



# National Gallery of Art

81st Season of  
Concerts

February 11, 18 & 25, 2024

# The Anxious Eye: German Expressionism and Its Legacy

**Exhibition on view**

**through May 27, 2024**

**West Building, Ground Floor, galleries G23 – 26**

*The Anxious Eye: German Expressionism and Its Legacy* presents insights into the work of innovative, early 20th-century artists and their continuing impact a century later. More than 70 prints and drawings, along with illustrated books and portfolios, celebrate the work of German expressionist artists Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Emil Nolde, Otto Dix, Käthe Kollwitz, Egon Schiele, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, and others.

Through their bold, inventive art, the German expressionists sought to interpret the dramatic changes occurring around them. The devastation of war, social unrest, political clashes, economic instability, and pandemic of the early 1900s parallel world events today. Works by modern and contemporary artists Leonard Baskin, Nicole Eisenman, Orit Hofshi, Rashid Johnson, Matthias Mansen, and Georg Baselitz carry on the rich legacy of the German expressionists.

Much like the artists whose works are featured in *The Anxious Eye*, composers and songwriters have long used their music to explain, understand, and heal troubles in the world. In our program series *The Anxious Ear*, we present two concerts — one with works by living composers (February 11) and another that evokes the anxiety felt in the early 20th century (February 25). A ciné-concert featuring the silent film *The Hands of Orlac* (*Orlacs Hände*) with live musical accompaniment is shown on February 18.

# Program

**February 11, 3:00 p.m.**

**West Building, West Garden Court**

**The United States Army Band Chamber Players**

Kevin Day (b. 1996)

Ignition

Carlos Simon (b. 1986)

Catch on Fire

William Traschel (b. 1988)

Cliffs that Draw Breath

Daniel Whitworth (b. 1996)

Ripples in Infinity

Cover: Walter Gramatté, *The Great Anxiety (Die große Angst)* (detail), 1918, drypoint, hand-colored with transparent watercolor, National Gallery of Art, Gift of Christopher and Beverly With in memory of Karl and Gerda With, 2022.155.5

# Ensemble

## **The United States Army Band Chamber Players**

Endowed with several world-class large ensembles, such as a concert band, string orchestra, chorus, and jazz big band, the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” also presents a robust chamber music series, with one player on a part performing challenging repertoire. The Chamber Players have performed in various configurations at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage and at venues around the Maryland/Virginia/DC arts community.

MSG Leigh LaFosse, announcer

SSG Alex Tedrow, conductor

SSG Erica Schwartz, viola

SSG Audrey Yu, oboe

MSG Marty Gold, clarinet

SSG J.J. Milakovich, clarinet

SSG Salvador Flores, soprano saxophone

SSG Chance Stine, soprano and alto saxophone

SFC Matt Evans, tenor saxophone

MSG Michelle Acton, baritone sax

SFC Chris Buckley, euphonium

SFC Toby Fire, euphonium

SFC Jeremy McBride, euphonium

SSG Brandon Benson, tuba

SSG Zach Bridges, tuba

SSG Marc Placencia, tuba

SFC Dan Campolieta, piano

SSG Mike Glaze, percussion

Master Sergeant (MSG)

Sergeant First Class (SFC)

Staff Sergeant (SSG)

# Notes

*The phoenix hope, can wing her way through the desert skies, and still defying fortune's spite; revive from ashes and rise. — Miguel de Cervantes*

Some of Americans' greatest achievements and transformations are born in the fires of adversity and tribulation. This program celebrates both sides of that equation: challenge, and the growth that comes from facing it. The Army Soldier is trained to master fear, discomfort, stress, and fatigue, and to make a habit of challenging oneself consistently by cultivating readiness to serve. For both the American Soldier and the civilian, the dichotomy of triumph and tribulation is a poignant theme in our shared human experience. We explore that theme through works in this program.

# Program

**February 18, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**East Building Auditorium**

## **Ciné-concert**

*The Hands of Orlac (Orlacs Hände)*

1924, English language title-cards, DCP, 113 minutes

Live accompaniment by Andrew Earle Simpson,  
solo piano

Four years after his famous film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (*Das Cabinett des Dr. Caligari*), German director Robert Wiene completed *The Hands of Orlac (Orlacs Hände)*, a potent psychological drama based on a literary work by Maurice Renard. The film stars Conrad Veidt as a virtuoso pianist who, following an accident, receives the hands of a condemned murderer — or so he believes. Though its sets are more traditional than those of the expressionistic *Caligari* film, *The Hands of Orlac* employs other design strategies to convey the characters' seething emotions.

# Musician

## **Andrew Earle Simpson**

Andrew Earle Simpson is an acclaimed composer of opera, silent film, orchestral, chamber, choral, dance, and vocal music. His concert and theatrical works have been performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Music Center at Strathmore. One of America's foremost silent film accompanists, he has performed across the United States, Europe, and South America. He is a regularly featured accompanist at the Library of Congress's Mt. Pony Theater in Culpeper, Virginia, and the curator and resident musician for DC's Atlas Performing Arts Center's Silent Film Series.

Simpson's instrumental, chamber, choral, and silent film music is recorded on the Naxos, Albany, and Capstone labels, and his silent film scores have been broadcast on the Turner Classic Movies channel. In addition, Simpson is ordinary (full) professor and founder/director of the Master of Music, Stage Music Emphasis Composition program at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

# Program

**February 25, 3:00 p.m.**

**West Building, West Garden Court**

## **PostClassical Ensemble**

Ángel Gil-Ordóñez, music director

Melissa Wimbish, soprano

Willam Sharp, reciter

Kurt Weill (1900 – 1950)

Seven Deadly Sins

Version for 15 players arranged by

Heinz Karl Gruber and Christian Muthspiel

Arnold Schönberg (1874 – 1951)

Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte (Lord Byron) for

String Quartet (Orchestra), Piano and Reciter, op. 41

(1942/1943)



# Soloists

## **Melissa Wimbish, soprano**

Melissa Wimbish made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut after winning the NATS Artist Award National Competition. Notable career highlights include performing in Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* at the Kennedy Center, *Mysteries of the Macabre* with the Baltimore Symphony, and as Nimue in the Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Camelot*. Her groundbreaking self-directed pandemic recital for the INVISION series is a showcase of her flexibility and adaptability.

## **Willam Sharp, reciter**

For the past four decades, William Sharp has garnered acclaim for his work in concert, recital, opera, and recording. He has appeared with most major American symphony orchestras, including those of New York, Chicago, Washington, Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

# Ensemble

## PostClassical Ensemble

Under the leadership of Music Director Ángel Gil-Ordóñez, PostClassical Ensemble (PCE) breathes new life into the orchestral experience through imaginative programming performed by many of the most talented musicians in the nation's capital.

Founded in 2003, PCE has been a pioneer in transforming the concert experience through collaborations across artistic mediums. PCE explores music in its cultural and historical context, and it often integrates theater, dance, film, and visual art, as well as folk, indigenous, and popular music and instruments in its diverse programs.

Sally McLain, violin

Rachel Segal, violin

Sarah Hart, viola

Benjamin Capps, cello

Michael Rittling, bass

Kimberly Valerio, piccolo and flute

Garrick Zoeter, clarinet

Theresa Cigan, clarinet

Bryan Young, bassoon

Patrick Furlo, horn

Chris Gekker, trumpet

Katie Thigpen, trombone

William Richards, percussion

Tom Maloy, percussion

Benjamin Harbert, banjo and guitar

Alexander Shtarkman, piano (Schönberg)

Amanda Halstead, piano (Weill)

Magaly Rojas Seay, personnel manager

# Notes

Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* is a tale about Anna, a young woman on a seven-year journey to raise enough money to build a house for her family. Stopping in seven cities throughout the United States, she struggles with each of the seven deadly sins that prevent her from accomplishing her goal.

Arnold Schönberg's *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte* (Lord Byron) was inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's "day of infamy" radio address on December 8, 1941. It premiered publicly on November 23, 1944. Selecting a text by Lord Byron, Schönberg felt the poet's support of Greece's struggle for independence mirrored his allegiance to Europe's struggle against Hitler and stated, "I knew it was the moral duty of intelligentsia to take a stand against tyranny." To capture the emotional breadth of the work, Schönberg insisted the reciter have "the number of shades, essential to express one hundred and seventy kinds of derision, sarcasm, hatred, ridicule, contempt, condemnation, etc., which I tried to portray in my music."

# General Information

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through the Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at 202.842.6450 or [circle@nga.gov](mailto:circle@nga.gov) for more information.

## **National Gallery of Art Podcast: Sound Thoughts on Art**

*Sound Thoughts on Art*, a podcast from the National Gallery of Art, explores the intersection of sight and sound. Hosted by musician and journalist Celeste Headlee, each episode focuses on a work of art in the National Gallery's collection and now features performers Jenny Scheinman, Dom Flemons, Sa-Roc, Delfeayo Marsalis, Daniel Ho, Maria Schneider, Peter Sheppard Skaerved, and others. Listen and dig deeper at [nga.gov/music-programs/podcasts](http://nga.gov/music-programs/podcasts).

## **Upcoming Concerts**

Interested in future music performances at the National Gallery of Art? Visit our calendar page at [nga.gov](http://nga.gov) or scan the QR code below to learn more about future concerts, as well as our permanent collection, current exhibitions, and many public programs.

