



USC THORNTON WINDS WITH THE YELLOWJACKETS

APRIL 1, 2022 • 7:00 PM • BOVARD AUDITORIUM

SHARON LAVERY • RESIDENT CONDUCTOR
FRANK TICHELI • GUEST CONDUCTOR
YELLOWJACKETS • ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE

USC Thornton
School of Music

CELEBRATING DEAN CUTIETTA

Join us for a reception outside Bovard Auditorium as we celebrate Dean Cutietta's 20 years of exemplary leadership at USC as the Dean of the USC Thornton School of Music.



PROGRAM

Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 2

Joan Tower
(1938–)

With These Hands
arr. Rick Hirsch

**Russell Ferrante
& Will Kennedy**
performed by Yellowjackets
with USC Thornton Winds
and Aarón Serfaty

Father Time
arr. Rick Hirsch

Bob Mintzer
performed by Yellowjackets
with USC Thornton Winds
and Aarón Serfaty

INTERMISSION

Rocky Point Holiday

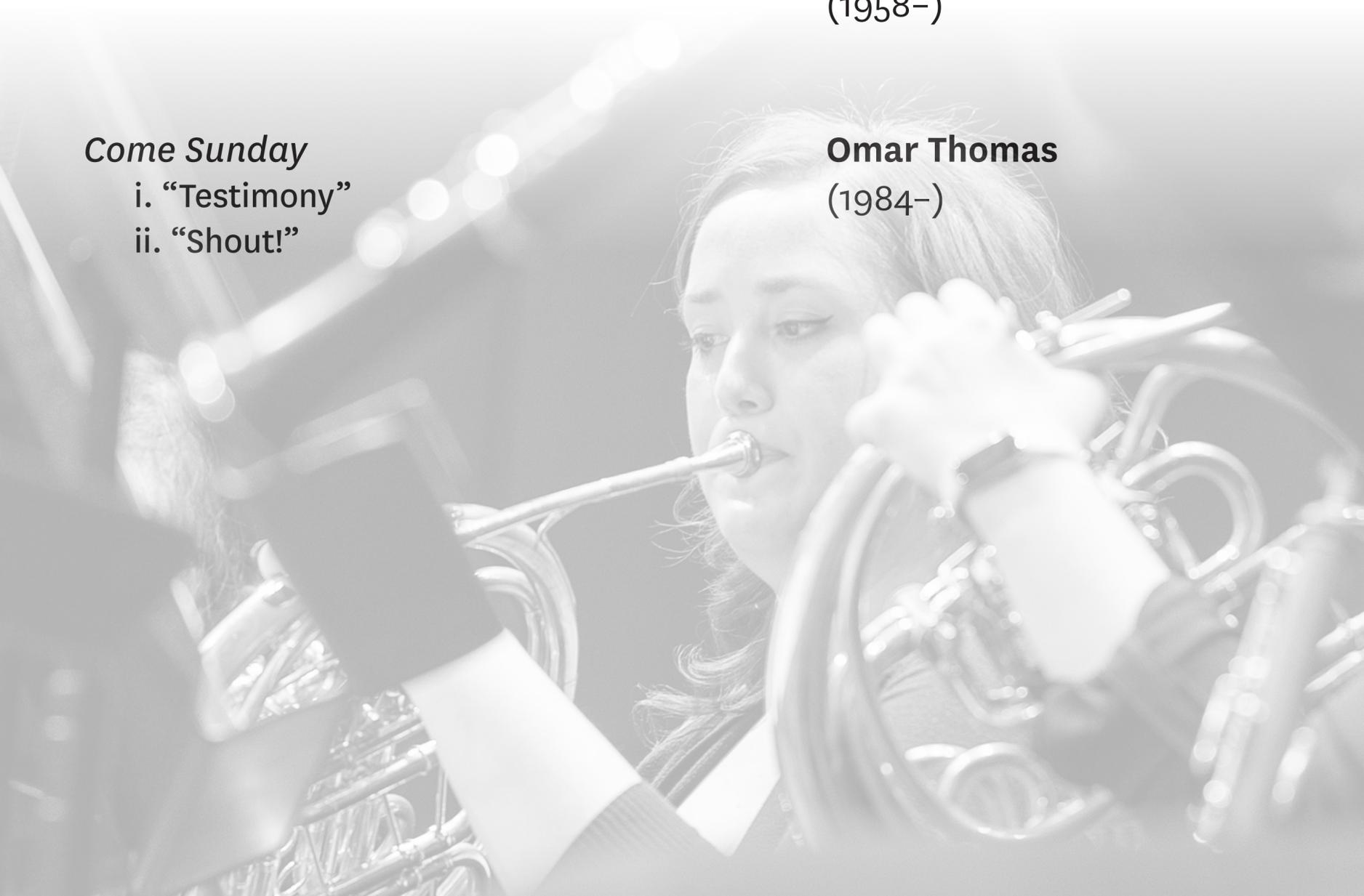
Ron Nelson
(1929–)

Lux Perpetua

Frank Ticheli
(1958–)

Come Sunday
i. “Testimony”
ii. “Shout!”

Omar Thomas
(1984–)



PROGRAM NOTES

Joan Tower

Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 2

Joan Tower's piece *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 2* has had an uncommon compositional process. The first fanfare was written in 1986. Then, a second was composed in 1989, a third in 1991, a fourth in 1992, a fifth in 1993, and the sixth and final fanfare was composed in 2016. Despite the disparate years of composition, these fanfares have been among Tower's most performed works, and Tower credits the title for this popularity.

Joan Tower's first *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* pays homage to Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, employing its same instrumentation and resembling its first theme. The success of this work sparked four subsequent fanfares, some with enhanced instrumentation. The second fanfare, interestingly commissioned by Absolut Vodka, uses the same instrumentation as the first, with some additional percussion. Tower states that the fanfares are "dedicated to women who take risks and who are adventurous."

Ron Nelson

Rocky Point Holiday

Rocky Point Holiday was commissioned in 1969 by Frank Bencriscutto and the University of Minnesota band for their tour of Russia. When Nelson asked about the limitations of the band, Bencriscutto told him there were none. "I'm going to write a tremendously difficult piece," Nelson warned him. "That's fine," replied Bencriscutto, and thus *Rocky Point Holiday* was born. Nelson says, "This was a pivotal moment in my notion of wind ensemble scoring, in which I focused on orchestrating in an extremely transparent way."

The bulk of the work on the composition occurred while Nelson was on vacation at a Rhode Island seaside resort. Rocky Point was an amusement park over 100 years old, located in Warwick Neck, Rhode Island.

Frank Ticheli

Lux Perpetua

Lux Perpetua was composed for the Baylor University Wind Ensemble in memory of two young clarinetist members of that ensemble, Laura Onwudinanti and Jack Stewart, whose lives were tragically cut short in an automobile accident in 2014. The idea of light as both protector and illuminator was constantly in mind while Ticheli composed the piece, as were the respective personality traits of the two dedicatees, Jack being more thoughtful and introspective, Laura being more spontaneous and gregarious.

A simple call motive begins the piece and is laced into its entire fabric, sometimes serving as transition material, other times flowering into a longing, noble main melody. The melody's accompanying harmony depicts a kind of bellows or the act of breathing. A faster, more energetic middle section serves as a dramatic contrast, but rather than give it a new theme, Ticheli continues with the main melody, its accompanying harmony still breathing, the lyrical line still permeating the entire section as it builds to a tremendous climax. The final coda is a brief meditation. The main melody echoes itself tenderly as the harmony makes its slow and fragile ascent to the heavens.

Omar Thomas

Come Sunday

Come Sunday is a two-movement tribute to the Hammond organ's central role in Black worship services. The first movement, "Testimony," follows the Hammond organ as it readies the congregation's hearts, minds and spirits to receive The Word via a magical union of Bach, blues, jazz and R&B. The second movement, "Shout!," is a virtuosic celebration – the frenzied and joyous climactic moments when The Spirit has taken over the service.

The title is a direct nod to Duke Ellington, who held an inspired love for classical music and allowed it to influence his own work in a multitude of ways. To all the Black musicians in wind ensembles who were given opportunity after opportunity to celebrate everyone else's music but our own, I see you and I am you. This one's for the culture!

– Omar Thomas

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sharon Lavery

resident conductor



Sharon Lavery's extensive career has led her to conduct in distinguished concert halls across the United States, including Carnegie Hall on several occasions. Currently, she serves as resident conductor of the University of Southern California Thornton Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. She has led the Thornton ensembles in concert on countless occasions, and served as music director of the Thornton Concert Orchestra for seven

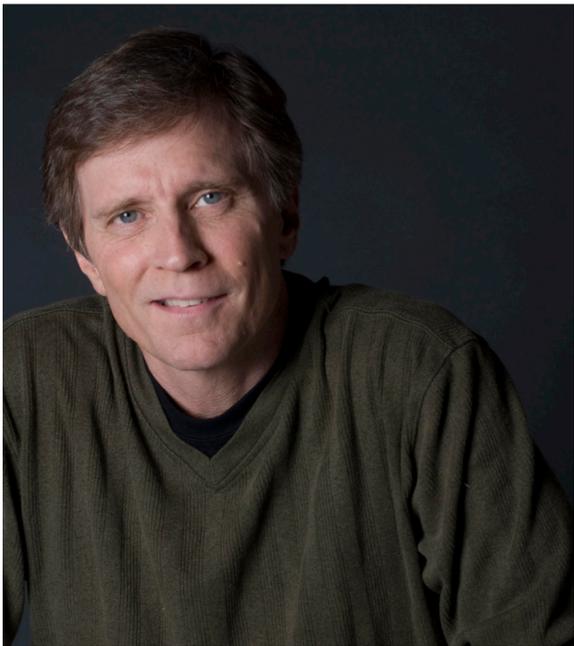
years. In addition to these duties at USC, Lavery teaches instrumental conducting.

Outside of USC, Lavery enjoys a successful professional career. Since 2007 she has been music director of the Downey Symphony Orchestra, an ensemble hailed as one of the best metropolitan orchestras in Southern California. Ms. Lavery has appeared as guest conductor with the Vermont Symphony, Hollywood Chamber Orchestra, San Bernardino Symphony, La Jolla Symphony, La Brea Sinfonia of Los Angeles, and the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition Orchestra in Palm Springs, CA. For many years she held the post of cover conductor for the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, and has also served as cover conductor for the San Diego Symphony. She has been the assistant conductor of the Pasadena Symphony, the associate conductor of the Herbert Zipper Orchestra of Los Angeles, and has also served as music director of the MUSE International Music Day Festival in Chiba, Japan. In addition, she has made CD recordings with Delos Records, Inc. and at Warner Bros studio in Burbank, CA.

Hailing from Ossining, New York, Lavery received her bachelor of music education degree from Michigan State University and master of music in clarinet performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. She also earned a master of music in orchestral conducting from USC Thornton, receiving the Leonard Bernstein Memorial Scholarship for two consecutive years.

Frank Ticheli

guest conductor



Frank Ticheli's music has been described as being "optimistic and thoughtful" (Los Angeles Times), "lean and muscular" (New York Times), "brilliantly effective" (Miami Herald) and "powerful, deeply felt crafted with impressive flair and an ear for striking instrumental colors" (South Florida Sun-Sentinel). Ticheli joined the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music in 1991, where he is a professor of composition. From 1991-1998, Ticheli was composer-in-residence of the Pacific Symphony.

Frank Ticheli's orchestral works have received considerable recognition in the U.S. and Europe. Orchestral performances have come from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Dallas Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, the radio orchestras of Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Saarbruecken and Austria, and the orchestras of Austin, Bridgeport, Charlotte, Colorado, Haddonfield, Harrisburg, Hong Kong, Jacksonville, Lansing, Long Island, Louisville, Lubbock, Memphis, Nashville, Omaha, Phoenix, Portland, Richmond, San Antonio, San Jose, Wichita Falls and others. His clarinet concerto was recently recorded by the Nashville Symphony on the Naxos label with soloist James Zimmermann.

Ticheli is well known for his works for concert band, many of which have become standards in the repertoire. In addition to composing, he has appeared as guest conductor of his music at Carnegie Hall, at many American universities and music festivals, and in cities throughout the world, including Schladming (Austria), Beijing and Shanghai, London and Manchester, Singapore, Rome, Sydney and numerous cities in Japan.

Frank Ticheli is the recipient of a 2012 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, his third award from that prestigious organization. He is a two-time winner of the NBA/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest (Symphony No. 2 in 2006, and *Lux Perpetua* in 2021).



Photo by Anna Webber

Yellowjackets

ensemble-in-residence

Throughout their storied 43-year history, the Yellowjackets have recorded 25 albums, received 17 GRAMMY nominations – won 2 – performed countless sold-out tours and enjoyed critical acclaim and commercial success. The Yellowjackets formed in the late 1970s as the backup band for guitarist Robben Ford. They recorded their first album together in 1980. Shortly after that recording, however, Ford decided to part ways and go in a different musical direction. As a result, the modern day Yellowjackets were formed — a trio with Russell Ferrante, Jimmy Haslip and Ricky Lawson. Since then, and with the addition of Bob Mintzer, the Yellowjackets have gained and maintained prominence as one of jazz's most influential and loved groups.

Over the years, the band has undergone numerous lineup changes. Never failing to rise to the inevitable challenges of adjustment, the Yellowjackets – Russell Ferrante, William Kennedy and Bob Mintzer – have maintained an extraordinarily high quality of musicianship that is the rival of many but a surprise to no one who knows and appreciates the band and their music.

The most recent addition to the band adds Australian bass player Dane Alderson into the mix. With his exceptional rhythmic sensibility and natural disposition toward groove, Alderson brings a new energy to the band and adds a youthful approach to the music.

USC THORNTON WINDS

flute

Gaby Beltran
HyoJin Park
Jamie Kim
Sierra Schmeltzer
Sylvia Ettinger

oboe

Alex Changus
Liz Plescica
Sara Petty

clarinet

Abraham Schenck
Alex Tu
Anders Peterson
Eric Braley
Espen Aas
Ethan Huang

bassoon

Amanda Musinski
Ingrid Hernandez

saxophone

Christian Ross
Francis Cisneros
John Jia
Royce Files

horn

Kathy Yang
Molly Frederick
Rachel Lauson
Siri Storheim
Sophie Barnard
Susannah Greenslit

trumpet

Anna Young
Emily Nastelin
Imani Duhe
Jorge Araujo-Felix
Kobe Sampson-Davis
Lucca Cidale

trombone

Alex Melzer
Dominic Diaz
Raymundo Vizcarra
Rocky Fox
Sean Cooney
Stephen Hannan
Terry Cowley

tuba

Derek Zimmerman
Neha Kudva

percussion

Dominic Grande
Jeremy Davis
Mary La Blanc
Michael Dehan
Paul Matthews
Sean Yan
Soojin Kang
Zoe Beyler

string bass

Zach Hislop

piano/celesta

Angela Lin

harp

Kaitlin Miller
Sarah Hsiao

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 5th at 7:30 p.m.

[USC Percussion Group](#)

Apr. 8th at 8:00 p.m.

[USC Thornton Concert Choir](#)

Apr. 12th at 7:30 p.m.

[Thornton Edge](#)

STAY CONNECTED WITH USC THORNTON

[See upcoming concerts and events](#)

[Subscribe to the USC Thornton newsletter](#)

Stay in touch on social media: @uscthornton



@USCThornton