

Program Notes

Mannes Orchestra at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall
Conducted by David Hayes
Dec. 9, 2024

Featuring:

U.S. Premiere of Adolphus Hailstork, *Ndemara*

N.Y.C. Premiere of Marion Bauer, Symphony No. 1

David Diamond's rarely performed Symphony No. 2

Composed shortly before her death, Marion Bauer's Symphony No. 1 was originally scheduled to premiere in 1950. However, due to significant issues on the part of the transcribers while working on Bauer's score, the piece was not completed in time for its originally scheduled premiere date. The work was nearly forgotten until The Women's Philharmonic Advocacy (WPA) meticulously prepared an edited score, which they presented to conductor Heather Buchman. Symphony No. 1, structured in three movements, finally received its long-awaited world premiere in 2022. "It caught my eye because it had a note attached, 'has never been performed,' even though it was composed in 1947-1950," Buchman said. "Marion Bauer was a significant presence in American classical music in the first half of the 20th century...so the fact that her symphony was never performed seemed an egregious neglect of someone who should be celebrated."

Adolphus Hailstork's *Ndemara* is a single-movement nocturne inspired by the star for which it is named – a prominent star in the summer night sky. Scored for two oboes, two horns, and strings, *Ndemara* weaves a delicate tapestry of timbres, capturing the serenity of a starlit night and the bittersweet nature of parting. Hailstork says, "In 2016, I was commissioned to write a piece for 2 horns, 2 oboes, and strings to be premiered by a French chamber orchestra. The piece premiered in Paris in 2017 and then in Milan a few weeks later. I was commissioned to write a piece incorporating an idea about Africa and the cosmos. All lands or nations have their interpretation of the stars. That led to my choosing one of the stars interpreted by at least three African tribes as a warning to lovers of the need to end a romantic moment. The bright star Fomalhaut lies in a rather star-poor region and is prominent in the summer sky. It is called Ndemara, 'The Sweetheart Star,' by the Shona. The visibility of this star was supposed to indicate the time for lovers to part before their parents discovered them."

David Diamond's Symphony No. 2 was premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Serge Koussevitzky on October 22, 1944. The symphony unfolds over four movements, each rich in emotional depth and musical innovation. The first movement juxtaposes a sense of tragedy with moments of refined elegance, establishing a compelling emotional landscape. The

second movement, a brief scherzo, features what Diamond described as “a rhythmic figure mockingly tossed back and forth between the cellos and a bassoon,” imbuing it with a playful, almost whimsical character. The third movement revisits the emotional tone of the opening, weaving themes of introspection and resonance. The finale surges forward with a triumphant and exhilarating energy, bringing the symphony to a stirring conclusion.

Each of the composers in this program is esteemed in their own right, but they also share bonds across time. Marion Bauer is known as Nadia Boulanger’s first American student. Bauer taught Nadia Boulanger English, and Boulanger gave Bauer lessons in harmony until Bauer returned to the United States in 1907. Bauer composed and published orchestral, chamber, vocal and instrumental music. She was highly-regarded as an educator and served on the faculties at New York University and the Juilliard School of Music.

Adolphus Hailstork received his Ph.D. in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He had previously studied at the Manhattan School of Music, under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax. Dr. Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band, orchestra, and opera.

Born in 1915 in Rochester, New York, David Diamond earned numerous accolades for his compositions, including three Guggenheim Fellowships, the William Schuman Lifetime Achievement Award in 1986, the Gold Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1991, and a GRAMMY® nomination for his String Quartet No. 4 from 1951. Diamond was a versatile, adventurous, and prolific composer, writing a total of 20 orchestral works, 29 chamber works, 14 piano works, five vocal works, two wind ensembles and nine concerto works. Beginning in 1973, Diamond was a professor of composition at The Juilliard School for 25 years.

MANNES ORCHESTRA

Led by maestro David Hayes, the Mannes Orchestra is the premiere large ensemble at The New School College of Performing Arts. The orchestra strives to foster the highest level of musicianship by engaging with a wide range of repertoire in a focused, dynamic, and supportive environment that mirrors the culture and practices of professional orchestras. Known for its bold and adventurous programming, the Mannes Orchestra has been hailed by The New York Times as an orchestra whose quality is “a revelation,” and for its “intensity of focus.” The orchestra performs a multitude of concerts each season at venues including Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, John L. Tishman Auditorium at The New School, and appearances with the Mannes Opera at the Bank Street Theater and the Martha Graham Dance Company at New York City Center.