



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF MUSIC

University of Toronto Wind Symphony

Pratik Gandhi, *director*

Friday, March 31, 2023 at 7:30 pm | MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

Perpetua

Peter Meechan (b. 1980)

Beyond Stars

Stephen Morris (b. 1991)
composer-in-residence

Commission & World Premiere

A Movement for Rosa

Mark Camphouse (b. 1954)

Down in the River

traditional
arr. Jay Bocook (b. 1953)

INTERMISSION

Radiance

Jeff Reynolds, *conductor*

Theresa Martin (b. 1979)

Mooyeh

Homa Samiei (b. 1993)
composer-in-residence

Commission & World Premiere

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

The Path of Light

Hannah Flores (b. 2003)

Commission & World Premiere
with the support of the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association

Gloriosa

Yasuhide Ito (b. 1960)

- I. Oratio
- II. Cantus
- III. Dies Festus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACMILLAN THEATRE

Ian Albright, *technical director*
Les Stockley, *technical assistant*
Ross Hammond, *production assistant*

PERFORMANCE COLLECTION

Karen Wiseman, *librarian*

Radiance by Theresa Martin presented under license from Meechan Music.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Shawn Bennett, *low brass and assistant conductor*
Gabrielle Eber, *bassoon*
Michael Fedyshyn, *trumpet*
Hoi Tong Keung, *percussion*
Sophie Lanthier, *flute*
Emerald Sun, *clarinet*

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO WIND SYMPHONY

Pratik Gandhi, *conductor*

Shawn Bennett, *assistant conductor*

Flute

Josh Chong
Sophia Guo
Taylor Kruuv
Melody Li
Naomi Lobo
Constantin Moeller
Lauren Radeschi
Lucy Zuo

Piccolo

Lauren Radeschi
Lucy Zuo

Oboe

Chelyn Yoo
Aidan Taylor †

English Horn

Aidan Taylor †

Bassoon

Jaclyn Yee
Ruth Yeo
Cian Bryson †

Contrabassoon

Jaclyn Yee

E-flat Clarinet

Daniel Sandiford

Clarinet

Chloe Chan
Sophia Chen
Cheng Cheng
Nicole Magirias
Andrzej Osko
Joanna Pan
Felicity Quadrini
Emma Rondilla
Daniel Sandiford
Sophia Stellato

Bass Clarinet

Hannah O'Connor *

Soprano Saxophone

Yunfei Xie

Alto Saxophone

Emmalin Pan
Yunfei Xie
Min Gu Kang †

Tenor Saxophone

Chantelle Tom-Ying

Baritone Saxophone

Aeon Wang

Trumpet

Brendan Colley
Sophia Franc
Griffin Hook *
Marten Humke-Weber
Sunny Park
Kevin Zhao

Horn

Piper Shiels *
Olivia Esther †
Ilinca Stafie †

Trombone

Abellia Chan
Kenzie Ford
Madeline James
Calvin Morais
Vanessa Ng

Bass Trombone

Rebecca Plante
Ian Tong

Euphonium

Daniel Collins

Tuba

Beverley Kwok
Eric Zhang

Double Bass

Peter Eratostene †

Piano

Kousha Kavianitabar †
Elienna Wang †

Harp

Catherine Liu

Percussion

Amiel Ang
Tristan Culbert
Cassandra Wolff
Randall Chaves
Camacho †
Hoi Tong Keung †
Thomas Li †

* *ensemble managers*

† *guest musicians*

PROGRAM NOTES

The University of Toronto Wind Symphony and director Pratik Gandhi present a concert inspired by stories of people's resistance in the face of oppression.

Perpetua

Commissioned by the Foothills Concert Band in Calgary, AB, and completed in early 2019, *Perpetua* is a joyful, energetic work for wind orchestra. Pete Meechan describes some of his other works from this time period as “reflections of what I saw around me,” whereas *Perpetua* is a representation of “the world I want to live in.” This piece was the recipient of the American Bandmasters Association's Sousa/Ostwald award, one of the most prestigious prizes in the wind band world, in 2021.

Beyond Stars

Beyond Stars is a contemplation of parallel dimensions, worlds, and realities beyond the physical, expressed through the vast sound of a symphonic band—expressing what shines “beyond” the stars and matter. The work is written for the University of Toronto Wind Symphony and is dedicated to conductor Pratik Gandhi. (Program note by composer)

A Movement for Rosa

In her 1992 autobiography, Rosa Parks recounts her life leading up to her famous protest against bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama, and reflects on the state of society nearly forty years later. She notes that although a lot of progress had been made, “a whole lot of white people's hearts have not been changed.” Black Americans (and Canadians) continue to face discrimination, disenfranchisement, and racial violence even to this day. Mark Camphouse composed *A Movement for Rosa* in late 1992 as a portrait of Parks' life and courage. The piece culminates in an impassioned statement of the gospel song and civil rights anthem, “We Shall Overcome”, before an unexpectedly unsettled conclusion. Camphouse writes that “the work's final measures serve as an ominous reminder of racism's lingering presence in modern American society.”

Down in the River

“Down in the River to Pray” is an American folk song which probably originated as an African American spiritual. It has been associated with the Underground Railroad (it certainly would have been known by the mid-nineteenth century), and some of the textual references—the river, the starry crown, “the way”—may well have been coded instructions for African Americans seeking to escape their enslavement. Jay Bocook's arrangement, written in 2016 and first performed in January 2017, starts with a chorale setting of the traditional melody, then carries it through various moods and textures, leading to a majestic finale.

Radiance

For this work, composed in 2012 and revised in 2020, Theresa Martin took inspiration from the ancient idea that music, in its rhythms and frequencies, was a microcosm of the universe. The outer sections represent the vibrations of a person's aura, whereas the middle sections represent the interconnectedness of everything and the joy of living.

Mooyeh

Mooyeh is inspired by the form of music from the west of Iran called "Houreh." People of the west of Iran use this music in their grief and loss ceremony. I tried to bring this form of music to my musical language and made a new world of sounds from east to west. The electronic part is a polyphonic vocal sound with various effects. The sounds are the exact form of "Houreh" from the west of Iran, performed by Milad Bagheri. I am grateful to Pratik Gandhi for providing this opportunity to me. Also, I would like to thank my composition professor, Eliot Britton, for all of his support and guidance through my composition journey, and Mehdi Bagheri for all his help and advice regarding the music of the west of Iran. (Program note by composer)

Gloriosa

This symphonic poem in three movements by Yasuhide Ito was written in 1990 as an homage to the Kakure-Kirishitan, a group of Japanese Christians who were persecuted under the Edo shogunate and forced to practice their faith in secret. Their "Japanization" of Gregorian chant inspired Ito to write a piece combining chant melody with Japanese folk songs. The first movement, "Oratio", begins with the chant which ties together the entire work, "O gloriosa domina." The second movement, "Cantus", features an extended solo in the style of the Japanese ryuteki flute; the melody is based on a 17th-century song commemorating the 1622 execution of more than fifty Christians. The final movement, "Dies Festus", incorporates a folk song from Nagasaki, where many Crypto-Christians lived.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Pratik Gandhi (he/him) is an award-winning freelance conductor and researcher based in Toronto. He is in his tenth season as music director of the Rouge River Winds and was the founding music director of Soup Can Theatre. In addition to regularly guest conducting and adjudicating bands and orchestras, Pratik is active in several organizations that support music educators, most notably the Ontario Band Association. Since 2017, he has also served as Vice-Chair of the Concert Band Division of MusicFest Canada.

A champion of new music, Pratik has premiered works by Elisha Denburg, Alex Eddington, Erica Procunier, Jodi vander Woude, Tyler Versluis, and many others. Pratik is credited as conductor on three albums of new music: Bekah Simms' *impurity chains* (conducting two tracks, including the Juno-nominated "Granitic"); the Toy Piano Composers' self-titled debut album; and the recent premiere recording of Benjamin Sajo's "The Great War Sextet".

Pratik is currently a doctoral student at York University, where his research, supported in part by an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, investigates issues of equity and representation among wind band composers in Canada.

Hannah Flores, at just 20 years old, is an award-winning Toronto-based spoken word artist, having performed for the Toronto Raptors, OVO, DOVE, and the City of Toronto's FIFA World Cup Host City Bid campaign. She also is a second-year student at the University of Toronto, studying biology and Spanish. Combining her passions of the sciences, the arts, and amplifying marginalized voices, Hannah aims to make a difference in medicine and public health while inspiring others to pursue multidisciplinary interests.

Hannah's appearance in this concert and the commissioning of her new work, "The Path of Light", are generously funded by the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association, in support of the values of anti-racist and anti-oppression education, the cultural changes established in the Faculty of Music, and the FMUA's stated goals for the 2022-23 academic year.

Stephen Morris is a composer based in Toronto, whose music strives to create musical experiences which separate the listener's connection to the world through the expression of atmospheric and trance inducing works. His music has been published in the SCI Journal of Music Scores and included in concerts around the world. Stephen's music has been programmed in places such as Arizona State University, Carnegie Hall, Chateau De Fontainebleau, Trojhalí Karolina, Yancheng First Public Retail Market, New York University, and the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He has collaborated with ensembles and artists like the Prague Philharmonia, Imani Winds, Odin Quartet, Moscow Contemporary Ensemble, Hanzhi Wang, and the Lincoln Centre Theatre Directors Lab.

Toronto-based composer, pianist, educator, and artistic director **Homa Samiei** was born in Tehran. She is the co-founder of Najva Ensemble and Chaam Trio, as well as the co-founder and Artistic Director of Himeh Cultural House. Homa earned degrees in composition from the Art University of Tehran and in community music from Wilfrid Laurier University, and is currently pursuing a M.Mus. degree in composition at the University of Toronto.

With the Najva Ensemble, Homa has performed as a pianist and composer in Tehran, Amsterdam, Mexico City, Tišnov, and Budapest; the ensemble also released an album in 2015 called *Raha (free)*. Homa has attended numerous festivals as a composer and has collaborated with ensembles such as the Thin Edge New Music Collective (Toronto) and the International Contemporary Ensemble (New York), among many others. Homa's music combines her Persian cultural background with western classical, contemporary music. She is trying to create a bridge toward the music between her eastern life and her new life in the western world.