

Stateline Community Orchestra presents

# WONDROUS WOMEN

featuring female protagonists and  
SCO Principal Clarinetist, Heather Gering,  
in honor of Women's History Month.

**Friday, March 20**

**7:30 PM**

South Mecklenburg  
Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, March 22**

**3:00 PM**

Pineville United  
Methodist Church



**FREE CONCERT**  
Suggested donation  
of \$10

# WONDROUS WOMEN

Overture to *Fidelio*, Op. 72

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Fantasia for Clarinet and Orchestra  
on the Theme "Là ci darem la mano"

Franz Ignaz Danzi  
(1763-1826)

*Heather Gering, clarinet*

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture, TH 42

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

Wonder Woman

Rupert Gregson-Williams  
Arr. Victor Lopez  
(b. 1950)

Overture to *The Wreckers* (1906)

Ethel Smyth  
(1858-1944)



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**PALMETTO CIRCLE**  
Belinda and Sandy Hull



**CONDUCTOR**

Dr. David A. Gordon

**FLUTE**

Christine Brillon  
Shelly Johnson  
Nena Harris  
\*Elaina Palada

**OBOE/ENGLISH  
HORN**

Shelly Bloise  
Annesha Dib  
\*Donna Swahlan

**CLARINET**

\*Heather Gering  
Victoria Johnson  
Amy Ramesh

**BASSOON**

\*Michele Jean-Jumeau  
\*Anne Manseau

**FRENCH HORN**

James Brown  
Peggy Chapman  
\*Gail Clarke  
Paula Dilanchian  
Jill Wyse

**TRUMPET**

Josh Cherry  
\*Richard Garafolo  
Traci Quinn

**TROMBONE/  
BARITONE**

Larry Farr  
Nick Grimmett  
\*Tim Lowe  
Jennifer Samson

**TUBA**

\*Nick Berns

**PERCUSSION**

\*Chris Miller  
Jake Morrison  
\*Scott Rauschenberg

**VIOLIN**

\*\*Amy Cairns  
Luke Castaneros  
Michael Dolschenko  
Emily Duke  
Jim Edwards  
Tomoko Hannah  
Kaylah Holland  
Esther Koops  
Alex Kuamoo  
Corrie Linsz  
Megan Litz  
Peg Mueller  
Elizabeth Prater  
Shari Schwarzwald  
Brianna Smith  
Christine Wu  
\*Cheryl Yung

**VIOLA**

\*Hennigan Kearns  
Jinna Kim  
Kyle Marcum  
Gretchen Mortimore-Thill  
Kristin Rogentine-Lee

**CELLO**

\*Elizabeth Alexander  
Pamela Cobb Pettis  
Caryn Crye  
Suzanne Falconer  
Pronda Few  
Belinda Hull  
John Mooney

**STRING BASS**

\*David Manseau  
Uno Torres

**HARP**

Renee Dib

**KEYBOARD/PIANO**

Cheng Xu

\*\*Concertmaster  
\*Section Leader



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**THANK YOU to the AMAZING musicians of SCO for bringing music to our community!**

**- David**



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## DR. DAVID A. GORDON CONDUCTOR

A San Francisco-Bay area native, **David A. Gordon**, began his formal conducting education at DePauw University. After graduating in 2015, he was selected to be Opera Parallèle's 2015-2016 conducting intern. In 2016, he joined Mill Valley Philharmonic as their assistant conductor and administrative assistant, positions he held for two years. In 2018, David resumed his formal education at Syracuse University, where he earned his Master's of Music in Instrumental Conducting and served as the University Orchestra Teaching Assistant. Upon graduating from Syracuse in 2020, David entered a DMA conducting program at the University of South Carolina; he graduated in the spring of 2023.

David has appeared as a guest conductor with the Sonoma County Philharmonic, the Onondaga Civic Symphony, and the Aiken Civic Orchestra, and served as the interim conductor for the SCPYO Symphony Orchestra. In addition to conducting the wonderful musicians of the Stateline Community Orchestra, David teaches music at Devonshire Elementary and is a part-time instructor of music at Central Piedmont Community College.



## DR. HEATHER C. GERING CLARINET

A native of Wichita, Kansas, **Dr. Heather C. Gering** is an active clarinetist who enjoys performing across a wide range of styles and genres. She has performed with professional ensembles including the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony, and the New Mexico Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since 2022, she has served as the lead Instructor of Music at Cleveland Community College and also teaches woodwind lessons at the Gaston School of the Arts. Dr. Gering holds a BM in Music Performance from Kansas State University, an MM in Clarinet Performance from the University of New Mexico, and a DMA in Clarinet Performance & Pedagogy from the University of Southern Mississippi.

In her free time, Dr. Gering enjoys watching musicals, baking, and spending time with her partner, Chris, and her cat, Appoggiatura.



## Overture to *Fidelio*

The Overture to *Fidelio* opens the only opera by Ludwig van Beethoven, a composer celebrated for his bold, dramatic style and belief in freedom and human dignity. Written during a time of political unrest in Europe, the opera reflects Beethoven's deep commitment to justice and moral courage. At the heart of the story is Leonore, one of opera's most remarkable heroines. Disguising herself as a young man named Fidelio, she risks everything to rescue her husband from unjust imprisonment. Her bravery, intelligence, and unwavering love ultimately triumph, and the overture captures both the tension of her struggle and the hope of her victory.

## Fantasia on the Theme "Là ci darem la mano"

German composer and conductor, Franz Danzi, based this dazzling showpiece for clarinet and orchestra on a duet from one of Mozart's most beloved operas, *Don Giovanni*. The theme is taken from "Là ci darem la mano" ("There we will give each other our hands"), a scene that features the notorious womanizer, Don Giovanni, attempting to seduce Zerlina but ultimately failing. Zerlina, a young peasant, is characterized as being flirtatious and somewhat susceptible to Don Giovanni's charms. However, in the end, she rejects his advances and proves faithful to her fiancé, Masetto. SCO is proud to feature our principal clarinetist, Heather Gering, as the soloist for this exciting work.



## Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a young composer making a name for himself in Czarist Russia when he composed the lush and romantic Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture. Fighting against institutional pressure to compose in a Russian nationalistic style, Tchaikovsky created this work incorporating Western European musical and literary influences. The resulting work is a musical interpretation in sonata form of Shakespeare's tale of two tenacious but ultimately doomed young lovers, Romeo and Juliet. Juliet is a woman ahead of her time, refusing to be commodified for the sake of family fortune through an arranged marriage to Paris. She dares to defy her parents and pursue a romance with Romeo, boldly initiating the marriage proposal and refusing to surrender to her parents wishes in the face of ever mounting obstacles. Though tragedy ultimately strikes, Juliet's insistence on being Subject not Object in her life makes her a formidable and enduring symbol of female empowerment.

## Wonder Woman

The thrilling music from the superhero film, *Wonder Woman* (2017), was written by English composer Rupert Gregson-Williams. He has received a nomination for two Primetime Emmy Awards, and his filmography also includes *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Aquaman*, *Bee Movie*, *The Crown*, and numerous films from Happy Madison Productions. This arrangement includes heroic, passionate, and flowing themes from the film. *Wonder Woman* tells the story of Amazonian warrior princess Diana Prince as she is called to leave the queendom of Themyscira to save the world from Ares, the Greek God of War. An American icon since her debut in 1941, the original Wonder Woman was created during World War II to promote a “new type of woman” and champion women’s empowerment.



## Overture to *The Wreckers*

The Overture to *The Wreckers* commences the opera composed by Ethel Smyth, which debuted in 1906. The opera is set on an island off the coast of Cornwall and draws on English tales of villagers wrecking ships to lure them ashore and steal their valuables. Star-crossed lovers attempt to warn the crews of the impending danger, but their mission ultimately fails as they meet their tragic end when they are left to drown in the sea caves. Although she came from an elite background, Smyth struggled to have her work taken seriously due to the gendered social conventions of her time.

**“I feel I must fight for [my music], because I want women to turn their minds to big and difficult jobs; not just to go on hugging the shore, afraid to put out to sea.”**

She was a suffragette whose activism led to her imprisonment for two months in 1912, and she famously conducted fellow inmates from her window with a toothbrush. Her opera *Der Wald* made her the first woman to have an opera performed at New York’s Metropolitan Opera.

Sources: Boston Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera, Classics Today

Program notes written and contributed by David Gordon, Alex Kuamoo, Kristin Rogertine-Lee, Elaina Palada, and Elizabeth Prater.

Photo thumbnails sourced from <sup>1</sup>Tamino Autographs, <sup>2</sup>New York Times, <sup>3</sup>San Francisco Ballet, <sup>4</sup>WIRED, <sup>5</sup>Fisher Center at Bard - Bard College.

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Thank you to our volunteers, and all of our musicians and their families for making these performances possible.



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