



CLEVELAND CHAMBER SYMPHONY
MUSIC
THAT DARES TO
EXPLORE

**Cleveland Chamber Symphony
Celebrating NEOhio Composers**

Steven Smith, Music Director

Sunday, September 15, 7:00pm

Baldwin Wallace University - Gamble Auditorium

www.clevelandchambersymphony.org

Cleveland Chamber Symphony September 15th, 2024 Musicians

**concertmaster *principal

Violin 1: **Leah Burtnett, Andrea Belding, John Williams, Ken Johnston, Ann Yu, Sara Schaft

Violin 2: *Diana Pepelea, Maria Monday, Emily Cornelius, Dave Kempers, Kelsey Ferguson, McKenna Glorioso

Viola: *Laura Shuster, James Rhodes, Amber Rogers, Josh Muzzi

Cellos: *Julie Meyers King, Linda Atherton, Derek Snyder, Robert Nicholson

Bass: *Tracy Mortimore, Nicole Castleberry

Flutes: *Sean Gabriel, Mary Kay Robinson (piccolo)

Oboes: *Martin Neubert, Johanna Cox Pennington (English Horn)

Clarinets: *Louis Gangale, Lisa Antoniou

Bassoons: *Mark DeMio, Ryan Finefrock

Horns: *Ken Wadenpfohl, Stephanie Blaha, David Brockett, Richard King

Trumpets: *Jack Brndiar, Heather Zweifel

Trombones: *Paul Ferguson, Tom Pylinski, Sean McGhee (Bass Trombone)

Tuba: Christopher Blaha

Timpani: Mell Csicsilla

Percussion: *Adrew Pongracz, Josh Ryan, James Leonard

Audio Engineering: David Yost

Streaming Video & Audio: William Hartzell

Steven Smith, Music Director and Conductor

CLEVELAND CHAMBER SYMPHONY

NEOSonicFall

Cleveland Chamber Symphony Celebrating NEOhio Composers

Sunday September 15th, 2024, 7pm
Baldwin Wallace University - Gamble Auditorium
Steven Smith, Music Director

Live-stream [HERE](#)

*please, no digital recording during the performance.

Spatial Fanfare for Brass Ensemble and Percussion

Donald Erb
(1927-2008)

Legends for String Orchestra

- I. The Mystic Breeze*
- II. The Leprechauns*
- III. The Wishing Well*
- IV. Dance of the Hags*

Loris Chobanian
(1933-2023)

Pause

Cityscape Lights

- I. Allegro ritmico*
- II. Largo*
- III. Allegro*

H. Leslie Adams
(1932-2024)

Mark George, piano

****World premiere performance**

CCS supporters include: Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Amphion Foundation, Bascom Little Fund, George Gund Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, and the many individuals that have supported new music for so many years. Support also includes our ongoing partnerships with Baldwin Wallace University and with The Music School Settlement, ensuring stability and growth in our mission and in our impact.

Steven Smith has been the Music Director of the Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony since 2005. He recently completed a very successful decade-long tenure as Music Director of the Richmond Symphony, expanding the orchestra's repertoire, developing new concert series and enhancing the orchestra's connection to the community. He also served as Music Director of Santa Fe Symphony & Chorus from 1999 to 2013, and as Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra from 1997 to 2003. Also an active composer, his works have been performed by many soloists, ensembles and orchestras, including CCS.

Program notes

We open our program with a tribute to one of Northeast Ohio's most well-known and internationally recognized composers, **Donald Erb**. Longtime Distinguished Professor of Composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music, he taught and influenced several generations of composers and performers, both in Cleveland and around the world. Born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1927, he passed away at his home in Cleveland Heights on August 12, 2008. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in music from Kent State University, a Master of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Doctorate in Music from Indiana University. He was awarded the Cleveland Arts Prize for Music in 1964. His works are featured on numerous recordings by major orchestras and ensembles.

Spatial Fanfare for Brass Ensemble and Percussion was written in 1974 and bears the dedication "To my friend Louis Lane who made this moment of fun possible." Donald Erb writes: "The players should be positioned in various parts of the concert hall or auditorium. The conductor should face the audience."

Loris Ohannes Chobanian, longtime Professor of Music Composition and Guitar, and Composer in Residence at Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Music, passed away May 14, 2023 at the age of 90. He was the recipient of the 1981 Cleveland Arts Prize for Music.

Born in Mosul, Iraq, in 1933, he graduated from Baghdad College, a high school administered by American Jesuits from Boston, Mass. In 1951. For ten years, he performed with the Komitas Choir in Baghdad that specialized in singing Armenian folk music. Dr. Chobanian studied the classical guitar with Jacque Tchakerian and in 1955 began performing classical guitar regularly on Baghdad Television.

He came to the United States in 1960 to escape persecution, becoming a US citizen in 1969. He attended Louisiana State University receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees and received his PhD in music composition from Michigan State University in 1970, studying with H. Owen Reed. Loris taught at Baldwin Wallace for forty years, retiring in 2010, and composed over 300 scores, many of which have been performed by numerous professional and student musical groups. The Cleveland Chamber Symphony had a special relationship with Loris, commissioning and performing several of his works over many years.

He was instrumental in establishing the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music Guitar and Composition programs as well as the Focus Contemporary Music Festival. He has taught at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Akron.

From the score:

- I. *The Mystic Breeze* – Usually it would happen early in the morning, just before sunrise. A light colored sparkling fog would slowly descend from the hills and engulf the village. The villagers would miraculously forget their cares and greet each other with smiles. They would forget their animosities and would be kind to each other as the breeze passes over.
- II. *The Leprechauns* – Leprechauns are known to have pots of gold hidden in their quarters. If you ever see one, and want some of the gold, keep staring at him and never look away, for the instant you look away he will disappear.
- III. *The Wishing Well* – For the longest time the wishing well had disappointed everybody. There were so many whose wishes had not come true. So it was with the little girl who,

heartbroken, shed tears. They say, that ever since the little girl's tear drops fell into the waters, the wishing well has never disappointed anybody.

- IV. *Dance of the Hags* – The Three Hags had worked so hard and finally, as they added the right amount of lizard tail, their brew became very successful and effective. They started dancing with joy!

H. Leslie Adams, recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award in Music from the Cleveland Arts Prize, passed away on May 24, 2024 at age 91. We had planned to celebrate his life and work with our world premiere performance of his newly revised “Cityscape Lights” for piano and orchestra; instead, we will salute his memory and celebrate his legacy.

Composer, pianist, educator, and music minister, H. Leslie Adams was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1932. He graduated from Glenville High School, studied voice, piano and composition at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, earned his master's degree in music from California State University at Long Beach in 1967, and his Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University in 1973. He also completed additional studies in composition with Edward Mattila, Eugene O'Brien, and Marcel Dick from 1978 to 1983.

Dr. Adams was one of America's most gifted and respected composers of art song and opera, choral, cantata, and other vocal music forms. His orchestral and symphonic music has been performed by the Cleveland Orchestra, the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, the National Symphony of Iceland, and the Mecklenburgische Staatskapelle Symphony Orchestra in Germany, among others.

His music touched a wide variety of musical tastes and preferences. His opera “Blake” is loosely based on a novel by Martin Delaney on the lives of enslaved African-Americans on the eve of the Civil War.

Dr. Adams is the recipient of honors and awards from the National Association of Negro Women, Christian Arts National

Competition, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He taught at Florida A&M University and the University of Kansas, served as composer in residence at the Karamu House and the Cleveland Music School Settlement. He began to compose exclusively after 1979. He was also the music director and pianist at Grace Presbyterian Church in Lakewood, Ohio for more than 2 decades.

Concerto for Piano (1968) was revised and expanded by Dr. Adams over many years and edited by composer-arranger Mark Thome for publication in 2024 as *Cityscape Lights*.

The concerto for piano is composed in an idiom which treats jazz rhythms in a symphonic format. In the first movement, a perpetual motion pulsates in the piano part. A second theme in a more lyrical vein is first introduced by the winds and later elaborated in the piano part. The two themes are recapitulated until the piano takes the field with an extended cadenza in which the motor action of the first theme prevails. The orchestra reenters with a triumphant restatement of the lyrical theme.

Several instruments in the orchestra share the spotlight with the piano in the slow movement which is purely melodious and wistful. There follows without a pause a rhythmical introduction to the third movement in which jazz characteristics are even more dominant and in which cross rhythms abound. In the contrasting middle section, the jazz elements become more discreet but never disappear.

Soloist **Mark George** has enjoyed a unique career making music and connecting people of all kinds to performing arts and arts education. He has served as President and CEO of the Music Institute of Chicago since 2010, establishing the organization as a leader in music teaching, performing, and innovative music service activities. In 2011, the Chicago Tribune named him Chicagoan of the Year in classical music. Dr. George served as national Board Chair for the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He is currently a Trustee for the Solti Foundation US, The Billy Strayhorn Foundation, and Treasurer of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce.

He also recently launched a boutique consulting business – Mark George Consulting.

A highly regarded pianist, he has performed and recorded extensively throughout the United States. Dr. George has held faculty positions at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Case Western Reserve University, and the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music.

He also led the resurgence of the 2006 Grammy Award winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony. His board level leadership, striking performances as a pianist, and inventive programming ideas re-established the ensemble as a major force in contemporary music. “CCS would not be around today if it weren’t for Mark’s commitment to the organization and our mission” – Rich Rinehart CCS Board President.

About the Cleveland Chamber Symphony

Since its founding by Dr. Edwin London in 1980, the **Cleveland Chamber Symphony** has served a leading role in the art of contemporary American music through its mission to commission, perform, record and promote musical works by composers of our time. Its history of over 170 world premiere performances and wide range of recordings has been critically acclaimed, and has been recognized by many awards, including a 2007 Grammy Award, numerous ASCAP awards and repeated recognition by the American Music Center. Its recent collaborations with Verb Ballets, the Cleveland School of the Arts and the launching of the annual NEOSonicFest demonstrate CCS’s ongoing commitment to contemporary performance and education in Northeast Ohio.

CLEVELAND CHAMBER SYMPHONY



www.neosonicfest.org

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***Help keep the Cleveland Chamber Symphony
on the forefront of new music presentation***

Upcoming Performance

Cleveland Chamber Symphony Young & Emerging Composers

Steven Smith, Music Director

Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Baldwin Wallace University - Gamble Auditorium

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