NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

Mozart Requiem

FRI/SAT, MAY 16-17, 2025 | 8PM

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, RALEIGH

North Carolina Symphony

Andrew Grams, conductor

Kirsten MacKinnon, soprano

Leah Wool, alto

Eric Ferring, tenor

Wei Wu, bass

North Carolina Master Chorale

Dr. Alfred E. Sturgis, *Music Director*

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

As completed by H.C. Robbins Landon

Requiem in D minor, K. 626

I. Introitus - Requiem

II. Kyrie

III. Sequentia

Dies irae

Tuba mirum

Rex tremendae

Recordare

Confutatis

Lacrimosa

IV.Offertorium

Domine Jesu Hostias

V. Sanctus

VI. Benedictus

VII. Agnus Dei

VIII.Communio

Kirsten MacKinnon, soprano

Leah Wool, alto

Eric Ferring, tenor

Wei Wu, bass

North Carolina Master Chorale

Dr. Alfred E. Sturgis, Music Director

This concert will be performed without an intermission.

About the Artists



Andrew Grams, conductor

Among several previous visits, Andrew Grams most recently conducted the North Carolina Symphony with the N.C. Master Chorale for concerts in 2022 featuring Handel's Messiah.

American conductor Andrew Grams, winner of 2015 Conductor of the Year from the Illinois Council of Orchestras, has led orchestras throughout the United States including the National Symphony Orchestra; the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Baltimore, and Dallas; and The Philadelphia Orchestra. His engagements during the 2024/25 season have included the BBC Proms, where he led the Chineke! Orchestra for Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, as well as concerts with the chamber orchestra and symphony orchestra of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University

Grams served for eight seasons as music director of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra in Illinois, beginning in 2013, and has worked extensively with orchestras including the symphony orchestras of Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver; Orchestre national de France; Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra; BBC Symphony Orchestra; the symphony orchestras of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide; Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, and Het Residentie Orkest in The Hague, Netherlands. Also an educator, he has worked with orchestras at institutions such as the Curtis Institute of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Born in Severn, Maryland, Grams began studying the violin when he was eight years old. He received a bachelor's degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School and a conducting degree from the Curtis Institute of Music. Selected to spend the summer of 2003 at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, he returned to that program in 2004. He served as Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra from 2004-2007 and has since returned for several engagements.

Grams was a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra from 1998-2004, serving as acting associate principal second violin in 2002 and 2004. Additionally, he has performed with ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the New Jersey Symphony.



Kirsten MacKinnon, soprano

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Kirsten MacKinnon.

In the 2024/25 season, Canadian soprano Kirsten MacKinnon has made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Also Jess in Jeanine Tesori and George Brant's *Grounded* and starred as Contessa Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Opera Regio di Torino. In concert, she has performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Artis—Naples and Orchestre symphonique de Ouébec.

Recent operatic highlights have included starring roles with Canadian Opera Company, Glyndebourne Festival, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and Oper Frankfurt. MacKinnon has performed in concert with orchestras including the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Vancouver and Toronto.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, MacKinnon held the Alfred Greenberg Memorial fellowship there and was also a grant holder of the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation for Young Canadian Opera Singers. Based in Montréal, she was a Grand Finals winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Grand Prize winner at the Concours musical international de Montréal in Quebec as well as in *Classical Singer Magazine's* voice competition.



Leah Wool, *alto*

Leah Wool made her North Carolina Symphony debut as a soloist for Handel's Messiah in 2022.

Mezzo-soprano Leah Wool is the recipient of a Sullivan Foundation Award and second-place winner in the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition. A two-time Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, she has also received the Judith Raskin Memorial Award from Santa Fe Opera and is a first-place winner of the Amici Vocal Competition.

Among recent engagements, Wool joined the American Symphony Orchestra this season for a concert of works by C.P.E. Bach. During the 2023/24 season, she made two returns to the Defiant Requiem Foundation. Elsewhere, she has joined the San Francisco Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and Jacksonville Symphony for Handel's *Messiah* and debuted with the Nashville Symphony in Mozart's Requiem.

Grammy nominated for her work as Minerva on Boston Baroque's recording of Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, Wool is a frequent collaborator—having sung the title role in Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula* and Amastre in Handel's *Xerxes* with the company, among others. She is also a frequent performer at Utah Opera. Other notable appearances include The Metropolitan Opera; Central City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, and Spoleto Festival USA.



Eric Ferring, tenor

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Eric Ferring.

Tenor Eric Ferring, a native of Dubuque, Iowa, graduated from Drake University and Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is also a graduate of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center and the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program, a 2022 George London Foundation Award winner, and the Top Prize Winner of the 2022 Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition.

Ferring's 2024/25 season has included his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut in *The Handel Project* with conductor Emmanuelle Haïm, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, and Handel's *Messiah* with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. Previous notable engagements include the Insula Orchestra in Paris for Mozart's Requiem. He has appeared with The Metropolitan Opera in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Puccini's *Turandot*.

In 2022, Ferring released his solo debut album *No Choice but Love*. This was followed by 2023's *We Have Tomorrow*, featuring pianist Madeline Slettedahl and French string quartet Quatuor Agate. He was awarded the 2017 Richard Tucker Memorial Scholarship as an Apprentice Singer at Santa Fe Opera, participated in the Académie de festival d'Aix-en-Provence, and was a Studio Artist at Wolf Trap Opera.



Wei Wu, bass
These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Wei Wu.

Wei Wu trained at Washington National Opera's Cafritz Young Artist program, the People's University of China, Beijing, and the University of Colorado Boulder. His 2024/25 season began for Wu with Los Angeles Opera in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. He appeared with Austin Opera for Verdi's Requiem and traveled to China for Verdi's Rigoletto with the Shanghai Symphony.

The 2023/24 season included house debuts as Kōbun in Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* with San Francisco Opera and as Zuniga in Bizet's *Carmen* with The Metropolitan Opera. Wu portrayed Kōbun in the world premiere of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* at Santa Fe Opera and appears on the cast live recording, which won Best Opera Recording at the 2019 Grammy Awards.

On the symphonic stage, Wu's appearances include the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as Rocco in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Kansas City Symphony for Mozart's Requiem, and Verdi's Requiem with The Orchestra Now at Bard College and the West Virginia Symphony.



North Carolina Master Chorale

The North Carolina Master Chorale is the Resident Chorus of the North Carolina Symphony. Their most recent concerts with the Symphony featured Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, conducted by Carlos Miguel Prieto in February, 2024.

Founded in 1942 as the Raleigh Oratorio Society, the North Carolina Master Chorale has been performing for over 80 years. The Master Chorale includes a 175-voice Symphonic Choir, a professional Chamber Choir of 16-60 voices, and the North Carolina Master Chorale Youth Choir, which is a professionally directed honors choir for high school students. Singers in all of these choirs are selected through auditions.

Named in 2014 as the resident choir of the North Carolina Symphony, the North Carolina Master Chorale provides choral support for the Symphony for major choral works in addition to their own performances. The Master Chorale's season consists of five to six concerts for the adult choirs, and one Youth Choir performance. The Chorale also provides the choir for Carolina Ballet performances, regularly collaborates with other arts organizations, and provides choral music to North Carolina choirs through a newly created Music Lending Library. The organization has been awarded a Raleigh Medal of Arts, and has twice filmed their holiday concert for broadcast on PBS North Carolina.

Music Director Dr. Alfred Sturgis has led the Master Chorale for more than 30 years. He is also Music Director of the Carolina Ballet and the Tar River Orchestra. In September 2023, Sturgis was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine.



Requiem WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

THE STORY

In 1791, Mozart received an anonymous commission for a Requiem Mass from Austrian aristocrat and amateur composer Count Franz von Walsegg for his deceased wife, Anna, aged 20. However, time was not in his favor. Mozart's death on December 5 left the Requiem incomplete. In need of the commission's full payment, Mozart's widow Constanze rushed to have the liturgical mass completed, first by Joseph Eybler, then by Franz Xaver Süssmayer. Count Walsegg received his completed Requiem in February 1792, but parts had been performed five days after the composer's death for friends who gathered to pay respects—contrary to popular myth that no witnesses were present at the young prodigy's funeral.

The account that Mozart tearfully confessed on his deathbed that the Requiem's composition had been his own personal mass may have been contrived by Constanze to raise the work's sentimental (and sacred) value. Regardless of such myths, the Mozart Requiem has served for centuries as a monumental symbol of honor incorporated into funeral services for major cultural figures including Haydn, Weber, Beethoven, Schubert, Goethe, Chopin, Rossini, and Berlioz.

LISTEN FOR

- The fugal subject of Mozart's *Kyrie*, which is borrowed from the closing chorus of Handel's "Dettingen" *Te Deum*
- The flurry of 16th-notes in the *Dies irae*, expressing impending holy judgment and wrath upon the earth
- The blasting trombone in the *Tuba mirum*, of which Berlioz once lamented: "Why just one trombone to sound the terrible blast that should echo round the world and raise the dead from the grave?"
- The bright D-major *Sanctus*, where the hearty fugal chorus proclaims the holy glory filling the earth at the coming of Christ
- The somber polyphony in the final *Communio*, beseeching God to grant His saints eternal rest

INSTRUMENTATION:

Two basset horns, two bassoons, two trumpets, three trombones, timpani, organ, strings

Text and Translation

I. INTROITUS: REQUIEM

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis care veniet.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

II. KYRIE

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

III. SEQUENTIA

Dies irae, dies illa Solvet saeclum in favilla, teste David cum Sibylla.

Quantus tremor est futurus, quando judex est venturus, cuncta stricte discussurus!

Tuba mirum spargens sonum per sepulcra regionum, coget omnes ante thronum.

Mors stupebit et natura, cum resurget creatura, judicanti responsura.

Liber scriptus proferetur, in quo totum continetur, unde mundus judicetur.

Judex ergo cum sedebit, quidquid latet, apparebit, nil inultum remanebit.

I. INTROIT: REQUIEM

Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them. Your praise is sung, God, in Zion, and homage will be paid to You in Jerusalem. Hear my prayer, to You all flesh will come. Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.

II. KYRIE

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

III. SEQUENCE

Day of wrath: on that day the world will dissolve in ashes, as foretold by David and the Sibyl.

How great the trembling will be when the Judge descends from heaven to examine all things strictly.

The trumpet's sound scattering Through the tombs of the earth will gather all before the throne.

Death and Nature will be astounded, when all Creation rises again, to answer the judgment.

A book will be brought forth, in which all will be written, by which the world will be judged.

When the Judge takes his seat, all that is hidden will be revealed, nothing will remain unavenged.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus? Quem patronum rogaturus, cum vix justus sit securus?

Rex tremendae majestatis, qui salvandos salvas gratis, salve me, fons pietatis.

Recordare, Jesu pie, quod sum causa tuae viae; ne me perdas illa die.

Quaerens me, sedisti lassus, redemisti crucem passus; tantus labor non sit cassus.

Juste judex ultionis, donum fac remissionis ante diem rationis.

Ingemisco, tamquam reus: culpa rubet vultus meus; supplicanti parce, Deus.

Qui Mariam absolvisti, et latronem exaudisti, mihi quoque spem dedisti.

Preces meae non sunt dignae, sed tu, bonus, fac benigne, ne perenni cremer igne.

Inter oves locum praesta, Et ab haedis me sequestra, Statuens in parte dextra.

Confutatis maledictis, flammis acribus addictis, voca me cum benedictus.

What could a wretch like me say then? Who shall intercede for me, when even the righteous need mercy?

King of tremendous majesty, who y saves the redeemed, save me, fountain of mercy.

Remember, blessed Jesus, my salvation caused your suffering; do not forsake me on that day.

You have sought me, faint and weary, redeemed me, suffering on the cross; may such great effort not be in vain.

Righteous judge of vengeance, grant me the gift of forgiveness before the day of reckoning.

I moan as one who is guilty: Shame reddens my face; I am a suppliant before you, Lord.

You, who absolved Mary, and listened to the thief, give me hope also.

My prayers are unworthy, but, good Lord, have mercy, let me not burn in eternal fire.

Among the sheep let me take my place, and separate me from the goats, setting me by Your right hand.

As the accused are confounded, doomed to flames of woe, call me among the blessed.

Oro supplex et acclinis, cor contritum quasi cinis, gere curam mei finis.

Lacrimosa dies illa, qua resurget ex favilla judicandus homo reus. Huic ergo parce, Deus, pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.

IV. OFFERTORIUM

Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni, et de profundo lacu.

Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum, sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus. Tu sucipe pro animabus illis, quaram hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

V. SANCTUS

Sanctus. Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth!
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Bowing, I pray in humility, my heart crushed to dust, help me in my final hour.

That mournful day, when from the ashes shall arise all humanity to be judged. Spare us by your mercy, Lord, gentle Lord Jesus, grant eternal rest.

IV. OFFERTORIUM

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, liberate the souls of the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth, lest they be swallowed up in hell, lest they fall into darkness, but let Your standard-bearer, holy Michael, bring them into holy light, which was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Sacrifices and prayers of praise, Lord, we offer to You.
Receive them on behalf of those souls we commemorate today.
And let them, Lord, pass from death to life, which was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

V. SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

VI. BENEDICTUS

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

VII. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

VIII. COMMUNIO

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternum dona eis, Domine, et Lux perpetua luceat eis, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

VI. BENEDICTUS

Blessed are they who come the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

VII. AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

VIII. COMMUNIO

Let eternal light shine on them, Lord, as with Your saints in eternity, because You are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them, as with Your saints in eternity, because You are merciful.

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North Carolina Master Chorale

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The North Carolina Master Chorale is the Resident Chorus of the North Carolina Symphony.

Thank you to the generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and community partners who support the North Carolina Symphony each year.

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