

Interlochen
ARTS ACADEMY

Interlochen, Michigan
72nd Program of the 65th Year

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INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

Alex Amsel, guest conductor

INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY WIND SYMPHONY

Christopher Morehouse, conductor

Saturday, November 7, 2026
2:00pm, Great Lakes Center for the Arts
Bay Harbor, Michigan

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PROGRAM

ORCHESTRA

Overture to *La forza del destino* ..... Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Valse triste ..... Jean Sibelius
(1865-1957)

Capriccio espagnol, Op. 34 ..... Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)

- Alborada
- Variazioni
- Alborada
- Scena e canto gitano
- Fandango asturiano

—INTERMISSION—

WIND SYMPHONY

Bravado (2023)..... Gala Flagello
(b. 1994)

Incantation and Dance (1960)..... John Barnes Chance
(1932-1972)

Amazing Grace (1994) ..... Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

In Living Color (2021)..... Katahj Copley
(b. 1998)

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CONDUCTOR BIOS

Argentinian-Mexican conductor **Alex Amsel** is quickly establishing himself as a dynamic presence on both orchestral and operatic stages. He is Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, promoted from Assistant Conductor at the orchestra's request after his first season, having made his debut with the orchestra in a sold-out, immersive Día de los Muertos program he curated for its Proof Series. He is also a finalist for Music Director of the Panama City Symphony.

Amsel made his debuts with Utah Opera and the Utah Symphony opening Utah Opera's 2026-27 season with Armienta's *Zorro*, where under his direction the orchestra "carried the production exquisitely from beginning to end" (*Utah Theatre Arts Journal*). The season's debuts continue with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Timișoara Opera, and the Craiova and Bacău Philharmonics. He has also worked with the Orchestre National de France, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, and the Pittsburgh and Dallas Symphonies, and returns to the George Enescu Festival in 2027.

Over three seasons with The Phoenix Symphony, two as Associate Conductor, Amsel led more than 50 concerts. He launched the orchestra's Chamber Orchestra Series, which sold out every concert, and founded the Student Composition Project, in which composers ages 18 and under worked directly with him on original pieces that were then premiered by the orchestra. He also founded and chaired the orchestra's Young Professionals Board, and the musicians invited him to serve on their audition panels. He has led the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra in more than 50 performances, most recently opening its 2026-27 season with Stravinsky's *The Firebird*.

In opera, he was Resident Conductor at Houston Grand Opera, held the John L. Magro Resident Conductor Chair at Cincinnati Opera, and returns there in 2027 to conduct *Viva Verdi!* with soprano Ailyn Pérez.

Christopher Morehouse, Conductor of Wind Symphony, most recently served as Director of Bands and Professor of Conducting at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Prior to joining the faculty at SIU, he taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in New York and Massachusetts.

Dr. Morehouse made his Carnegie Hall debut with the SIU Wind Ensemble in March 2008 and toured the People's Republic of China with the Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir in May 2009. In spring 2011, the Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir gave a concert at Chicago Symphony Center Orchestra Hall. In May 2012, May 2016, and May 2023, members of the Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir spent three weeks in Dublin, Ireland, in residence at the Gaiety School of Acting: The National Theater School of Ireland, developing and performing three original theater projects.

Morehouse has worked with several notable composers in the preparation and performance of their works and with guest artists as soloists with the SIU Wind Ensemble. Artistic collaborations include composers-in-residence Augusta Read Thomas, Morten Lauridsen, Bernard Rands, Chen Yi, Susan Botti, Dana Wilson, Frank Ticheli, Ben Hjertmann, as well as soloists Third Coast Percussion, Evelyn Glennie, and numerous SIU faculty. He has participated in the commission of over 20 works by composers Mason Bates, Susan Botti, Joseph Turrin, David Biedenbener, Kenneth Amis, Kathryn Salfelder, Carter Pann, David T. Little, and Scott McAllister, among others.

He maintains an active schedule as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in the United States, Canada, Europe, and East and Southeast Asia.

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INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

Leslie B. Dunner, conductor Andrew Maxbauer, manager Jenna Richey, librarian

VIOLIN I
Yujin Jung, Kyrgyzstan
Trent Xu, Wash.
Nikhil Ginde, N.J.
Isabel Rojas Gonzalez, Costa Rica
Riley Downing, Calif.
Greyson Mayer, Calif.
Gretchen Lowe, Ind.
Alex Figueroa Joglar, Puerto Rico
Anna Liu, China
Seohyeon Kim, South Korea
Olivia Chan, Taiwan

VIOLIN II
William Maeda, Ill.
Jasper Zou, China
Olivia Xi, Canada
Emlyn Drake, Texas
Shannon Kanemaru, Hawaii
Stella Taylor Pires, Mich.
Nicole Wang, Taiwan
Hristo Dejkoski, Macedonia
Isabella Sarria, Fla.
Benjamin Chu, Taiwan

VIOLA
Fritz Thomann, Minn.
Mason McMurrey, Texas
Nikita Elliott, Md.
Charlize Bui, Texas
Jack Decker, Texas
Vincent Guo, N.J.
Callie Kleinman, N.M.
Aiden Lee, Calif.
Evan Lino Montes, Iowa
Alexander Kulik, Mass.

CELLO
Grace Lee, Canada
Amanda Sun, Kan.
Charlotte Wildenberg, Mont.
Willa Hansen-Kohn, Pa.
Hao Dang, China
Claire Fohrer, Calif.
Van Devendorf, Ohio
Yizhen Shao, China
Ben Copland, N.C.

DOUBLE BASS
Jordan Archer, Ga.
Annen Johnson, Mo.
John Ahn, South Korea
Chen Chen, China
Chelsea Kang, Wis.
Benjamin Delacruz German, Fla.

FLUTE
Elisha Chiu, Texas
Isabella Borer, Honduras (piccolo)
Yudi Liu, China
Eva Sluszny, Israel (piccolo)

OBOE
Moly Dwyer, Md. (E.H.)
Lauren Hart, Ohio
Ivy Shen, China

CLARINET
Sabin Caval, Romania
Gloria Sun, Taiwan

BASSOON
Raphael Kim-Guisbert, Neb.
Taryn Lee, Wash.
Coco Yan, N.Y.

HORN
Madelyn Atkinson, Mich.
Enzo Moscola, Calif.
Jessie Yao, China
Jack Ziegler, Texas

TRUMPET
Lydia Girard, Ga.
Romero Hunt, Calif.
Santiago Nieto Xirinach, Costa Rica

TROMBONE
Aoi Egusa, Japan
Dutch Nobles, Texas
Jimmy Norfleet, Ore.

TUBA
Piper Green, Fla.

TIMPANI
Neptune Hilles, Mont.
Sheila Lu, China
Slaton Wilson, Pa.

PERCUSSION
Oliver Diemer, Mich.
Milla Dyer, Peru
Sheila Lu, China
Benjamin Riley, N.Y.
Slaton Wilson, Pa.

HARP
Charlotte Benbrook, Wis.
Kelly Chen, China

Strings are listed in seating order.
The remaining musicians are listed alphabetically within their section.

INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY WIND SYMPHONY

Andrew Maxbauer, manager Jenna Richey, librarian

PICCOLO/FLUTE
Amelia Martin, Mich.
Ivan Zhang, Md.

FLUTE
Kitty Feng, China
Page Fougerousse, Ga.
Natalia Gramacy, Va.
Ada Jin, Wash.
Dana Sparling, Wash.
Cici Sun, China
Yuki Xiao, China

OBOE
Kaylee Gutmaker, N.Y.
Olivia Jang, South Korea

CLARINET
Mia Brown, Okla.
Kaden Prichard, Ore.
John Wolch, Wash.

CLARINET/CONTRABASS CLARINET
Sebastian Cardona, Fla.

BASSOON
Julianna Capretta, Ill.
Ryan Crawford, Calif.
Soren Hillesland, Calif.

SOPRANO/ALTO SAXOPHONE
Dimitri Ho, Taiwan

ALTO/BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Brett Elpers, Ind.
Connor Reed, Fla.

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Anya Larson, Wis.

HORN
Busby Gartshore, Ind.
Nandxóbi López Rosales, México
Mina Pollack, Ill.
Siena Ponce-Koch, Calif.

TRUMPET
Kyle Aldridge-Brown, Texas
Faiz Dhanani, Texas
Alexander Flores, Bolivia
Marin Gemeinhardt, N.Y.
Yuxi Liu, China
Gustav Lumelsky, Mich.
Ethan Savage, Wash.

TROMBONE
Brennen Heaver, Ill.
Jason Ji, China
Alexander Ramirez, Fla.

TENOR/BASS TROMBONE
Lucas Martin, Mich.

EUPHONIUM
Colin Park, Md.

TUBA
Piper Green, Fla.
Aidan Sadai, Texas

DOUBLE BASS
Jordan Archer, Ga.

PERCUSSION
Neptune Hilles, Mont.
Sheila Lu, China
Rhys Miller, Mich.
Carlos Montenegro, Fla.
Benjamin Riley, N.Y.
William Tao, China
Slaton Wilson, Pa.
Lucas Young, Calif.

HARP
Charlotte Benbrook, Wis.

The musicians are listed alphabetically within their section.

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UPCOMING SIGNATURE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

***The Prom* | Book & Lyrics by Chad Beguelin, Book by Bob Martin, Music by Matthew Sklar | Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15 | Corson Auditorium**
Interlochen's Musical Theatre Company brings Broadway's Tony Award-nominated hit musical *The Prom* to the stage in a joyful celebration of acceptance, authenticity, and the power of community. When four self-absorbed Broadway stars descend on a small Indiana town to champion a high school student who wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, their well-intentioned publicity stunt becomes something far more meaningful.

***The Nutcracker* | Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 10-13 | Corson Auditorium**
Experience the beauty, wonder, and joy of the holiday season as the Interlochen Arts Academy Dance Division presents Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's cherished ballet, *The Nutcracker*. Follow Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker Prince on a magical journey from a glittering holiday celebration to the dazzling Land of Sweets, where beloved characters and breathtaking dances await around every corner. Featuring original choreography by Director of Dance Joseph Morrissey, exquisite hand-crafted costumes, stunning scenic design, spectacular theatrical effects, and Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live, this enchanting production showcases the extraordinary artistry of Interlochen's talented student dancers and musicians.

Sounds of the Season | Thursday, Dec. 17 | Corson Auditorium
Jingle all the way to Corson Auditorium for a magical evening of seasonal songs and stories brought to life by Interlochen Arts Academy's music, theatre, and interdisciplinary arts students. Cap the night with a visit from Santa Claus himself! A family-friendly holiday spectacular guaranteed to make your spirits bright.

The Accidentals with Kaboom Collective Studio Orchestra
Friday, Dec. 18 | Corson Auditorium
The Sonus Borealis Holiday Concert pairs indie-rock trio The Accidentals with a massive 32-piece youth orchestra for a sparkling, snow-globe-like winter wonderland experience featuring rich three-part harmonies and soaring symphonic arrangements.

***Cinderella* | Friday-Sunday, Feb. 12-14 | Corson Auditorium**
Experience the magic of one of the world's most beloved fairy tales as the Interlochen Arts Academy Dance Division brings Cinderella to life in a captivating full-length ballet. Filled with romance, humor, and breathtaking choreography, this enchanting production features exquisite costumes, stunning scenic design, and the remarkable artistry of Interlochen's talented young dancers. Set to Sergei Prokofiev's sweeping, unforgettable score, *Cinderella* is a celebration of hope, kindness, and the belief that anything is possible.

Be Like Blippi Tour! | Sunday, Feb. 21 | Corson Auditorium
Join Blippi and Meekah live on stage for a one-of-a-kind interactive adventure that inspires kids to move like, play like, and explore just like Blippi! This brand-new show is packed with high-energy music and surprises, featuring fan-favorite songs like "The Excavator Song," "Monster Truck," "Dino Dance," and "Curious Like Me." With Blippi's signature mix of play, learning, and exploration, families can get curious together while

singing, laughing, and dancing along during this unforgettable adventure full of fun and discovery.

***Daniel in the Lions' Den* | Sunday, April 11 | Corson Auditorium**
Inspiring audiences of all ages, the exciting and dynamic *Daniel in the Lions' Den* welcomes audiences to ancient Babylon—where one man's unwavering faith and bravery is put to the ultimate test. Also experience the story of *Esther: The Bravest Queen*—a young woman who finds herself in a palace full of secrets and must summon extraordinary courage to save her people. Filled with extraordinary characters, uplifting music and lots of laughs, it's fun for the whole family. This two-story production is part of a brand-new theatrical series from The Originals Live.

Popovich Comedy Pet Theater | Saturday, May 1 | Corson Auditorium
The internationally acclaimed Popovich Comedy Pet Theater brings together world-class juggling, old-world circus artistry, comedy, and more than 30 animal performers for a show the whole family will love. A finalist on America's Got Talent and a two-time "Best Juggler in the World" recognized by the International Jugglers' Association, Popovich has performed around the globe and headlined in Las Vegas for more than two decades. Come see the hilarious, heartwarming spectacle that has delighted audiences in more than 20 countries and discover why these rescued pets are the true stars of the show.

***A Chorus Line* | Conceived by Michael Bennett, Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Edward Kleban**
Friday-Sunday, May 14-16 | Corson Auditorium
Step behind the curtain and into the high-stakes world of Broadway auditions as Interlochen's Musical Theatre Company presents *A Chorus Line*.

For information and tickets, visit interlochen.org/concerts-and-events

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Every performance at Interlochen reflects the generosity of people like you who invest in young artists and their potential. Make your gift today to provide essential scholarships and sustain the transformative opportunities that help young artists grow at Interlochen.
interlochen.org/donate

Many of our venues are equipped with induction loop systems for the hearing impaired. Please ask one of our ushers if you need assistance connecting to the system. Support for recent upgrades to these systems provided by Michigan Arts and Culture Council; the NEA; Rotary Charities of Traverse City; the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Inc.; the Oleson Foundation; and Robert W. Anderson.

In consideration of the performing artists and other patrons, the use of flash photography is not permitted. Federal copyright and licensing rules prohibit the use of video cameras and other recording equipment.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, Interlochen maintains a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. Michigan law prohibits any weapons, including concealed weapons, on Interlochen property because we are an educational campus. Thank you for your cooperation.
www.interlochen.org