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Symphony Orchestra

Pictures!

Gary Lewis, conductor

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Macky Auditorium

Program

From the Wind, That Which Augurs

Ennis Harris (b. 1998)

Ennis Harris, soprano saxophone

Cello Concerto No. 2 in C minor

Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

1. Molto sostenuto – Allegro molto e energico
2. Presto marcato
3. Andante con moto – Allegro agitato – Molto tranquillo

Sam Moore, cello

Winner, Graduate Division of

College of Music Concerto Competition

Intermission

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)
orch. Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Promenade

1. Gnomus

Promenade

2. Il Vecchio Castello

Promenade

3. Tuileries (Dispute d'enfants après jeux)
4. Bydło

Promenade

5. Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks
6. Samuel Goldenberg und Schmuÿle
7. Limoges, le marché (La grande nouvelle)
8. Catacombæ (Sepulcrum romanum) — Cum mortuis in lingua mortua
9. The Hut on Fowl's Legs (Baba-Yagá)
10. The Great Gate of Kiev

Program Notes

From the Wind, That Which Augurs

Ennis Harris (b. 1998)

I finished my doctorate at USC in May 2025, and spent that summer sitting with the mix of excitement and uncertainty that comes with leaving a familiar place. At Ravinia that June I heard Kurt Elling sing his own lyrics to Joe Zawinul's *Current Affairs*, which explores the idea of standing at that same threshold and moving forward with the confidence of knowing that we are supported the whole way. Elling's poetry stuck with me. *From the Wind, That Which Augurs* is my version of that story.

Program note by composer

Cello Concerto No. 2 in C minor

Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

Dmitri Kabalevsky was a 20th century Russian-born composer, conductor, pianist and pedagogue. His legacy is controversial and problematic today due to his alignment with the Soviet regime. He helped establish the Union of Soviet Composers in Moscow and set up a system of state-sponsored children's music schools that offered an eight year course of study that most closely resembles what we would call music appreciation. Kabalevsky received several awards and honors from the Soviet government, including the Lenin Prize in 1972, the Hero of Socialist Labor in 1974 and the honorary degree of the president of the International Society of Musical Education. He served on the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and as head of the Commission of Musical Aesthetic Education of Children and president of the Scientific Council of Educational Aesthetics in the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences.

Possibly due to his communist ties, Kabalevsky's music has sometimes been dismissed as "popular, bland and successful, and "self-serving, sly and opportunistic to the extreme." Nevertheless, he demonstrated proficiency composing in a variety of musical forms, including symphonies, concertos, operas, ballets, chamber works, songs, theatre and film scores, and, as described above, made consistent efforts throughout his life to connect children to music.

The Cello Concerto No. 2 in C minor is one of nine total concertos Kabalevsky composed, and together with his first two piano concertos is one of three considered to be more difficult and dramatic. This concerto was written for Soviet Russian cellist Daniil Shafran in 1964, after Kabalevsky was favorably impressed by Shafran's interpretation and recording of his first cello concerto. The concerto is unusual in that its three movements—played "attacca" without breaks—follow a slow-fast-slow pattern, and the instrumentation of the orchestral accompaniment includes the alto saxophone.
Program note by Cameron May

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)
orch. Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
Modest Mussorgsky was a Russian composer and one of "The Five"—a group of composers led by Mily Balakirev and also including César Cui, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Borodin. Mussorgsky studied composition with Balakirev, and many of his best-known works explore Russian history and folklore, including the opera *Boris Godunov*, the tone poem

Night on Bald Mountain and *Pictures at an Exhibition*, composed in 1874. A unique quirk of Mussorgsky's catalog is that several of his compositions were either completed or orchestrated by other composers. Indeed, the most famous version of *Night on Bald Mountain* was arranged by Rimsky-Korsakov, and the most commonly performed orchestration of *Pictures at an Exhibition*—including tonight—is that of Maurice Ravel.

The composition in its original solo piano form comprises ten numbered movements, plus a recurring *Promenade* theme. The exhibition was one at the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg celebrating architect and painter Viktor Hartmann, who had passed away suddenly in 1873. The memorial exhibition featured more than 400 of Hartmann's works, including two that Mussorgsky himself lent to the exhibition from his personal collection. *Pictures at an Exhibition*, then, is a musical depiction of Mussorgsky's tour of the gallery, with each numbered movement corresponding to one of Hartmann's paintings, and the recurring Promenade theme representing Mussorgsky strolling from room to room. Though some of Hartmann's works survive today, many are lost, making it impossible to know with certainty in some cases which painting Mussorgsky had in mind.

French impressionist composer Maurice Ravel created his beloved orchestration of *Pictures at an Exhibition* in 1922 at the request of conductor and double-bassist Serge Koussevitzky. Koussevitzky premiered Ravel's orchestration in Paris on Oct. 19, 1922, and retained sole conducting rights for several years, including producing the first recording with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1930. Compared with Mussorgsky's original, Ravel's

orchestral version retains all ten numbered movements, but only four Promenades, omitting a fifth that was located between “Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuÿle” and “Limoges”. Today, in addition to being an audience favorite, *Pictures at an Exhibition* shows up on many orchestral audition excerpt lists, including the trumpet solo from the opening Promenade, alto saxophone in “Il Vecchio Castello,” tuba in “Bydło,” several excerpts for trombone and French horn, and trumpet again along with double bass in “Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuÿle.”

Program note by Cameron May

Personnel

Ennis Harris

Ennis Harris is a Los Angeles-based composer, arranger, saxophonist, flutist and educator whose work bridges musical cultures and forms through the lens of storytelling. His music moves fluidly across genre and cultural traditions and has been performed by leading artists, professional orchestras and student ensembles across the U.S. and abroad.

Harris' newest work, *Jubilus for String Orchestra and Harp*, was commissioned by an eleven-member consortium led by Sabrina Behrens and John Niiler of Travis High School (Richmond, Texas), and will be performed at the 2027 Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis. His orchestral work *From the Wind, That Which Augurs*, commissioned by Larry Livingston, premiered under Livingston's baton with the 2026 TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra and has since been programmed by the West Texas Symphony, the USC Thornton Symphony and the University of Colorado Boulder Symphony Orchestra. Other recent work includes his arrangement of Nino Rota's *La Dolce Vita*: *Finale*, performed by the Orchestra Sinfonica del Conservatorio Niccolò Piccinni featuring Joe Lovano and conducted by Vince Mendoza. He also arranged and conducted *Tell The World* (Orchestral Version), a 2026 release by vocalist Sha'Leah Nikole featuring saxophonist Terrace Martin, produced through Nikole's nonprofit My Footprints LA to bring students and industry professionals together in the studio.

His work *Water Painter* for marimba and percussion ensemble premiered at the 2026 Northwest Percussion Festival with virtuoso marimbist Kana Funayama and the Central Washington University Percussion Ensemble. *Ennui: Manila*, 1926, written in honor of Luis G. Dato, premiered with the UCLA Contemporary Jazz Ensemble in May 2026.

For the 2025 Quincy Jones Symphonic, Harris created original arrangements in collaboration with USC Thornton School of Music Dean Jason King, conducting chair Larry Livingston, and Visions and Voices. His contributions included new orchestrations of *The Color Purple*, *In Cold Blood* and other works; a reimagining of *Just Once* for symphony orchestra featuring Yafeu Tyhimba alongside Greg Phillinganes and JR Robinson; and a new setting of *Everything Must Change* bringing together baritone Derrick Lawrence, cellist Seth Parker Woods, and Greg Phillinganes at the keyboard. The concert was conducted by Anthony Parnther.

Harris is a 2025 Ravinia-Steans Jazz Fellow and a 2024 recipient of the BMI Composer Award for *Adarna*, a concertino for clarinet and orchestra. That same year, he received first prize in the ASMAC Van Alexander Arranging Competition for a tango-inspired arrangement of Duke Ellington's *The Lake*. In 2023, he received the Jeff Clayton New Note Commission Award from the Los Angeles Jazz Society, which resulted in the premiere of *Images and Silhouettes*, a 23 minute work for 19 piece jazz chamber ensemble, at the Angel City Jazz Festival. He also received the ISJAC/USF Prize for Emerging Black Composers for his big band work *Eye in the Sky*.

Earlier recognitions include the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award for Portrait Poem (2022), written for chamber orchestra and jazz septet, and a commission from theBABAorchestra, which premiered his big band piece Ruggell later that year.

As a saxophonist and flutist, Harris has performed with artists including Emily Bear at the Blue Note Los Angeles, the Jon Hatamiya Sextet and Big Band, the Bill Holman Big Band, Pete Escovedo, The 7Teen Big Band, and Sammy Miller and The Congregation. He appeared with Red Bull Symphonic alongside producer Metro Boomin under the direction of Anthony Parnther, and has been featured as a saxophone soloist with the San Bernardino Symphony. In 2026, he performed as soloist in his own *From the Wind, That Which Augurs* with the West Texas Symphony under Music Director Gary Lewis.

An active educator, Harris teaches at Dinjes Music Academy, a community music program serving teens and adults with disabilities. He has also directed jazz combos and taught lessons at USC Thornton and works with university ensembles as a guest artist, including a November 2026 visit to the University of Colorado Boulder. Harris also offers private lessons.

Harris holds a BA in global jazz studies from UCLA and an MM in jazz performance from the USC Thornton School of Music. He earned a DMA in jazz studies at USC, with an academic field in music teaching and learning, and elective fields in composition (with Vince Mendoza) and instrumental conducting (with Larry Livingston).

Sam Moore

Sam Moore is a cellist currently living in Boulder and studying with David Requiro at the University of Colorado Boulder. He graduated from Utah State University, where he studied with Anne Francis Bayless and the Fry Street Quartet. Previous teachers include Carey Cheney and Matthew Johnson. As a soloist, Moore has won concerto competitions at both CU Boulder and Utah State University. He is currently assistant principal cellist of the Fort Collins Symphony, attended the Aspen Music Festival and School as a fellow in 2026, and has participated in the MahlerFest orchestra. Also a passionate chamber player, he has collaborated with artists such as Janai Brugger and the Baumer Quartet.

Symphony Orchestra

Violin

Kristen Barrett
Ian Jenson
River Juarez
Ellie Kaszycki
Suwon Kim
Principal

Ellie Lim
Sidney Lofthouse
Leo Matsuoka
Jaithan McEchron
Katharine Nelson
Laura Perez Rangel
Eli Pouliot
BB Seidenberg
Ginevra Strasser
Emilie Tupper
Concertmaster

Shai Wexler
Daniel Yu

Viola

Walt Conte
Julia Cowell
Chloe Kitzmiller
Dannielle Lopez
Aimee McAnulty
Principal

Taylor Sapanera
Kenji Sor
Maya True-Fogel
Xi Xin

Cello

Thea Dardanis
Kate Fornshell
Matthew Huff
Priscilla Kim
Principal

Misha Miropolskiy
Logan Moser
Joel Osinga
Caleb Seifert

Double Bass

Gabriel Brownlowe
Carson Fast
Claire Koch
Sasha Nepomnyashy
Principal

Willem Rohwer
John St. Cyr

Flute

Regan Buttermore
Sophia Gonzalez-Ayala
Corva Graham
Alexander Westervelt

Oboe
Lauren Breen
Riley Stone
Annie Winkelman

Clarinet
Harold Gomez Montoya
Steele Jackson
John Petefish
Paige Scott

Bassoon
Romy Ftaiti
David Guy
Larissa Harrison
Ben Mangonon

Alto Saxophone
Spencer Cox
Inbo Shim

Horn
Nathan Bonin
Alexander Delperdang
Daniel Itzkowitz
Jordan Spivack
Lilli Vincent

Trumpet
Keegan Arnsmeier
Will Bryant
Anthony Kunz
Henry Lesser
Will Reynolds
Charlie Smith
Noah Solomon
Huanyi Yang

Trombone
Ben Garcia
Sam McDiarmid-Sterling
Jacob Moore

Tuba
Jesse Factor

Percussion
Angelia Castilleja
Tryggvi Holt
Collin Naslund
Austin Probst
Hank Sullivan
Kevin Yetter
Principal

Harp
Janet Harriman
Ava Pluto

Piano/Celesta
Ashley Chua



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