



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

University of Toronto Wind Symphony

Pratik Gandhi, *conductor*

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm
Tribute Communities Recital Hall, 83 York Blvd., Toronto

“TO THE STARS” – CONCERT PROGRAM

The Pathway to the Stars (Sic Itur ad Astra)

Robert Buckley (b. 1946)

Star Ship (Hoshi no Fune)

Yukiko Nishimura (b. 1967)

Toby Moisey, *graduate student conductor*

Journey Through Orion

Julie Giroux (b. 1961)

Charon’s Dance

Kevin Lau (b. 1982)

Kairos Percussion Quartet
(Andrew Busch, Nikki Huang, Thomas Li, Bevis Ng)

INTERMISSION

I.S.S. Flyover

Peter Meechan (b. 1980)

Stella

Jonathan Dagenais (b. 1978)

- I. Poussières et perpétuité
- II. Lumière de vie
- III. Puissance, supernova et paix

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty’s commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples’ histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Eric Chow, *supervisor*

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Chien Wong, *percussion*

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UPCOMING WIND SYMPHONY PERFORMANCES

Friday, April 5, 2024 at 7:30 pm

University of Toronto Wind Symphony presents *Earth, Water, Sun, Wind*
Tribute Communities Recital Hall | [BUY TICKETS](#)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO WIND SYMPHONY

Pratik Gandhi, *conductor*

Flute

Josh Chong
Sophia Guo
Isabella Ignacio
Taylor Kruuv
Naomi Lobo
Anwen Robertson
Lucy Zuo

Piccolo

Josh Chong
Isabella Ignacio

Oboe

Jasmine Noone
Zoe Yang

Bassoon

Rachel Chen
Kira Greenlees
Ruth Yeo

Contrabassoon

Ruth Yeo

E-flat Clarinet

Olivia Van Alebeek

Clarinet

Eliza Abbott
Cheng Cheng
Crystal Chong
Felicity Quadrini
Emma Rondilla
Christine Suh
Sophia Stellato *
Tom Chuen Tsang
Olivia Van Alebeek

Bass Clarinet

Crystal Chong
Angela Lin

Alto Saxophone

Will Carriere
Chantelle Tom-Ying

Tenor Saxophone

Emmalin Pan

Baritone Saxophone

Charlotte Chau

Trumpet

Sophia Franc
Griffin Hook *
Marten Humke-Weber
Tamsin Spiller
Charlie Steggles
Kevin Zhao

Horn

Ethan Chialtas †
Kat Furtado †
Jessica Lin †
Ilinca Stafie †

Trombone

Abellia Chan
Kenzie Ford
Madeline James
Ilan Mendel †

Bass Trombone

Rebecca Plante

Euphonium

Nathaniel Aszmies
Kenzie Ford

Tuba

Brooklynn Williams
Eric Zhang

Double Bass

Anthony Golubev

Harp

Eliza Fichialos

Piano

Phoebe Lin

Percussion

Elyssa Arde
Jerry Yuan
Yue Yin Zhang
Andrew Busch †
Nikki Huang †
Thomas Li †
Bevis Ng †
Cassandra Wolff †
Chien Wong †

* *ensemble managers*

† *guest musicians*

PROGRAM NOTES

The University of Toronto Wind Symphony and director Pratik Gandhi present a program of works depicting sights and sounds from our known universe.

The Pathway to the Stars

This piece was written for and dedicated to the Royal Canadian Air Force Band and their director, Cpt. Matthew Clark, in celebration of the band's 75th anniversary. The title comes from the RCAF's motto since 1968, *Sic itur ad astra*, meaning "pathway to the stars" or "thus one goes to the stars". Composer Bob Buckley sought to depict the exhilaration of an imaginary flight high above the planet, and also to pay tribute to his father, who served in the British air force and worked in aviation. Our performance this evening is only the second ever performance of this piece, which was composed in 2021 and premiered last year by the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy in Victoria, BC.

Star Ship

Star Ship tells the story of two Japanese deities who fall in love but are only permitted to see each other on one day each year. Orihime and Hikoboshi, represented by the stars Vega and Altair, are mythologically and astronomically separated by the Milky Way. In Japan, the annual meeting between the two lovers is celebrated at a festival called Tanabata, thematically similar to Valentine's Day in North America. In one version of the myth, the lovers travel across the heavens on a star ship called *Hoshi no Fune*. Composer Yukiko Nishimura wrote this piece in 2003, in honour of the two star-crossed lovers.

Journey Through Orion

Julie Giroux often imagines travelling through the Orion molecular cloud complex, a prolific star-forming region located over 1,000 light years away in the Orion constellation. Consisting of two giant molecular clouds and several other different kinds of nebulae, the Orion complex is one of the most frequently photographed regions in the sky. Inspired by images captured by the Hubble Space Telescope, *Journey Through Orion* takes the listener on one of Giroux's imagined journeys through this fascinating region. The work was commissioned by the Association of Concert Bands (U.S.A.) and premiered at their national conference in 2006.

Charon's Dance

In 2015, the Ontario Provincial Honour Band commissioned a new work from composer Kevin Lau for percussion quartet and wind ensemble, to be premiered at the Ontario Music Educators Association conference in Toronto in November of that year. A few months earlier, on July 14, NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft made a close fly-by of the dwarf planet Pluto and its satellites, becoming the first and only human-made object to do so. Lau was intrigued by the fact that Pluto's satellite Charon, which is relatively large for a moon, doesn't exactly orbit Pluto; rather, the two are locked in a wobbly dance around a point in space between them, with Charon exerting an outsized influence on Pluto. Similarly, in *Charon's Dance*, the percussion quartet, though smaller than the wind ensemble, shapes and directs the musical events of the piece. A mythological connection reveals itself here, too—Charon, the ferryman of the dead in Greek mythology, is represented by the "Dies Irae", the medieval chant for the dead, which is quoted throughout.

I.S.S. Flyover

In this piece, composer Peter Meechan was inspired by the contrasting perspectives of a person on Earth seeing the International Space Station whizzing by overhead, and an astronaut on the I.S.S. looking down on Earth. From our earthbound perspective, the I.S.S. is travelling extremely fast, around 8 kilometers every second (almost 30,000 km/h—more than 30 times faster than a passenger jet). This dizzying speed is depicted in the outer sections of the piece. But the Earth is enormous, and even at that speed it takes the I.S.S. around an hour and a half to complete an orbit of it, meaning that the view of the astronauts on board changes very slowly by comparison. The middle section portrays these slow-moving vistas, as well as the loneliness, isolation, and danger of life outside Earth's atmosphere. *I.S.S. Flyover* was commissioned by a Canadian consortium of schools including the University of Toronto, and was premiered in 2012 by the University of Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra, directed by Darrin Oehlerking.

Stella

Montreal-based composer and conductor Jonathan Dagenais' first major work for wind orchestra, written in 2007, was the three-movement portrait of the life cycle of a star, called *Stella*. The first movement, "Poussières et perpétuité" ("Dust and eternity") depicts the birth of a star from the accretion of matter amidst the vast infinity of space. The second movement, "Lumière de vie" ("Light of life"), reflects the beauty of the star's stable middle period during which, theoretically, it might be able to support life. The final movement, "Puissance, supernova et paix" ("Power, supernova, and peace"), is a brilliant and powerful portrayal of the immense shifts in energy that can occur at the end of a star's life, followed by a return to the unfathomable emptiness and stillness of the universe.

Loose matter floats nowhere and everywhere. At a glance, all seems still, but nevertheless the initial momentum remains. Particles collide, bond together, and form up. Time commences its slow and terrifying march. Matter coalesces, slowly and haphazardly, a mechanism set in motion. Everything finds its place, everything fits together. Things quietly take on a sense of meaning. Out of this, a star takes shape; out of this, Stella begins its life. In fits and starts, wild and untamed sounds organize themselves in time and space. Every part of the ensemble ends up taking on meaning and it is from this meaning the melody of life emerges, luminous and solitary, floating in the unfathomable and unsettling infinity of space. Rays of golden light illuminate young icy planets, just as love warms the human heart, as energy gives birth to life, as fleeting ideas beget the plans, aspirations, notions, and ideals that guide us.

(Text by Jonathan Dagenais; translation by Pratik Gandhi)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Pratik Gandhi (he/him) is an award-winning freelance conductor and researcher based in Toronto. He is a sessional lecturer at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, where he directs the Wind Symphony. He is also music director of the Rouge River Winds, a community band he has led for more than ten years, and was the founding music director of Soup Can Theatre. In addition to regularly guest conducting and adjudicating bands and orchestras, Pratik is active in several organizations that support music educators, most notably the Ontario Band Association. Since 2017, he has also served as Vice-Chair of the Concert Band Division of MusicFest Canada. Pratik is currently a doctoral student at York University, where his research, supported in part by an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, investigates issues of equity and representation among wind band composers in Canada. Pratik received a B.Mus. in music education and an M.Mus. in conducting from the University of Western Ontario, where he studied conducting with Colleen Richardson, Jerome Summers, and James McKay, and percussion with Jill Ball.

The **Kairos Percussion Quartet** was founded in 2022, and is currently based in Toronto, Canada. Members Bevis Ng, Nikki Huang, Thomas Li, and Andrew Busch are all currently pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Toronto, under direction of Aiyun Huang.

The Kairos Percussion Quartet have had many successful engagements throughout the past year, including the world premiere of Chris Mercer's *A Dotted Landscape* in November 2022, and a professional recording and digital release of Vijay Iyer's *Torque* (2018) in February 2023. Recently, the quartet designed and performed a thirty-minute original curation, *How to Turn a Bicycle into a Unicorn*, which explored concepts of recontextualization and creativity in concert programming. Currently, Kairos is working with composer and audio engineer Josh Weinfeld to record an original work for percussion quartet and electronics, with a world premiere scheduled for April 2024.

The Kairos Percussion Quartet will kick off their second year together with a performance at the Canadian Percussion Network's "The Space Between—Montreal" conference in January, along with their debut concerto performance of Kevin Lau's *Charon's Dance* with the University of Toronto Wind Symphony on February 9, 2024. They will also perform at the Ontario Chapter Day of Percussion on April 27, and the "Summer Music in the Garden" concert series alongside Aiyun Huang in August 2024.