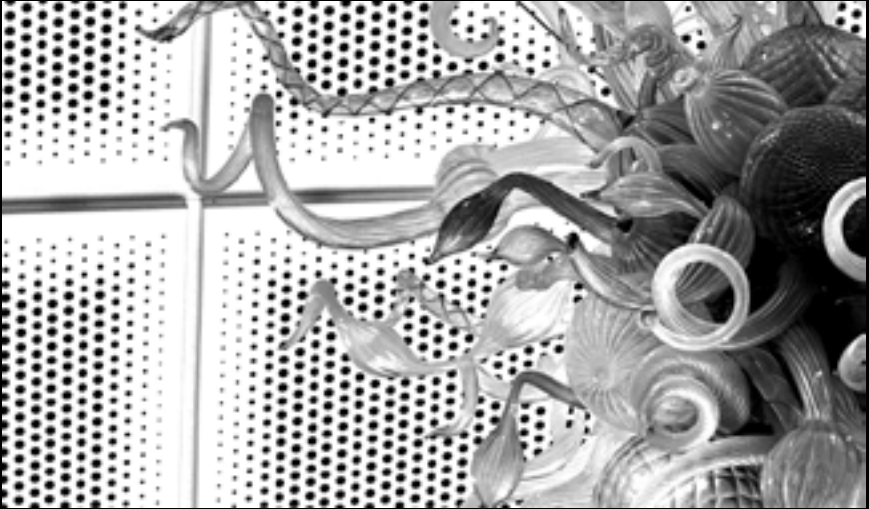


**IOWA**

School of Music



**UI SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA WITH  
LIEBERMANN AND  
KAHANE**

Kenny Lee, director of orchestral studies  
Kenneth Tse, saxophone  
Gabriel Kahane, voice and guitar

Friday, February 20, 2026, 7:30 p.m.  
Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building

# MENU

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# PROGRAM

## THREE DANCE EPISODES FROM *ON THE TOWN* (1945)

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

- I. The Great Lover Displays Himself
- II. Lonely Town: Pas de Deux
- III. Times Square: 1944

## CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 145 (2024)

Lowell Liebermann (b. 1961)

- I. Moderato
- II. Lento
- III. Molto Allegro

Kenneth Tse, *saxophone*

INTERMISSION



**THE LONESOME DEATH OF HAT-  
TIE CARROLL (2017/2026)**

Bob Dylan (b. 1941)  
arr. Gabriel Kahane

**THE TROLLEY PROBLEM (WORLD  
PREMIERE**

**ARRANGEMENT) (2025)**

Gabriel Kahane (b. 1981)

**VEDA (1 PIERCE DR.) FROM *THE  
AMBASSADOR* (2015)**

Gabriel Kahane

**AMBASSADOR HOTEL FROM *THE  
AMBASSADOR* (2014)**

Gabriel Kahane

**EMPIRE LIQUOR MART (9172 S.  
FIGUEROA ST.) FROM *THE  
AMBASSADOR* (2013/2022)**

Gabriel Kahane

Gabriel Kahane, *voice and guitar*



# UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## FLUTE

Caleb Estrada-Valentín \*

Chaosupei Gao ^

Eric Luminais

Ana Clark ‡

Jair Lopez

## OBOE

Heather Huckleberry \*^‡

Jillian Kelly

## CLARINET

Mary Kotrba \*^

Luke Gage ‡

Megan Bolduc

Tony Wang



## **BASSOON**

Kian Hyatt ^

Hale Halvorson

Adam Cramer-Benjamin ‡

Erik López

## **CONTRABASSOON**

Adam Cramer-Benjamin

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Sofia Sena Ferreira

## **TRUMPET**

Anna Kelly \*

Ryan Banks ^

Josh Levy ‡

## **HORN**

Jacob White \*^‡

Moosa Hamad

Matthew Freund

Alex Lester



# TROMBONE

Omar Elmusa \*^‡  
Kaleb Sutcliffe

# BASS TROMBONE

Brady Gell

# TUBA

Brett Tomkins

# PERCUSSION

Elena Brisch  
Ava Chopskie  
Evan Tanner  
Miles Bohlman

# PIANO

Tracy Qian

# CELESTA

Danyun Zhao ^  
Tracy Qian ‡



## **VIOLIN I**

Hugo Kaut \*^

Renee Santos ‡

Elizabeth Romanyuk

Theresa Rukavina

Andrea Allen

Anna Ahrens

Luis Enrique Infante Hernandez

Emilia Baltrukonis

Luke Cuasay

Preston Trinh

Isabella Gaspero

Michelle Chan

## **VIOLIN II**

Jessica Baker \*^‡

Ian Udell

Sophia Jin

Will Turnis

Connor Buchanan

Chris Martin-Trainor

Clara Kalas

Erin Guilfoyle

HaoYang Xu



## **VIOLA**

Ingrid Popp \*^‡

Mason Munnik

Will Sturms

Biyanca Dokter

Oliver Bostian

## **CELLO**

Haziel Santos \*^

Katie Forbush ‡

Elizabeth Kerr

Celia Phillips

Chris Mendez

Lucas Ralston

Olivia Palen

Will Hand

Dayne Olson

Memphis Howell

Jade Diouri

## **BASS**

Ryan Bell \*^

Xavier Vongphakdy ‡

Ella Gerber



Addison Lueken  
Emily Greiner  
Miles Peterson  
Eamon Reed  
Cormac Wilson  
Harper Robbins

\* = principal on Bernstein  
^ = principal on Liebermann  
‡ = principal on Kahane  
° = guest artist



# PROGRAM NOTES

## THREE DANCE EPISODES FROM *ON THE TOWN*

On the Town is a landmark American musical with music by Leonard Bernstein, inspired by Jerome Robbins's 1944 ballet Fancy Free. Set in wartime New York City, the story follows three sailors enjoying a 24-hour leave, each quickly forming a romantic connection amid the energy and excitement of the city. Dance plays a central role in the musical's storytelling, so it is fitting that these Three Dance Episodes were drawn from the musical to form an orchestral concert piece. The music captures the spirit of New York through Bernstein's exuberant rhythms, jazz-inflected harmonies, and lyrical warmth. Together, the movements reflect the vibrancy, humor, and emotional depth that helped make On the Town a Broadway classic since its 1944 premiere and through its many revivals. "The Great Lover Displays Himself" de-



picts the sailor Gabey as he falls asleep on a subway to Coney Island and dreams of sweeping his love off her feet. The buoyant, effervescent music reflects both Gabey's youthful naiveté and his romantic determination. The second episode, "Lonely Town: Pas de Deux," presents a scene both tender and unsettling, as a sensitive young woman in Central Park is briefly courted and then abandoned by a worldly sailor. An instrumental reworking of the song "Lonely Town," one of Bernstein's most poignant melodies, the music evokes a quiet, reflective melancholy. The finale, "Times Square: 1944," broadens the focus to a bustling nighttime panorama as sailors gather in Times Square for an evening of excitement. With brassy dance-hall rhythms the sequence culminates in a jubilant nod to the show's most famous number, "New York, New York."

-Theresa Rukavina



## **CONCERTO FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA**

Lowell Liebermann's *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra, op. 145* was commissioned by the University of Iowa Arts and Humanities Initiative Major Projects Grant and Linda and Rick Maxson Faculty Development and Outreach Fund in 2024. The concerto was premiered by Kenneth Tse, saxophone, with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra at the Penderecki Contemporary Music Festival in Yerevan, Armenia on March 15th, 2025.

## **THE AMBASSADOR**

Ambassador Suite comprises four songs from *The Ambassador*, arranged for string orchestra and soloist. These orchestrations largely reflect the arrangements heard on the original studio recording, released by Sony Masterworks in 2014. While intended as a sequence, it is not necessary that the suite be performed in its entirety, nor that



it be performed in the suggested order. In addition, the incorporation of contrasting, interstitial pieces is both acceptable and encouraged. For example, three of these arrangements were first heard interleaved with Schubert songs at a concert featuring the composer and string orchestra A Far Cry, at Jordan Hall in Boston.

The Ambassador is a study of Los Angeles seen through the lens of ten of its buildings. A thumbnail guide to the four songs included in the suite follows: "Veda" brings us to the fictional Glendale home of Mildred Pierce, in the novel and film of the same name. Tragedy is texture and background in "Ambassador Hotel", an elegy for the eponymous hotel seen through the eyes of its longtime doorman. Finally, the real intrudes, bluntly, with "Empire Liquor Mart", a story of the tragic shooting of a young African-American woman, Latasha Harlins, in 1992, just days after the videotaped beating of Rodney King.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## LOWELL LIEBERMANN

At once unabashedly romantic and modern, American composer Lowell Liebermann is internationally recognized as an artist of uncommon profundity and popularity. Time Magazine proclaimed: "Now brazen and glittering, now radiantly visionary...the work of a composer unafraid of grand gestures and openhearted lyricism."

Mr. Liebermann has written more than one hundred forty works in all genres, several of which have gone on to become standard repertoire for their instruments. He has composed four symphonies, a Concerto for Orchestra, three piano concertos, and concertos for many other instruments. His works have been premiered by major orchestras, including the Dallas Symphony, the National Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic.



His Sonata for Flute and Piano and Gargoyles for piano are among the most popular contemporary works for their instruments, regularly included in recital and competition programs. His full-length ballet Frankenstein, co-commissioned by London's Royal Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet, has been released on Blu-Ray and DVD. Mr. Liebermann has written two full-length operas, both enthusiastically received at their premieres: The Picture of Dorian Gray, the first American opera commissioned by and premiered in 1995 by l'Opéra de Monte-Carlo, and Miss Lonelyhearts, after the novel by Nathanael West, for the Juilliard School's 100th anniversary in 2005. A prolific pianist both live and in recording, Mr. Liebermann has given the world premieres of his own solo piano works as well as works by his fellow composers Ned Rorem and William Bolcolm. In 2021, the Steinway label released an CD of works by Schubert, Liszt, Kabełáç, Bu-



soni, and his own composition. A year later, Steinway sponsored a second solo piano album by Mr. Liebermann, *The Devil's Lyre*, featuring music of contemporary British composer David Hackbridge Johnson.

Mr. Liebermann has over one hundred fifty recordings to his credit, released on Deutsche Grammophon, Hyperion, Virgin Classics, Hungaroton, New World Records, Albany, RCA Red Seal, Reference, and many others. His works are published by Theodore Presser Company, Schott, and Faber Music. He has been invited to serve as Composer-in-Residence for numerous distinguished organizations including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan; the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Mr. Liebermann has been a faculty member of the Composition Department of the Mannes School of Music of the New School since 2012. He was the found-



ing conductor of the Mannes American Composers Ensemble, devoted to performing works of living American composers.

## **GABRIEL KAHANE**

Gabriel Kahane is a musician, writer, and storyteller.

Highlights of the 25/26 season include collaborations with Roomful of Teeth and Attacca Quartet; conducting debuts with Santa Fe Pro Music and the San Antonio Philharmonic; the world premiere of a new set of songs at the 92nd Street Y; the Carnegie Hall premiere of *If love will not swing wide the gates*, a clarinet concerto written for Anthony McGill; and the release on Nonesuch Records of *Heirloom*, a piano concerto written for Jeffrey Kahane, who is, not coincidentally, Gabriel's father. That work, recorded with The Knights and conductor Eric Jacobsen, has been heard widely throughout the



United States since its premiere in September of 2021.

An avid theater artist, Kahane opened last season at Playwrights Horizons with the off-Broadway debut of two solo pieces, *Magnificent Bird* and *Book of Travelers*, the latter of which chronicled the composer's 8,980-mile railway journey in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. His album & stage spectacle, *The Ambassador*, was produced at the BAM Next Wave Festival in 2014, under the direction of Tony-winner John Tiffany. A musical, *February House*, written with the playwright Seth Bockley, received its New York premiere at the Public Theater in 2012. In 2018, Kahane made his Broadway debut with the score for Kenneth Lonergan's play *The Waverly Gallery*, starring Elaine May, Lucas Hedges, and Michael Cera.

Kahane is known for tackling politically thorny subject matter in his work with



subtlety and grace, perhaps most notably in his orchestral oratorio, emergency shelter intake form, which addresses economic inequality through the lens of homelessness and housing insecurity, and has been heard from London to New York to Chicago to San Francisco and beyond. He is also increasingly productive as a writer, with prose appearing in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Via the newsletter “Words and Music,” Kahane publishes bi-weekly essays on a variety of topics, all of which can be accessed at [gabrielkahane.substack.com](http://gabrielkahane.substack.com).

Gabriel’s wide-ranging discography includes five albums as a singer-songwriter, several orchestral projects, a disc of chamber music (with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider), as well as various other collaborative albums. He has worked with an array of artists spanning the aesthetic gamut, from Phoebe Bridgers,



Paul Simon, Sylvan Esso, Chris Thile, and Sufjan Stevens, to the Danish String Quartet, Caroline Shaw, and Pekka Kuusisto, with whom he plays as the duo Council. The recipient of a 2021 Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Kahane relocated to Portland, Oregon, in the spring of 2020, where he lives with his family and serves as Creative Chair of the Oregon Symphony, a post he has held since 2019.

## **KENNETH TSE**

Kenneth Tse is internationally acclaimed as one of the world's leading classical saxophonists, celebrated for his dazzling virtuosity, luminous tone, and profound artistry. He first captured global attention in 1996 after winning both the New York Artists International Award and The Alex Award from the National Alliance



for Excellence. His Carnegie Hall debut that year prompted The New York Times to hail him as “a young virtuoso.” Since then, Tse has established a commanding international presence, performing as a soloist on five continents with major ensembles such as the Strasbourg Philharmonic, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Thailand Philharmonic, and the United States Navy Band.

A prolific recording artist, Tse has released twenty-three albums across a broad spectrum of repertoire, praised for their “supremely elegant tone” and “sheer virtuosity.” More than forty new works have been written for him by distinguished composers worldwide, a testament to his deep impact on the instrument’s repertoire. His most recent commission, a saxophone concerto by the famed Lowell Liebermann, was premiered in 2025.

As a passionate educator and clinician,



Tse has shared his expertise at foremost conservatories such as the Paris Conservatory, the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory, and the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw. Awarded the title of the University of Iowa Distinguished Chair in 2024, he leads a program recognized for excellence and innovation.

Equally devoted to advancing the global saxophone community, Tse founded the Hong Kong International Saxophone Symposium in 2009 and the Hong Kong International Saxophone Society, which is a vital saxophone hub in Asia. He is also the first saxophonist to hold concurrent presidencies of both the North American Saxophone Alliance and the International Saxophone Committee, underscoring his stature as performer, educator, and visionary leader.



## KENNY LEE

Kenny Lee has established himself as an outstanding artist and leader both on the podium and as a cellist. Praised for his “lyricism, drive, tenderness, and passion” (The Times Argus), he has performed as a conductor, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Recent conducting engagements include appearances with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Chamber Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Symphony, and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras. An active chamber musician, Lee has collaborated with members of the Berlin Philharmonic and the Juilliard, Cleveland, and Borromeo quartets. As co-founder and artistic director of the Flatirons Chamber Music Festival in Boulder, Colorado, he continues to champion innovative programming. Cello performance highlights



include solo and concerto appearances in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Boston's Jordan Hall, and Eastman Kodak Hall. He recently performed concerti by Dvorak, Haydn, Elgar, and Gulda. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he received the Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music, and earned both his MM and DMA with honors from the New England Conservatory. He is currently Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Iowa.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most current listing of concerts, recitals, and other School of Music events, visit the events calendar.

**EVENTS CALENDAR** 