

Department of Music  
University of Alberta



# University Symphony Orchestra

**Malcolm Forsyth,  
Conductor**

**Sunday, November 24, 1996  
at 8:00 pm**

**Convocation Hall  
Arts Building  
University of Alberta**





## Program

Music for a Celebration  
(1985, revised 1986, 1987)

Alexina Louie  
(b. 1949)

Concerto No.4 in G Major  
for Piano and Orchestra,  
Op. 58 (1805-07)

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Allegro moderato  
Andante con moto  
Rondo: Vivace

**Esther Chu, soloist\***

## Intermission

The Eternal Earth  
For large orchestra (1986, revised 1996)  
Summoning the Earth Spirit  
To the ends of the Earth  
The radiant universe

Alexina Louie

Francesca da Rimini:  
Fantasia after Dante (1876)

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
( 1840- 1893)

\*In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctor of Music degree for Ms Chu.

## Program Notes

The Eternal Earth (1986, revised 1996)

Alexina Louie

(b. 1949)

Summoning the Earth Spirit

To the Ends of the Earth

The Radiant Universe

*The Eternal Earth*, a three movement work for large orchestra, is at once my plea for the continuation of life on earth and a celebration of the joys of the universe.

Vigorous fanfare-like motifs and thunderous percussion effects including lion's roar, gongs, tamtams and Chinese tomtoms characterize the movement which calls forth the dragon spirit from the bowels of the earth. It is the spirit which Okakura in his book **The Awakening of Japan** calls "the spirit of change, therefore of life itself".

*To the Ends of the Earth*, the second movement, is a tranquil, lyrical cradle-song for our world with tender solo passages for cello, piccolo, harp and céleste. It is meant as a song of solace for the distant, disappearing corners of the world and with them, the ways of life and species of nature which are being lost to us forever. Included in this movement are some exotic instrumental effects: the rubbing of water-filled crystal wine glasses, a shimmering glissando effect on the timpani and a particular "seagull glissando" performed by the cello section at the end of the movement.

The third movement, *The Radiant Universe*, which begins with a recall of the opening fanfare motif, is an affirmation of life and a joyful celebration of the oneness of heaven and earth.

The creation of *The Eternal Earth* was documented in 1986 in a Rhombus Media film produced for the National Film Board of Canada. Immediately following its première the piece was included on the Toronto Symphony's 1986 European tour with Andrew Davis conducting.

*The Eternal Earth* was commissioned by the Toronto Symphony with the kind assistance of the Canada Council.

Alexina Louie

Francesca da Rimini (1876)  
(Fantasia après Dante: Inferno, Canto V)  
Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikowsky  
(1840-1893)

In the year in which this work was written the composer was in the depths of a personal crisis from which he never was to escape, brought about by the absolute non-acceptance of his congenital homosexuality in Czarist Russia. He wrote to his brother Modeste, " I have decided to marry. I cannot avoid this. I have to do it, and not just for my own sake but also for you, and for Tolya and for Sasha [his other siblings], and for all those I love." Disaster followed the marriage in 1877 and he remained with his new bride less than three months. His feelings of shame and disgrace were dire, and it is difficult to resist the sense that he indentified with the damnation of Francesca, herself a victim of her own mortal sin: illicit love.

Tchaikowsky's manuscript for his enormous tone poem bears his own prose program note, given in part below.

"Dante, accompanying the shade of Virgil, descends to the second circle of hell's abyss. The air here is filled with groans, wails and cries of despair. In the sepulchral gloom a storm blows up and rages. Furiously the

## Program Notes (continued)

hellish whirlwind races along, bearing in its wild whirling the spirits of mortals whose reason in life was clouded by amorous passion..... Dante's attention is specially drawn to the two lovely shades of Francesca and Paolo spinning in each other's embrace..... Dissolving in tears, the shade of Francesca tells her sad tale..... '.....he, from whom nothing will now separate me, kissed my trembling mouth...' ....At that moment Francesca's husband entered unexpectedly and killed both her and Paolo with blows from his dagger. And, having said this, Francesca was again borne away in the embrace of Paolo by the furiously and wildly raging whirlwind."

Orchestrally, the work is a tour de force, ranging from the anguished cries of the brass and the despairing gasps of cellos and basses in the introduction, the furious whirlwind of the woodwinds and strings in the Vivace, to the radiant love theme introduced by solo clarinet and expounded by the full orchestra. This melody in itself is worth the rest of the work and must rank as one of the most remarkable and extended of melodic inspirations of the entire Romantic period.

### Acknowledgment

We would like to thank Trevor Brandenburg, Brian Jones, John McCormick, and Brian Thurgood for the generous loan of their percussion instruments.

## 1996-1997 University Symphony Orchestra

### Violin I

Adrian Dyck\*\*  
Mathias Silveira  
Grant Sigurdson  
Mary Kagawa  
Gautam Karnik  
Cynthia Johnston  
Kim Bertsch  
Helen Byron  
Sarah Snihurowych

### Violin II

John Radosh\*  
Jim Cockell  
Ken Heise  
Carolyn Yoo  
Madeleine Lussier  
Carol Sperling  
Natalie Ozipko  
Laura Grantham

### Viola

Miriam Lewis\*  
Heidi Klann  
Moni Mathew  
Meghan Schuler  
Marnie Ozipko

### Cello

Kerri McGonigle\*  
Adele Bosse  
Paul Radosh  
Jocelyn Chu  
Olivia Walsh  
Bonnie Pollock  
Sara Tungland  
Krista Mury  
Marc Dowdell  
Yene Yoo

### Bass

Robyn Rutledge\*  
Paul Polushin  
Roberta Jenkins  
Charles Andriashek

### Flute

Susan Rostoker\*  
Shafi Perry-Higgins (& piccolo/alto flute)  
Silvia Yee

### Oboe

Alison Cassis\*  
Victor Houle  
Cathy Lee (& English horn)

### Clarinet

Curtis Bain\*  
Suzanne Vuch\*  
Nathalie Chute (bass clarinet)

### Bassoon

Susanne Hayman\*  
Jacqueline Opgenorth

### Horn

Paul Flowers\*  
Lya Noon  
Jennifer Green\*  
Terra Shewchuk

### Trumpet

Kelly Mattheis\*  
Andrea Emberly  
Katherine Dodds  
Stephen Williams\*

### Trombone

Corinne Kessel\*  
Laurie Shapka  
Russell Bain (& bass trombone)

### Tuba

Taina Jantunen

### Timpani

Nicole Arendt\*

### Percussion

Tammy Morrison  
Jon Sharek  
Erin Zier

### Harp

Tracy Erdmann

### Celeste

Roger Admiral (& percussion)

### Orchestra Assistant

Suzanne Vuch

\*\*Concertmaster

\*Principal

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, November 28 at 8:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Free admission

Master of Music Recital: David Snable, bass, with Sylvia Shadick Taylor, piano. Program will include works by Brahms, Mussorgsky, Rorem, and Gibbs.

Friday, November 29 at 8:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior

*Music at Convocation Hall* featuring Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger. *On the eve of three anniversaries: Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms.* Mostly duo and solo works for piano.

Saturday, November 30 at 8:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Admission: \$5/adult, \$3/student/senior

The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert. Fordyce C Pier, director. Program will include works by Holsinger, Hartley, Arnold, Rathaus, Youtz, and Grainger.

Sunday, December 1 at 3:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Admission: \$5/adult, \$3/student/senior

The University of Alberta Concert Band Concert. William H Street, director. Program to be announced.

Sunday, December 1 at 8:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Admission: \$5/adult, \$3/student/senior

The University of Alberta Concert Choir Concert. Debra Cairns, director. Program will include Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and Luboff's *African Mass*.

Monday, December 2 at 12:10 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Free admission

Music at Noon, Convocation Hall Student Recital Series featuring students of the Department of Music.

Monday, December 2 at 8:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
10025 - 105 Street  
Free admission

Doctor of Music Recital: László Nemes, choral conducting. Program will include works by Pergolesi, Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, and Kodály.

Monday, December 2 at 8:00 pm  
John L Haar Theatre  
Admission: \$5/adult, \$3/student/senior

The GMCC and U of A Jazz Bands I & II Concert. Raymond Baril and Tom Dust, directors. *An Evening of Big Band Jazz.* For further information please contact the Grant MacEwan Community College Department of Music, Telephone: 497-4436

Wednesday, December 4 at 12:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
Free admission

*Noon Hour Organ Recital.* Performers are students from the University of Alberta Department of Music. Program to be announced.



**Please Note:** All concerts and events are subject to change without notice. Please call 492-0601 to confirm concerts (after office hours a recorded message will inform you of any changes to our schedule).