

# Prelude

Pick your metaphor—roller coaster, crapshoot, whack-a-mole—the sheer unpredictability of the global pandemic and the swift spread of the Omicron variant have forced life once again into a state of near-constant recalibrations, revisions, shutdowns, returns. That's not to make light of the tragic impact of COVID-19, which is real and heartbreaking. Still, it's no small irony that when orchestras began to return to relatively normal music-making this fall with in-person concerts, Omicron became omnipresent. Just as we were getting used to them, vaccine mandates and mask requirements for audiences, musicians, and staff suddenly seemed inadequate. As this issue of *Symphony* went to press, orchestras were postponing and then cancelling concerts out of, as the phrase goes, an abundance of caution. While that's absolutely the right thing to do, enormous changes at the last minute are making uncertainty a certainty.

Orchestras have risen to these challenges with resilience. And at many orchestras, the nation's reckoning with social injustice means that a growing expansiveness in programming is now expected. Works by women and composers of color, whose contributions have for too long been ignored, are being commissioned, performed—and, in a shift from the past practice of one-and-done premieres—getting multiple hearings. Orchestras are continuing to find fresh ways to connect with their communities. Artists often show the way forward, and this issue reports on how composers are responding to the issues of the present day with new scores, new solace, new provocations. At the same time, canonic works are being reconsidered in ways that bring novel insights into music we all thought we knew. Maybe, to use another metaphor, it's a sea change for orchestras.

*Robert Sandla*

**LET'S MISBEHAVE**  
THE SONGS OF COLE PORTER

BRIA SKONBERG (TRUMPET/VOCALS) · JOHN MANZARI (TAP DANCE/VOCALS) · TONY DESARE (PIANO/VOCALS)

Cole Porter's sophisticated, sexy, and timeless songs continue to inhabit a unique place in society. It's no wonder his work has been interpreted by countless artists across the decades. Join Tony DeSare and his guests Bria Skonberg (trumpet/vocals) and John Manzari (tap dance/vocals) as they give their fresh spin on such hits as: "Night and Day," "I Get A Kick Out of You," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "It's De-Lovely," "You're the Top," and many more.

 Peter Throm Management, LLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION: PETER THROM MANAGEMENT, LLC | 734-277-1008  
PETERTHROM@ME.COM | WWW.PETERTHROM.COM

## symphony

THE MAGAZINE OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 1 / WINTER 2022

**symphony®** the award-winning quarterly magazine of the League of American Orchestras, discusses issues critical to the orchestra community and communicates to the American public the value and importance of orchestras and the music they perform.

EDITOR IN CHIEF Robert Sandla  
MANAGING EDITOR Jennifer Melick  
PRODUCTION AND DESIGN Ginger Dolden  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Stephen Alter  
ADVERTISING ASSOCIATE Danielle Clarke-Newell  
PUBLISHER Simon Woods  
PRINTED BY Dartmouth Printing Co. Hanover, NH

**symphony®** (ISSN 0271-2687) is published quarterly (January, April, July, October) for \$25 per year by the League of American Orchestras, 520 8th Avenue, Suite 2005, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4167. Send address changes to Symphony, 520 8th Avenue, Suite 2005, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4167.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PURCHASES

Annual subscription \$25.00. To subscribe, call 646-822-4080 or send an e-mail to [member@americanorchestras.org](mailto:member@americanorchestras.org). Current issue \$6.95. Back issues available to members \$6.95/non-members \$8.45. Directory, 75th Anniversary, and other special issues: members \$11.00/non-members \$13.00

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send your name and your new and old addresses to Member Services at the New York office (address below), or send an e-mail to [member@americanorchestras.org](mailto:member@americanorchestras.org).

### EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING OFFICES

520 8th Avenue, Suite 2005, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10018-4167  
E-mail (editorial): [editor@americanorchestras.org](mailto:editor@americanorchestras.org)  
E-mail (advertising): [salter@americanorchestras.org](mailto:salter@americanorchestras.org)  
Phone (advertising): 646-822-4051

© 2022 League of American Orchestras

**symphony®** is a registered trademark.  
Printed in the U.S.A.

**WEBSITE**  
[americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org)



6



16



38



44



50



68

## ABOUT THE COVER

Michigan's Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra performs at Hill Auditorium on September 11 to open its 2021-22 season, led by music director candidate Lina Gonzalez-Granados. What was it like to return to concert halls this fall? Fantastic—and weird. The full story is on page 38.

## 2 Prelude

by **Robert Sandla**

## 6 The Score

Orchestra news, moves, and events

## 14 In Memoriam: Chester Lane

**Chester Lane** worked as an editor at *Symphony* for nearly four decades and was the League's longest-tenured staff member.

## 16 Forward Thinking

League President and CEO **Simon Woods** speaks with Lang Lang about the roots of his success: the pianist launched his career performing with U.S. orchestras.

## 22 At the League

*Essentials of Orchestra Management*, one of the League's signature professional-development courses, is getting an update, staying relevant to the present—and future—of orchestras. by **Heidi Waleson**

## 28 Changing the Face of Volunteerism

Volunteer groups at orchestras are seeking younger and more diverse volunteers to better reflect today's society and to connect with their communities. by **Rita Pyrellis**

## 34 Coping With COVID

The League of American Orchestras is helping orchestras by researching and reporting what they—and their audiences—need as they deal with the pandemic.

## 38 Transfigured Nights

A recent concert road trip proved how much in-person concerts have been missed by audiences and musicians alike. by **Jennifer Melick**

## 44 Time Signatures

How are composers responding musically during a fraught time? Five creators share their experiences. by **Hannah Edgar**

## 50 New World Stages

Many emerging musicians were about to make their marks at orchestras nationwide when the pandemic hit. As concert life gradually returns, what's next? by **Brin Solomon**

## 56 Guide to Emerging Artists

## 66 League of American Orchestras Annual Fund

## 68 Coda

Violinist **Ray Chen**'s social-media embrace has expanded with a virtual space where musicians can connect while maintaining practice and high skill levels during the pandemic.

[Text marked like this](#) indicates a link to websites and online resources.