

PENN MED SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

10<sup>th</sup>



ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

PERELMAN THEATER APRIL 12, 2026



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**THEPMSO.COM**



# CONCERT PROGRAM

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM

**David Zhang, PhD**, Conductor

**Dan Zhang, MD, PhD**, Conductor

**Shostakovich**                      *Festive Overture*

**Osunkoya**                              *Iròlé di Àárò* (World Premiere)

**Márquez**                                *Danzón No. 2*



**Sibelius**                                 *Finlandia*

**- INTERMISSION -**

**Rimsky-Korsakov**                      *Scheherazade*

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This concert was presented with special thanks to Bruce Jay Gould, MD, whose remarkable support and dedication to the arts have helped make tonight's performance possible.

We would like to thank our generous donors and the organizations who have made this concert possible with their continued support to our orchestra: GAPSA, MSG, BGSA, PDM, IDEALMED  

Danzón No. 2 by Márquez is presented under license from Subito Music Corporation, copyright owners. Festive Overture by Shostakovich is presented under license from G. Schirmer, Inc.



## **Festive Overture**

### **Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)**

Dmitri Shostakovich, born in Russia in 1906, is one of the most influential composers of the twentieth century and remains among the most frequently performed Soviet composers. Despite his celebrated status, his music often placed him at odds with the Soviet government, which strictly policed the arts and opposed many forms of modernism. Throughout his career, Shostakovich moved in and out of official favor, carefully shaping his compositions to navigate political demands while preserving his own distinctive voice.

Shostakovich composed the Festive Overture in 1954 following an urgent request from the Bolshoi Theatre. Due to a last-minute oversight, the theater found itself in need of a new work to celebrate the anniversary of the October Revolution—just three days away. Remarkably, Shostakovich began composing immediately, delivering the score to the orchestra page by page as it was completed. The performance went ahead without issue, and, aside from its breakneck pace, there is little to suggest the haste with which it was written.

Following a brilliant brass fanfare, the orchestra launches into a sparkling main theme, propelled by driving rhythms and virtuosic writing across the ensemble. The overture showcases Shostakovich's characteristic wit and brilliance in orchestration, building to a triumphant conclusion.

## **Iròlé di Àárò**

### **Siji Osunkoya (2001-present)**

Iròlé di Àárò, meaning "dusk to dawn" in Yoruba, was originally composed for chamber orchestra during Osunkoya's time at Juilliard's Extension Division and has been reorchestrated for this performance. The piece follows a night from beginning to end, charting a journey through nocturnal landscapes while exploring the shift in consciousness that occurs after dark.

The piece opens at twilight, at the edge between day and night. As darkness takes hold, the music passes through different environments: some playful and alive with quick movements, others opening into broader spaces with their own gentle warmth. These shifting landscapes build on each other, the music accumulating momentum toward a powerful climax where the night reveals its full intensity.

Then something shifts. The hours that follow are slower, more contemplative. In the deep night, thinking takes on a different quality. Memories that haven't been touched in years become suddenly vivid. Thoughts circle back, each return uncovering something missed before. Connections form between things that seemed unrelated in daylight. The music inhabits this space, moving through layers of recollection and introspection that only exist in these quiet hours.

Dawn arrives gradually, its warmth spreading through the orchestra. The music reaches its resolution here, but that resolution is also a return to the opening's atmosphere. Dusk becomes dawn, the end is also the beginning, and the cycle stands ready to turn again.

## **Danzón No. 2**

### **Arturo Márquez (1950-present)**

Born in 1950 in northwest Mexico, Arturo Márquez began studying composition at the age of 16 and later attended the Mexican Music Conservatory and the California Institute of the Arts. His compositional style was heavily influenced by his father and grandfather, who were Mariachi and folk musicians. Márquez gained worldwide fame through his explorations of Latin ballroom dance music, which led to the composition of his danzones.

Sometimes fondly called “Mexico’s second national anthem”, Danzón no. 2 features distinctly Latin musical styles, blending lush, romantic melodies with driving rhythmic figures. Opening with reserved melodies from solo winds, Márquez gradually builds the orchestral texture, leading to a constantly accelerating dance. The musical tension continues to grow as the orchestra shifts between these romantic and hectic dances, featuring several solos from throughout the orchestra. As the piece builds to its climax, we once again hear constant acceleration as exclamations from the brass create rhythmic instabilities that evoke a dancer careening towards collapse.

## **Finlandia**

### **Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)**

Jean Sibelius is Finland’s most celebrated composer and is widely credited with forging a distinctively Finnish musical voice. A meticulous perfectionist, Sibelius produced a relatively small but deeply influential body of orchestral works, including seven symphonies. His music often seeks to evoke the natural beauty of his homeland, employing an orchestral style that seamlessly weaves together all sections of the ensemble into a unified sound world.

Sibelius composed *Finlandia* in 1899 as a subtle protest against the increasingly restrictive censorship laws imposed by the Russian Empire, which then ruled Finland. The work conveys a sense of struggle, opening with dark, imposing brass that gradually give way to resolute, heroic themes. As the music launches into a brisk tempo, it evokes a call to action, punctuated by a gorgeous chorus sung by the unified wind and string sections. As *Finlandia* drives to its conclusion, Sibelius expertly evokes pride, patriotism, and hope through soaring strings and brilliant brass fanfare.

## Scheherazade

### Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

Raised in a military family, he balanced his passion for music with a career in the Imperial Russian Navy, an experience that significantly influenced his compositional voice. His work with naval bands in particular gave him great skill in composing for woodwinds and brass, a mastery reflected in the colorful, dynamic orchestration that became his hallmark.

Perhaps Rimsky-Korsakov's most well-known work, *Scheherazade* retells in musical form several episodes from *One Thousand and One Nights*, a collection of Middle Eastern folktales. Unifying these narratives is the story of the Sultan Shahryar and his new bride, Scheherazade. Convinced that all women are unfaithful, the sultan vows to execute each of his wives before they can betray him. Determined to avoid this fate, Scheherazade captivates him with a series of stories, each night ending on a cliffhanger that compels him to spare her life. After one thousand and one nights, the sultan recognizes the folly of his vow and allows her to live in peace.

Rimsky-Korsakov brings these tales to life through vivid orchestration and recurring musical ideas. The piece opens with a powerful statement in the low strings and brass, representing the imposing sultan. Soon after, a solo violin—Scheherazade herself—emerges, guiding us into the first tale, *The Sea and Sinbad's Ship*, where undulating string figures evoke the waves of the ocean.

Scheherazade's theme returns throughout the work, ushering in each new story. *The Story of the Kalendar Prince* unfolds as a capricious theme and variations, featuring extended solos from across the orchestra. *The Young Prince and the Young Princess*, by contrast, is a lush, lyrical romance. Finally, *The Festival at Baghdad* recapitulates themes from throughout the work in a relentlessly driving dance. In the final moments, the sultan's theme reappears, transformed in character to reflect his softened heart.

-Andrew Devaney



# COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



## **Oluwasijibomi (Siji) Osunkoya**

is a second-year medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is a 21st Century Scholar. He grew up in Lilburn, Georgia and began playing the viola at the age of 14, performing with the

Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra and the GMEA All-State Orchestra throughout high school. He continued his musical pursuits at Emory University, where he served as principal viola of the Emory University Symphony Orchestra while double-majoring in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and Music Composition. He graduated summa cum laude, completing his honors thesis "Musical Minds: Exploring the Connection Between Music and Emotions." Outside of music, Siji is interested in pursuing a career in neurology and currently conducts research studying the effects of non-invasive brain stimulation on patients with primary progressive aphasia.

*For our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Penn Med Symphony Orchestra will be performing the world premiere of Siji's piece Iròlè di Ààrò.*



# THE PENN MED SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Penn Med Symphony Orchestra (PMSO) was founded in 2016, and today, it celebrates 10 years of music making in the healthcare community of the greater Philadelphia area. It was initially founded by medical students at the University of Pennsylvania who had grown up playing in youth, college, and community orchestras and wished to bring together an ensemble of like-minded musicians to engage in a shared love for music. This vision remains at the center of its mission: to pursue artistic excellence in orchestral music within the healthcare community of Philadelphia as means to promote wellness, build community, and foster meaningful connections across training levels, disciplines, and institutions.

From its start, the PMSO has attracted musicians from across the university campus, hospital entities, and broader healthcare community in the city. Its members include a breadth of healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, researchers, social workers, therapists, and technicians. It also spans the professional continuum from students to residents and fellows to senior faculty and practitioners. What makes this orchestra unique is this diversity of individuals coming from a common background in healthcare to play music together. More than 500 musicians have played as part of the group with professional affiliations that span nearly every college, university, and hospital in the city.

Over this last decade, the PMSO has performed 18 concerts – 17 live, 1 virtual – with repertoire spanning symphonic classics to new premieres. Highlights of the latter include Sinfonia No. 2 by Dr. Martin Heyworth (2022), founding advisor and former chief of staff at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, and Irole di Aaro by Siji Osunkoya (2026), second year medical student at UPenn and principal violist of the PMSO. Over the years, featured soloists from this community have included Dr. Steven Weinberger, former executive vice president of the American College of Physicians (ACP), performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No 20 (2016) and Dr. Joseph Park, former concertmaster of the PMSO (2016-2023) and current cardiology fellow at Weill Cornell Medicine, performing Vieuxtemp’s Violin Concerto No. 5 (2019). During 2020 – 2021, the orchestra, like many others, adapted to virtual concerts, which featured excerpts from Elgar’s Enigma Variations. Additionally, within the orchestra exists a vibrant chamber music scene with numerous trios, quartets, and quintets performing in bi-annual concerts. Beyond the hall, musicians have been connecting directly with patients through chamber performances in the hospital and programming shared through a dedicated Penn Medicine TV channel.

The PMSO has celebrated unique collaborations with other performing arts institutions in the city and nationally. Artists from The Curtis Institute and The Philadelphia Orchestra, including former assistant conductor Kensho Watanabe, have presented workshops and masterclasses with PMSO musicians. In 2019, a collaboration with the K-12 community music program, Play On, Philly!, culminated in a side-by-side performance of Dvořák’s American Suite and Beethoven’s Egmont Overture. The orchestra maintains close ties with other healthcare affiliated orchestras nationally through the National Association of Medical Orchestras (NAMO).

This year is milestone in the history of the PMSO not only in its 10th anniversary but also in acknowledgement of a transformative gift by Dr. Bruce Gould to further the orchestra’s ongoing mission of community building through music. As the orchestra looks towards its next decade, it seeks to pursue the highest level of artistic achievement through ambitious programming, community engagement, and a wholehearted love of music that is made together.

*-Dan Zhang, MD, PhD*



# THE MUSICIANS

## Violin 1

**Kaito Mimura, Concertmaster**

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

**Angela Lee, DMD**

*Pediatric Dental Resident, St.*

*Chris Children's Hospital*

**Liana Vaccari, PhD**

*Penn Engineering Alumni*

**Noelle Yoo**

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

**Tiffany Zhou**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Sabrina Meng**

*MD Candidate, U Penn*

**Luis O. Tierradentro, MD**

*Radiology Resident Physician, Penn Medicine*

**Iris Horng**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Caroline Huang, MPH**

*OB/GYN Research Staff, Penn Medicine*

**August Wei**

*PhD Candidate, U Delaware*

**Cecilia Rabayda**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**John Murray, PhD**

*Perelman School of Medicine Faculty*

**Priscilla Peters**

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

**Azzura Cox**

*Weitzman School of Design*

**Sophia Yun, PharmD**

*J&J Innovative Medicine*

**Helena Gifford**

*Lab Manager, U Penn*

**Delaney Wilde**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Lydia Tarekegn**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Chelsea Lee**

*PhD Candidate, PCOM*

## Violin 2

**Jilei Hao**

*Application Developer, PICSL, U Penn*

**Charlotte G. Monsour**

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Isabella Vitales**

*Jefferson; Research Assistant, Penn*

*Medicine*

**Harry Chen**

*Interventional Radiologist, Community*

*Radiology, Penn Medicine (Retired)*

**Catherine McLean**

*CRC, Cardiology, CHOP*

**Sharon Tejada**

*Transformation Manager, Penn Center*

*for Health Justice*

**Gabriella Rice, PhD**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, U Penn*

**Tarlan Daryoush**

*CRC, Psychiatry, U Penn*

**Mallika Kodavatiganti**

*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

**Alexandra Olson**

*Medical Career Design Fellow, CHOP*

**Rachel Kang**

*PharmD Candidate, SJU*

**Dora von Trentini**

*Chemistry, U Penn*

**Joel Ramírez**

*Penn Faculty*

**Chloe Winston**

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

**Joy Kim**

*Penn Dental Medicine*

**Ariel Kuciel**

*Haystack Oncology*

**Priya Swamy**

*Pain Management Physician*

**Ricardo A. Velázquez Aponte**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Viola**

Desi Alexander, PhD  
*Postdoctoral Fellow, Penn  
Medicine*

Siji Osunkoya  
*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Chloe Kim  
*CRC, Penn Medicine*

Cella Kove  
*Medical Physics Assistant,  
Jefferson*

Evan Qiang  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Justin Berg  
*PhD Candidate, CAMB*

Julia Fleming  
*MD-PhD Candidate, Cooper;  
U Penn*

Jasmine Bao  
*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

Sydney Dumont  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Daud Tariq  
*Lab Technician, Jefferson*

## **Bass**

Debby Park  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Justin Bettis  
*DO Candidate, PCOM*

## **Cello**

Andrew Devaney  
*Scientist II, Virology, Dispatch  
Biotherapeutics*

Sam Kim  
*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Grace Chon, MD  
*Family Medicine Physician*

Kelsey Keith, MS  
*Dept. Biomedical &  
Health Informatics, CHOP*

Katie Cappola  
*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Evan Jiang  
*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Wenxin Tu  
*Research Specialist, U Penn*

Jeremy Cha  
*Jefferson*

Christine Kong  
*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Brandon Chin  
*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

Alexandra Barnes  
*CRC, Penn Medicine*

Sophie Sax  
*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Kayla Yim  
*DO Candidate, PCOM*

Nimay Kumar  
*Penn Alumnus*

Gabriel Wingert  
*MD Candidate, Temple*

Nicholas Madamidola  
*MD Candidate, Temple*

David Kim, DMD  
*General Dentist*

## **Clarinet**

Annie Huang  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Eric Kaiser, MD, PhD  
*Neurology Physician, Penn Medicine*

Ethan Blackwood  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Kristen Park  
*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

David Harary  
*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

## **Bassoon**

Lizhou (Roger) Wang  
*Research Assistant, U Penn*

Lawrence Kenyon, MD, PhD  
*Cooper University Hospital*

Hannah Murawsky, MD  
*Internal Medicine Physician, Penn  
Medicine*

Sanam Kavari  
*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Oboe**

Cecelia Murphy  
*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Julia Winter, PhD  
*Pharmacology*

Anjali Gupta, MBE  
*Research Coordinator, Penn Medicine*

Katrina Cooper, D. Phil  
*Professor, Rowan SOM*

Laura Schultz, PhD  
*Data Scientist, CHOP*

## **Flute & Piccolo**

Jennie Cao

*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Thomas Li

*MD Candidate, Drexel*

Andrea Apter, MD, MSc

*Professor Emerita of Medicine, U Penn*

Shiori Tomatsu

*Psychiatry Resident, Penn Medicine*

Eden Kahle

*CHOP Attending, General Pediatrics*

Miyuka Yoshida

*VMD Candidate, U Penn*

Veronica Wong

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Horn**

Spenser Tejada

Mary Martin, MD

*Pediatric Resident, CHOP*

Nicholas Cerda

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Brendan Woods

*P4 Student, Jefferson*

Craig Marlatt

*Avantor Life Sciences*

Ha-Neul Yu, MSc

*MD Candidate, U Penn*

Harold Litt, MD, PhD

*Professor Radiology, Penn Medicine*

Anna Loughman

*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

## **Tuba**

Carlos Rodriguez

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Trumpet**

Sarah Kuwik, LCSW

*Clinical Supervisor, PHMC*

Katie Villaseñor

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Steven Rich

*CRC, CHOP*

Sebastian Zagler

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Mike Horst, PhD, MPHS, MS

*Director, Learning Health System*

*Data Science Core, U Penn*

## **Trombone**

Darron King

*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

Ted Zellers

Melinda Wisdom

*CRC, Penn Memory Center*

Matt Owens

*Software Engineer, Biomedical & Health Informatics, CHOP*

Rainer Hilbok

*Optimeos Life Sciences*

## **Percussion**

Anu Goel, MD

*Adult & Pediatric Rheumatology Fellow, Penn Medicine & CHOP*

Adin Kreiger-Benson, CRNP

*Family Nurse Practitioner, GPHA Inc.*

Katelyn Amero

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Bryce Hambach

*MD Candidate, Jefferson*

Sarah Lindley

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

Elisa Lipkin

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Piano**

Elisa Lipkin

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

## **Harp**

Zora Dickinson

*Guest Artist*

# Support the Orchestra



P M S O



This year marks our **10th anniversary**, and we are so grateful to have reached this milestone thanks to your support!

Your gift helps us continue to expand as an organization and cultivate community through music for your local medical professionals and students.



## Donate Here





## IN APPRECIATION



**Dr. Bruce Jay Gould, MD** is a retired cardiologist and avid supporter of classical music. He graduated with honors from Swarthmore College and received his medical degree from Penn, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha

Honors Medical Society. He remained at Penn for a residency in internal medicine, during which he received the Ravdin Best Intern of the Year Award, as well as a fellowship in cardiology. Upon completing his training, he continued to serve as a professor at Penn Medical School. Outside of medicine, Dr. Gould has served as a member of the board of trustees for Swarthmore College, the College of Physicians, Rock School of Dance Education, and the Rotary Club of Philadelphia. He is currently also on the board of trustees at the Curtis Institute of Music.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Gould for his extraordinary generosity in establishing an endowment that supports the long-term future of the orchestra. His support strengthens our ability to grow, perform, and continue building community through music for years to come.



# LEADERSHIP & ADVISORY

## Leadership Team

### **David Zhang, PhD - Music Director**

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Dan Zhang, MD, PhD - Co-Founder of PMSO**

*Neurosurgery Resident, Penn Medicine*

### **Yvonne Balgenorth, RN - President**

*Nurse, Penn Medicine; AGACNP Student, U Penn*

### **Andrew Devaney**

*Scientist II, Virology, Dispatch Biotherapeutics*

### **Charlotte Monsour**

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Jilei Hao**

*Application Developer, PICSL, U Penn*

### **Kaito Mimura**

*DMD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Anu Goel, MD**

*Adult & Pediatric Rheumatology Fellow, Penn Medicine & CHOP*

### **Tiffany Zhou**

*PhD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Siji Osunkoya**

*MD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Kristen Park**

*MD-PhD Candidate, U Penn*

### **Nimay Kumar**

*Penn Alumnus*

### **Sharon Tejada**

*Transformation Manager, Penn Center for Health Justice*

### **Melinda Wisdom**

*CRC, Penn Memory Center*

### **Daud Tariq**

*Lab Technician, Jefferson*

## Advisory Board

### **Bruce Jay Gould, MD**

*Retired Penn Medicine cardiologist and avid supporter of classical music in Philadelphia*

### **Martin Heyworth, MD**

*Former Chief of Staff of the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center and currently an Adjunct Professor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania*

### **Mary Javian**

*Professional double bassist and chair of career studies at The Curtis Institute of Music*

### **Daniel Matsukawa**

*Principal Bassoonist of the Philadelphia Orchestra*

### **Steven Weinberger, MD, MACP, FRCP**

*Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine and a member of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania*

### **Michelle Zwi**

*Director of Orchestra Operations and Touring for the Philadelphia Orchestra*

### **Ethan Pani, MD**

*Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania*

### **Michael Ketner, DMA**

*Director of Performance for the Department of Music at the University of Pennsylvania*

### **Gina Chang, MD, MPH - Co-Founder of PMSO**

*Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis/Neuroimmunology Fellow at UCSF*

