



# Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis

Making Music That  
Matters Since 1941

## **NOVEMBER LIGHTS**

Orcenith Smith, *Conductor*

**November 19, 2023**

## Orcenith Smith

*The Philharmonic Music Director and Conductor*

Orcenith Smith's leadership has been acclaimed in concert after concert with reviews of his performances garnering words like "triumphant" and "dazzling." An honors graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory, he is currently the Director of Orchestras and Opera at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Past distinctions include the music directorships of the Chicago Youth Symphony and our own Philharmonic Orchestra, winner of an ASCAP Award for "Adventurous Programming" at DePauw, and being named the inaugural recipient of the Cassel Grubb University Professorship at DePauw in 1999. He was the American Artistic Director of the Vienna International Youth and Music Festival in Austria, has been on the podiums of symphonies throughout our nation, including, the Seattle Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Louisville Orchestra, the Dayton Philharmonic, the Terre Haute, Lafayette, and Carmel Symphony Orchestras.



In 2018, he conducted the Indianapolis Symphony in thirteen performances of its Discovery Series concerts and continues his role of fifteen years as the cover conductor of the ISO's Yuletide Celebration. He has taught at the Interlochen Arts Camp and has led academic All-State orchestras in many states across the US. He has also conducted the DePauw Orchestras around the world, including concerts in Japan, Spain, France, England, Germany, Austria, Italy, Canada, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, Denver, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York's Carnegie Recital Hall and Washington's Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. In competitions, he has conducted the BBC Orchestra (London) and the West Berlin, Germany Radio Orchestra.

## Music Director's Welcome

Today's concert title November Lights was born from the feelings we experience as the days shorten, temperatures dip, dusk takes on a different tone and hue. There are shadows, angles, emotional ebbs and flows. The second line of the concert title that I imagined was, indeed, "angles, shadows, drama, comfort, and joy" -- all things that I am surprised to feel every November. With more family and friends that come into our orbit, we feel their sense of these things, too, and I wanted the music chosen to connect with those November vibes (although, that vibes title just isn't as descriptive for me as November *Lights!*).

All these pieces are bits and pieces of those emotional niches – the *Wallingford Riegger Dance Rhythms* is a whimsical, often hushed diagram of notes and rhythms that are rarely full blown or outwardly gushing, but gently stated. The work builds its edifice on bouncy interchanges between instrumental families! The Elgar *Serenade for Strings* has three movements that are an arch – and together are as lovely and elegant as energies that rise and fall at dawn and dusk, rarely boisterous in November! The second movement is particularly comforting and poignant melodically as Elgar dedicates in his music that his wife helped him write some of the tunes!

The main piece on the program, and perhaps, the *centerpiece*, is the dynamic work of Leonard Bernstein, whose musical *West Side Story* was so pivotal in developing American musical theatre. What speaks today is the way in which its aggressive sonic landscape of Symphonic Dances (from the musical) pushes its narrative into our calming psyche. It's as though its Latin and Jazz flourishes are alive and well, and we are energized to dance until exhausted! The music is at first blatantly colorful as a stand of trees all showing their changing leaves. The story is ultimately tragic as Romeo and Juliet, and the people around the star-crossed lovers who are also affected.

As outwardly dramatic as New York's *West Side Story* and its Symphonic Dances are, the German composer Paul Lincke's *Berliner Luft* (Berlin Air, Ethos, etc.) is *another location's* approach to steady and joyous living! It was purposeful today to bring you this march after *West Side Story*. The march is a foot tapper that the Germans love to sing to and speaks to the simple joys of their city's benefits!

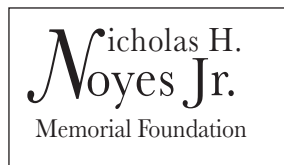
So, here is today's concert of angles, shadows, drama, comfort, and joy – *November Lights!*

- Orcenith Smith

### THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS



ARTSCOUNCIL  
OF INDIANAPOLIS



## This Afternoon's Orchestra

### VIOLIN I

Jonathan Johnson,  
*Concertmaster*  
Ashley Carney  
Heidi Holmer  
Mark Kavesh  
Mariel Padilla  
Kari Reid

### VIOLIN 2

Tammy Homes\*  
Julie Adams  
Joyce Boxman  
Laurel Bronson  
Nancy Butler  
Trudy Carter  
Michiko Chihara  
Joie Kipka  
Mariel Padilla  
Tish Porter  
AnneMarie Schreiber  
Molly Walling

### VIOLA

Lorelei Farlow\*  
Amelia Blunk  
Katie Buchholz  
Chris Holmes  
Keegan Lammers  
Kimberly McClam  
Natalie Scott  
Ellen Soyka  
Julie Stuckert

### CELLO

Sarah Binford\*  
Clare Lee  
Kathleen Lockwood  
Cindi McGarvey  
Genevieve Miedema  
Patty Scharfenberger  
Jordan Scott  
George Smith  
Matthew Vargo  
Cecelia Vetter

### BASS

Beth Emmelman\*  
A.J. Gaither  
Mark Holloway

### FLUTE

Betsy Baltz\*  
Pam Fisher  
Katie McDermitt

### OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Lisa Halcomb\*  
Kimberly Keim  
Sarah McCullough

### CLARINET/ BASS CLARINET

A.J. Bowman  
Nancy Frass  
Jay Parks

### ALTO SAX

Sabin Matinez

### BASSOON

Julie Kellum  
Grant Pajak

### TRUMPET

Macy Stewart\*  
Paul Makinson  
Ellen Schmidt

### HORN

Frank Stephens\*  
Angela Schnippel  
Suzanne Snyder

### TROMBONE

Paul Bork\*  
Ed Carter  
Craig Parmerlee

### TUBA

Andy Meyer

### TIMPANI/ PERCUSSION

Alex Keim\*  
Ben Blackketter  
Ed Fredericks  
Barry LeBlanc  
Mark Sternberg

### HARP

Emily Hayes

### PIANO

Kimberly Keim

\* Principal

## Program

### NOVEMBER LIGHTS

Sunday Afternoon, November 19, 2023

Orcenith Smith, *Conductor*

#### *Dance Rhythms, Op. 58*

Wallingford Riegger

#### *Serenade for Strings, Op. 20*

Sir Edward Elgar

I. Allegro piacevole

II. Larghetto

III. Allegretto

#### *West Side Story Symphonic Dances*

Leonard Bernstein

#### *“Berliner Luft” (“Berlin Air”)*

Paul Lincke

### Sponsor a Camper

Strings  
&  
Jazzy  
Things

### MUSIC CAMP

Sponsored by Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
of Indianapolis



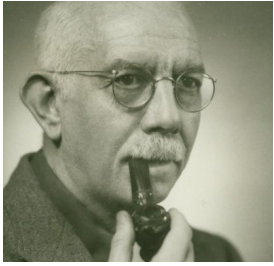
bit.ly/3N4kzdd

For over 25 years, the Philharmonic Orchestra has hosted our highly regarded week-long Strings & Jazzy Things Music Camp each June for students ages 10 to 15.

With support from foundations and individual donors in the Indianapolis area, we are able to offer this camp tuition-free for families who might not otherwise be able to provide music education outside of the classroom. Students who participate in music programs are more likely to graduate than their peers and perform better in a number of academic subjects. And our campers love our camp!

In order to offer the camp tuition-free in June 2024, we need to raise \$100 per student. We know there are a lot of requests for donations, and we are thankful for any contribution you can provide. With your help, we can make the 26th year of Strings & Jazzy Things Summer Music Camp the most successful yet.

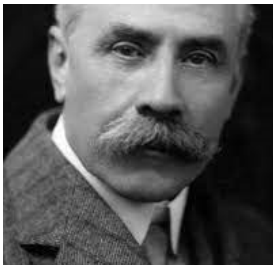
## Program Notes



**Wallingford Riegger** (1885-1961) was a prolific composer of orchestral works, modern dance, film scores, and choral arrangements. He was a major figure in the world of American classical music for more than three decades. An avant-garde modernist whose major compositions severely tested the ability of audiences to comprehend new sounds and forms, Riegger refused to bow to either musical traditionalism or popular taste, making sacrifices in order to remain true to his artistic ideals. By the end of his life, many in the musical world acknowledged him as the dean of American composers.

Riegger lived in Indianapolis until age 15, when he moved to New York City. He was in the first graduating class of NY's Institute of Musical Art (now Juilliard), where he studied music theory with the noted teacher Percy Goetschius. He studied composition in Germany and conducted opera in Germany until the US entered WWI. He taught cello at Drake University until he moved to NYC in 1922, where he became acquainted with such composers as Charles Ives. His earliest works from this period were lush scores that won him the Paderewski Prize (1921). From 1924 he won the E.S. Coolidge Award for *La Belle dame sans merci* (based on a poem by Keats), a score for four solo voices and chamber orchestra. His *Study in Sonority* (1927) for 10 violins, or any multiple of 10, marked a transition toward a dissonant, contrapuntal style. He was an "early adaptor" of 12-tone technique in *Dichotomy* (1932), based on his study of Arnold Schoenberg's works. Riegger's free use of the 12-tone style is expressive and lyrical at the same time that it is technically advanced.

Starting in the mid-1930s, Riegger began to write contemporary dance music. Later, as his career progressed, he began to use Schoenberg's 12-tone technique more and more often, though he did occasionally revert to his earlier styles. From 1941 on, he focused almost solely on instrumental music. His *Symphony No. 3* (1948) received the NY Music Critics' Circle Award and a Naumburg Foundation Recording Award. Riegger later said, "I felt the need to express musical ideas for which the older techniques were inadequate. I found the new atonal idiom, with its fresh possibilities in sonority and rhythm, creatively stimulating and more expressive of the feelings I wished to convey in music."



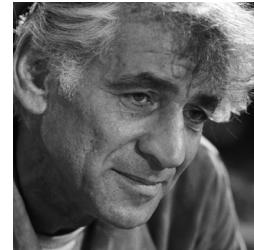
**Sir Edward Elgar** (1857-1934) was an English composer, among whose best-known compositions are orchestral works including the *Enigma Variations*, the *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, concertos for violin and cello, and two symphonies. Elgar's father was a gifted church organist who taught his son piano, organ, and violin; apart from this instruction, Elgar was basically self-taught as a musician.

At the age of 16, Edward Elgar became a freelance musician and for the remainder of his life never took a permanent job.

He conducted locally, performed, taught, and composed, scraping by until his marriage to Caroline Alice Roberts, a published novelist of some wealth, in 1889.

In 1899, Elgar composed one of his best-known works, the "Enigma" Variations, Op. 36, which catapulted him to fame. The work is a cryptic tribute to Alice and to the many friends who stood behind the composer in the early days of his career. Elgar's most fruitful period was the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during which he wrote some of his most well-known

works, including the first four of his *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*; the first of these, subtitled "Land of Hope and Glory," which is still widely performed, especially at "The Last Night of the Proms" in London. The *Serenade for String Orchestra* in E Minor, Op. 20, was written in March 1892 as an anniversary present for his wife. It was first performed privately, and with its public premiere in 1896, it became one of Elgar's most popular compositions. He was knighted by King Edward VII in 1904.



**Leonard Bernstein** (1918-1990) was one of the most celebrated and acclaimed composers of the 20th century. Best known for composing the Broadway musical *West Side Story*, his energetic conducting style led to his big break conducting the New York Philharmonic in 1943. He was one of the first American-born conductors to lead world-class orchestras and achieve global fame. Bernstein composed many works, including musicals like *On the Town* and *Wonderful Town*, operas like *Candide*, and large-scale musical works like *Mass*. He was also renowned as an arranger,

pianist, educator, author, and TV/radio host. He was born and educated in Boston and attended Harvard. He studied piano with Helen Coates, Heinrich Gebhard and Isabelle Vengerova, at the Curtis Institute with Fritz Reiner, and at the Berkshire Music Center with Serge Koussevitzky. He was assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic (1943-1944) and conductor of the New York Symphony (1945-1948).

He was on the faculty at the Berkshire Music Center from 1948 and was appointed head of the conducting department there in 1951. He was Professor of Music at Brandeis University, (1951-1956); and co-conductor of the New York Philharmonic (1957-1958), and was music director there after 1958. He won an Emmy award for his televised Young People's Concerts. He was guest conductor of symphony orchestras in the USA and Europe, and he was the first American to conduct at the La Scala Opera House in Milan. He was awarded the Sonning Prize in Denmark and was a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He won a Tony Award and several Grammy awards for his compositions and recordings.



**Paul Lincke** (1866-1946) was a German composer and theater conductor. He is considered the "father" of the Berlin operetta, and his best known compositions include "Berliner Luft" ("Berlin Air"), the unofficial anthem of Berlin, from his operetta *Frau Luna* (1899), and "the Glow Worm" from his operetta *Lysistrata*.

His father died when Paul was very young, and his early music training was directed toward military music. Instead of pursuing this career option, Lincke was employed as a bassoonist at Berlin's Central Theatre, under Adolf Ernst. A year later he joined the orchestra of the Ostend Theatre. In this milieu of theatre and dance music, Lincke gained valuable experience at the Königsstädtischen Theater, the Belle-Alliance-Theatre and the Parodie-Theatre. He accompanied the musical vaudeville programs and provided his own compositions for popular singers. His *Venus auf Erden* (*Venus on Earth*), a revue-like one-act play was created in 1897 at the Apollo Theatre in Berlin.

Lincke's march "Berliner Luft" ("Berlin Air") is the unofficial anthem of Berlin. It is one of the traditional encores of the Berlin Philharmonic. The aria comes from the 1922 revision of Lincke's 1899 operetta *Frau Luna*, about a trip to the moon in a hot air balloon, where an adventurous party of prominent Berliners meet *Frau Luna* and her court. The march was originally from Lincke's 1904 two-act burlesque *Berliner Luft*.

# 2024 Concert Schedule

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**

@ 2:00 PM

*26th Annual Gospel Concert with the*

## SYMPHONIC PRAISE CHOIR

@

Pike Performing Arts Center

---

### **Classical Concert featuring**

Alexander Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

@ 3:00 PM

@

Pike Performing Arts Center



### **Free Outdoor Pops Concert**

**June 2024 (DATE TBD)**

@ 7:00 PM

@

MacAllister Amphitheater at Garfield Park  
2425 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis 46203

For ticket information: [PhilharmonicIndy.org](http://PhilharmonicIndy.org)

Be social. Following us on Facebook: [@philharmonicindy](https://www.facebook.com/philharmonicindy)