasolis Wind Quintet. His music has also been featured at Carnegie Hall, Nief-Norf Music Festival, Cortona Sessions for New Music, the Mostly Modern Festival, and the South Carolina Flute Society's Fall Festival.

Kyle studied composition at the University of South Carolina (B.M.) and the University of South Florida (M.M.), earning his D.M. in Music Theory & Composition at Florida State University.

An active flutist, Kyle is currently principal flute in the Central Lakes Wind Symphony and plays piccolo with the Heartland Symphony Orchestra. Kyle currently serves on faculty at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minnesota, and at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota.

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL ◆

VIOLIN 1

Leslie Zander, Concertmaster Brainerd
 J. David Arnott St. Cloud
 Tamara Bottge St. Cloud
 Sandy Larson Brainerd
 Jill Lee Crosby
 Janet Pederson Bemidji
 Paul Sandberg Brainerd
 Arriana Schwab Royalton

VIOLIN 2

Claire Rud, Principal Brainerd
 Brady Davison Brainerd
 Megan Hanson Brainerd
 Peggy Rutman Nisswa
 Martha Smithson Baxter
 Hans Stadem-Ward Minneapolis
 Jamie Sunder Little Falls
 Louise Washburn Brainerd

VIOLA

Tracie Becker Deerwood
 Isabelle Corrigan Pierz
 Kylie Laman Brainerd
 Ethan Sunder Little Falls
 Tim Swanson Baxter

CELLO

Amanda Jansen, Principal St. Cloud
Mary Anne Bennett Memorial Chair
 Jenna Hanson Brainerd
 Jane Huppler Onamia
 Taisha Linder Pillager
 Robin Myers Brainerd
 Rebecca Nelson Cushing

STRING BASS

Don Neu, Principal Baxter
 Val Buchmeier Buffalo
 Gunnar Kuehl Freeport
 Elsie Predmore Brainerd

PICCOLO

Kyle Brown Brainerd

FLUTE

Lauren Nickisch Pequot Lakes
 Lisa Winter Wadena

OBOE

Amy Kessler, Principal Merrifield
 Kaarin Hanske Baxter

CLARINET

Cathy Dens Brainerd
 Max Sommers Baxter

BASS CLARINET

Katie Brimhall Brainerd

BASSOON

Miriam Webber, Principal Bemidji
 Brian Sterriker Staples

FRENCH HORN

Jen Mickels Baxter
 Marilyn Quist Nisswa
 Lisa Sater Grand Marais
 Becky Stadem Brainerd

TRUMPET

Nick Bunio, Principal Grand Rapids
 Gary Taylor Deerwood
Lina Belar Honorary Chair
 Jonah Olson Little Falls

TROMBONE

Tristen Heller, Principal Remer
 Todd Peterson Little Falls

BASS TROMBONE

Steven K. Anderson Merrifield

TUBA

Doug Durant, Principal Brainerd

TIMPANI

Angela Byram Crosslake

PERCUSSION

Emmett Gainey Little Falls
 Nick Nolden Jordan
 Stacy Podoll-Erdal Brainerd
 John Tetrault St. Cloud

PIANO

Koreann Martin Brainerd

◆ BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL SINFONIA ORCHESTRA ◆

Under the Direction of Leslie Zander

VIOLIN

Arabelle Boesen Baxter
 Dylan Helmin Brainerd
 Jayden LaForge Brainerd
 Esme Malloy Brainerd
 Oscar McLain Brainerd
 Cameron Mull Brainerd
 Lailauni Peterson Brainerd

VIOLA

Anika Bautch Brainerd
 Owen Byrns Nisswa
 John DeHaan Brainerd
 Evan Gilbertson Brainerd

Emily Harris Motley
 Aubrey Jerde Brainerd
 Lilana Kosloski Brainerd
 Aiden Martinez Brainerd
 Alexa Miller Brainerd

CELLO

Madeline Ball Brainerd
 Emma Boesen Baxter
 Andrew Kargel Baxter
 Kyle Sandberg Baxter

BASS

Avery Horsman Brainerd

◆ ST. FRANCIS ORCHESTRAS ◆

Under the Direction of Melissa von Itter

VIOLIN

Declan Vogt Little Falls
 Melissa von Itter Little Falls
 Christopher Kozumplik Little Falls
 Marley Hamilton Brainerd
 Vivian Rudolph Little Falls
 Ava Schieffert Little Falls
 Laurel Clemons-Virnig Pierz
 Adam Surma Little Falls
 Reid Surma Little Falls
 Frances Carroll Little Falls
 Marissa Throener Little Falls
 Jan Hovda Rice
 Mackenzie Vetsch Little Falls
 Jamie Sunder Little Falls
 Pamela Wolters Little Falls

VIOLA

Ethan Sunder Little Falls

CELLO

Hosanno Bellomo Pierz
 Rose Surma Little Falls
 Anton Surma Little Falls
 Everett Rudolph Little Falls
 Amanda Jansen St. Cloud
 Robin Myers Brainerd
 Rebecca Nelson Cushing

PIANO

Izzak Kozumplik Little Falls

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA STAFF ◆

Operations Director – Navasha Kieffer
 Orchestra Manager – Fran Dosh
 Music Librarian – Alicia Cebulla

HSO is always in need of additional string players and sometimes others instruments.

If interested in joining please contact heartlandsymphony@gmail.com.

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HEARTLAND SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA

Heartland Symphony Orchestra

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