

# Minnesota Orchestra

Osmo Vänskä, conductor | Goitsehang Lehobye, soprano  
Cecil Neal, dancer

Minnesota Chorale, Kathy Saltzman Romey, artistic director  
Minnesota State Baptist Convention Choir, Dr. Charvez Russell, director  
Heart & Soul Drum Academy

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Tonight's concert is performed without intermission.

<b>Traditional/</b> arr. Dean Sorenson and LA Buckner	<i>We Shall Overcome</i> <i>Heart &amp; Soul Drum Academy</i>	ca. 3'
<b>Richard Smallwood/</b> arr. Sam Shoup	<i>Total Praise</i>	ca. 4'
<b>Michael Abels</b>	<i>Dance for Martin's Dream</i> <i>Cecil Neal, dancer</i>	ca. 8'
<b>Archibald Arnold Mxolisi Matyila/</b> arr. J. S. Mzilikazi Khumalo	<i>Bawo Thixo Somandla</i> <i>Dr. Charvez Russell, conductor</i>	ca. 4'
<b>Oswaldo Golijov</b>	Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra Night of the Flying Horses (Lullaby, Doina and Gallop) Lúa Descolorida (Colorless Moon) How Slow the Wind <i>Goitsehang Lehobye, soprano</i>	ca. 22'
<b>Stompie Mavi/</b> arr. Gobingca George Mxadana, orch. Jaakko Kuusisto	<i>Usilethela Uxolo (Nelson Mandela)</i> <i>Luke Turner, tenor</i>	ca. 4'
<b>Aaron Copland</b>	<i>El Salón México</i>	ca. 11'
<b>Traditional/</b> arr. Jaakko Kuusisto	<i>Shosholoza</i>	ca. 4'

Los materiales del programa de esta noche están disponibles en español; solicite un folleto al acomodador.

Osmo Vänskä's profile appears on page 8; profiles of tonight's other performers begin on page 43.

**Traditional/arr. Dean Sorenson and LA Buckner*****We Shall Overcome***

The gospel song *We Shall Overcome* became famous during the Civil Rights Movement, when it was used as a protest song and a unifying anthem. This arrangement, which uses traditional African drums, was originally created for the Minnesota Orchestra's January 2019 North Minneapolis Common Chords week by LA Buckner, a North Minneapolis-based teaching artist at MacPhail Center for Music, and Dean Sorenson, director of jazz studies at the University of Minnesota.

**Richard Smallwood/arr. Sam Shoup*****Total Praise***

One of the most successful gospel singers and writers in the U.S., Richard Smallwood (born 1948) has received eight Grammy nominations, and several of his songs have topped Billboard's gospel chart. He wrote *Total Praise* in 1996 and recorded it with his vocal ensemble Vision for their first album. Since then, the work has been performed worldwide, in many different languages. The Minnesota Orchestra performed this arrangement at its 2017 Send Me Hope concert and again during the North Minneapolis Common Chords week.

**Michael Abels*****Dance for Martin's Dream***

In *Dance for Martin's Dream*, contemporary composer Michael Abels (born 1962) expresses his sorrow and joy in his own personal experience with the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Abels was one of the first black composers to have his music performed by the National Symphony of South Africa following the election of President Nelson Mandela. More recently he has earned acclaim and award nominations for his scores to the hit films *Get Out* and *Us*. The Minnesota Orchestra also played *Dance for Martin's Dream* in North Minneapolis last January.

**Archibald Arnold Mxolisi Matyila/****arr. J. S. Mzilikazi Khumalo*****Bawo Thixo Somandla***

*Bawo Thixo Somandla* (Father, God Omnipotent) was composed by Archibald Arnold Mxolisi Matyila (1938-1985) in the Bantu language of Xhosa, and arranged by J. S. Mzilikazi Khumalo for the Minnesota Orchestra's historic South Africa tour last August. Matyila wrote *Bawo* upon receiving notice of his dismissal from a teaching position at a primary school. In the 1980s the song was adopted by protestors and gained prominence as one of South Africa's most popular and familiar protest songs.

**Oswaldo Golijov****Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra**

As part of a multi-year commissioning project celebrating its centennial in 2003, the Minnesota Orchestra commissioned Oswaldo Golijov to orchestrate his *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra*. Golijov (born 1960) gathered three separate songs originally composed for other occasions, with words by three poets in three languages, and orchestrated them. They include a gypsy-tinged lullaby in Yiddish, a despairing yet luminous song in Galician and a fusing of Emily Dickinson poems into a poignant expression of loss. The Minnesota Orchestra and soprano Dawn Upshaw premiered the *Three Songs* on March 27, 2002.

**Stompie Mavi/arr. Gobingca George****Mxadana/orch. Jaakko Kuusisto*****Usilethela Uxolo (Nelson Mandela)***

*Usilethela Uxolo (Nelson Mandela)* is adapted from "Unomnganga," the hit by South African jazz legend Stompie Mavi (1955-2008) popularized by the world-famous Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society. Imilonji's founder and music director Gobingca George Mxadana has taught *Usilethela Uxolo* (Bring Us Peace) to choirs around the world—and transcribed it into Western notation specially for this version orchestrated by Jaakko Kuusisto for the Minnesota Orchestra's 2018 South Africa tour.

**Aaron Copland*****El Salón México***

After Aaron Copland visited Mexico in 1932, he brought back an idea for a new piece inspired by an all-night visit to the popular Mexico City night club and dance hall El Salón México. Said Copland: "My thoughts kept returning to that dance hall. It wasn't so much the music or the dances that attracted me as the spirit of the place." Recalling that spirit and adapting Mexican folk melodies, he created a symphonic tour de force, with ingenious rhythmic shifts leading to a brilliant finale.

**Traditional/arr. Jaakko Kuusisto*****Shosholoza***

The Minnesota Orchestra first performed Jaakko Kuusisto's arrangement of *Shosholoza* as an encore at London's BBC Proms in August 2018. During its subsequent five-city South Africa tour, the Orchestra joined South African communities in many more high-spirited renditions of the song. *Shosholoza* means "go forward" in the Ndebele language of Zimbabwe. Often referred to as South Africa's second national anthem, it has become a symbol of reconciliation and peace since the end of apartheid.

Program notes written and compiled by **Emma Plehal**.