



MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER

JANUARY 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

Manatee School for the Arts

Robert Vodnoy, Music Director and Conductor

Nalisio Taveras, saxophone; Michael Drapkin, clarinet

Manatee School for the Arts Orchestra, Laura Jensen-Jennings, director

Program

<i>Novelletten No. 1</i>		Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
<i>Bethena Waltz</i>		Scott Joplin
<i>Danzas de Panama (movements 2 and 3)</i>		William Grant Still
<i>A Klezmer Set</i>		Michael Drapkin
	Michael Drapkin, clarinet	
<i>Perfect</i>		Ed Sheeran
<i>A Whitney Houston Tribute</i>		Victor López
	Nalisio Taveras, saxophone	
<i>Romanian Dances</i>		Béla Bartók
<i>Luminescence</i>		Alan Lee Silva

Side-by-side with the Manatee School for the Arts Orchestra

Sponsored by grants from the Music Performance Trust Fund and
Paul R Judy Center for Innovation and Research of the Eastman School of Music

Orchestra Personnel

Violin I

Cindi Qi, Concertmaster

Laura Jensen-Jennings

Violin II

Laurie Vodnoy-Wright

Shawna Trost

Viola

Tami Guz

Rafael Ramirez

Cello

Michael Amos

Bass

Christopher Riley

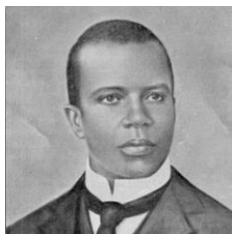
Percussion

Aaron Nix

Program Notes
by
Robert Vodnoy



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born in England, the son of a white English mother and a black father who was a physician originally from Sierra Leone. In early childhood, Samuel began playing violin and started to compose music. He developed a refined, lyrical and engaging style through compositions that were very well received in Britain and in the United States. Coleridge-Taylor toured the United States three times, met with President Theodore Roosevelt, and was honored with the formation of the Coleridge-Taylor Society, a group dedicated to performing and promoting his music in America. After returning to England, he taught at the Trinity College of Music and conducted leading choirs. The first of the four *Novelletten*, written in 1902, is an elegant and waltz.



Scott Joplin (1868-1917) was an African-American composer and pianist. He achieved fame for his ragtime compositions and earned the name “the King of Ragtime”. He wrote over 100 original ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas. One of his most popular pieces, the *Maple Leaf Rag*, became ragtime's first and most influential hit, and has been recognized as the archetypal rag. Joplin composed *Bethena: A Concert Waltz* in 1905, shortly after the death of his second wife, Freddie Alexander Joplin. The work combines elements of the classical waltz and ragtime. It is considered one of the greatest ragtime waltzes, and was featured on the soundtrack of the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.



William Grant Still Jr. (1895-1978) was an American composer of nearly 200 works, including five symphonies, four ballets, nine operas, over thirty choral works, plus art songs, chamber music and works for solo instruments. Still was the first American composer to have an opera produced by the New York City Opera. He is known primarily for his Afro-American Symphony (1930), which was, until 1950, the most widely performed symphony composed by an American. He was the first African-American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, the first to have a symphony performed by a leading orchestra, and the first to have an opera performed by a major opera company. Still composed *Danzas de Panama* in 1948, based on Panamanian folk themes. It has a distinct Caribbean color, with dances of African and Spanish-Indian derivation.



Michael Drapkin enjoys a career as a music performer, composer, arranger, educator, and adjudicator. He was a member of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, an Associate Principal and Bass Clarinet with the New York City Opera Touring Company and Lake George Opera Festival, and principal clarinet with many ensembles. He is the author of the definitive three-volume *Symphonic Repertoire for the Bass Clarinet* and has contributed and/or authored 18 books. Drapkin's *A Klezmer Set* is a brilliant arrangement of Klezmer music for solo clarinet and chamber orchestra. Klezmer is an instrumental musical tradition of the Ashkenazi Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. In the 20th century, Klezmer entered the mainstream of American and world music with its infectious rhythms and melodies. Drapkin's arrangement begins with a dramatic cadenza for the solo clarinet, accompanied by tremolo strings. This is followed by a *hora*, a traditional Romanian and Jewish folk dance in which the participants hold hands and dance in a circle. The concluding dance is a *bulgar*, with a slow introduction and a fast, virtuoso ending.



Nalisio Taveras is an artist in demand nationally, based in Tampa Bay. He holds a BM in Jazz Performance from the University of North Florida and an MM in Composition/Arranging from William Paterson University. He sings, composes and arranges music, plays an arsenal of instruments, and directs two bands. Taveras will perform Ed Sheeran's *Perfect* and López's *A Whitney Houston Tribute* on the concert.



Perfect is a song by English singer-songwriter **Ed Sheeran** from his third studio album which was produced in 2017. The song reached number one on the UK Singles Chart and the US Billboard Hot 100 in December 2017. The second version of the single, titled "Perfect Duet" with American singer Beyoncé was released in December, 2017. The song is a romantic ballad. The full string orchestration was later used for the recording with Andrea Bocelli.



A Whitney Houston Tribute is a medley of four songs arranged by **Victor López**, including *Queen of the Night*, *I Have Nothing*, *I'm Your Baby Tonight*, and *Greatest Love of All*. The songs range in style from "disco style" to slow soul ballads to Motown Blues. Singer/actress Whitney Houston sold over 200 million combined albums, singles, and videos during her superstar career. She won 2 Emmy Awards, 8 Grammy Awards, and 16 Billboard Awards among many accolades. She is ranked at number five of the most influential R&B Stars of all time.



The folk music of Hungary and its neighboring countries was the soul of the music of **Béla Bartók (1881-1945)**. He was born in a Hungarian town on the border of Romania, which today falls within Romanian territory. The collection of Romanian folk melodies became an early passion and Bartók transcribed some 3500 authentic Romanian folk tunes. In 1915, he took seven Romanian fiddle tunes and arranged them as *Romanian Folk Dances* for piano solo. In 1917 he transformed them into a version for small orchestra. The suite is comprised of seven brief dances.



Alan Lee Silva is a composer, arranger, and orchestrator with numerous film and TV credits to his name, including *Cinderella 3*, *Enough*, *Sesame Street*, and *7th Heaven*. His music is featured at Disney theme parks and on Cruise Lines. Silva's *Luminescence* begins with sharp and confident rhythms, followed by wonderfully lyrical melodies that soar over the angular accompaniments. The piece will be performed as a "side-by-side", which means that the members of the Manatee School for the Arts Orchestra, Laura Jensen-Jennings director, will sit next to members of the Chamber Orchestra.

This concert is sponsored by grants from the Paul R Judy Center for Innovation and Research of the Eastman School of Music and the Music Performance Trust Fund. The MPTF is an independent, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization funded by major recording companies including Sony Music, Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, and Disney. The MPTF was established in 1948 to contribute to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child's life experience. The MPTF brings music to the public and supplements the income of musicians, all at no cost to those receiving this precious gift of music.



The **Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota** is one of the few professional chamber orchestras in the State of Florida. Its mission is to provide opportunities for diverse audiences and performers to experience the unique repertoire and aesthetics of a chamber orchestra by employing the finest musicians in the Sarasota area, performing in small and intimate venues. The Chamber Orchestra performs repertoire from Baroque to Contemporary, with an increasing emphasis on premiering new works by American composers.



The **Manatee School for the Arts Orchestra** is where students play violin, viola, cello and double bass. Course offerings include two Beginning levels, an Intermediate and an Advanced level. Beginning classes are designed for students in grades 7-12 who have no previous experience playing an orchestral string instrument. All orchestra classes play in two formal evening concerts at school.

Intermediate and Advanced Orchestras have additional performance opportunities such as tonight's concert. Orchestra students at each level are offered a supportive environment in which to develop their skills as individual players and ensemble musicians. In the MSA Orchestra, students grow their abilities to listen for and create beauty, play together, and explore over three centuries' worth of amazing music! **Laura Jensen-Jennings** is a full-time teacher at the Manatee School for the Arts. She served for 19 seasons as Principal Second Violin of the Sarasota Orchestra and is a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Florida State University and a Master of Music degree from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Music Director **Robert Vodnoy** brings over 40 years of experience as a conductor to the podium of the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota, which he co-founded in 2017 with his sister, Laurie Vodnoy-Wright, a well-known violinist in Sarasota. He is also the Music Director and Conductor of the Whiting Park Festival Orchestra in northwest Indiana.



Vodnoy has guest-conducted numerous orchestras throughout the world, including Symphony Orchestra of the Zhejiang Song and Dance Theatre (China), Mississippi Symphony, Orchestra of the Colorado Music Festival, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Czech National Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica de Sanremo (Italy), National Philharmonic of Taiwan, Jonköping Symphony (Sweden), and the Seoul Philharmonic.

From 2005-2018, he was Orchestra Director and Professor of Strings and Music History at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Between 1975 and 2005, he was the long tenured music director of the Southwest Michigan Symphony and the Northwest Indiana Symphony. He holds a BM *summa cum laude* and MM in composition from Hartt College of the University of Hartford, and a DM in Orchestral Conducting from Indiana University.