

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kyle Ritenauer, *conductor*



SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 2 | 3PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Anthony Mazzocchi
Director
John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

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PROGRAM

Symphony no. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

Ludwig van Beethoven

- I. Allegro ma non troppo e un poco maestoso
- II. Molto Vivace

Symphony no. 9, Op. 70

Dmitri Shostakovich

- I. Allegro
- II. Moderato
- III. Presto (attacca)
- IV. Largo (attacca)
- V. Allegretto

FROM THE PODIUM

As we open our new season with the Montclair State Symphony Orchestra we look toward our biggest collaboration in recent history. This season we will perform Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, in collaboration with MSU's fantastic **Chorale** which is directed by Dr. Heather Buchanan. A collaboration of this magnitude makes it such that the whole season will build towards that March 22 performance. Leaning into that natural inclination, we decided to make the idea of the Ninth Symphony the theme of the entire season. We begin the year with what seems to be the antithesis of the expectations of the ninth symphony by performing Shostakovich's *Symphony no. 9* written at the end of World War II (more about this below by our wonderful graduate conducting student, **Gary Blackman**). We pair this alongside the first two movements of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* in preparation for our full performance in March.

PROGRAM NOTES – by Gary Blackman

The Ninth Symphony of Dmitri Shostakovich

Peaceful protest, in the form of public demonstration, the written word, or through works of art and music, is protected by law, a cherished right in a free and democratic society. Under an autocratic government, however, dissent in any form is punished, and those suspected of such protest are subject to swift and damaging retribution.

Prominent men and women throughout history have made the perilous decision to defy repressive regimes, employing all manner of subversive (and subliminal) tactics to thumb their noses at their oppressors despite the many dangers this dissent may cause. Dmitri Shostakovich, one of the most revered and important composers of the 20th century, composed his Ninth Symphony with purposefully embedded musical jabs

intended to deride not only the authoritative government under which he lived but, in particular, its brutal despot, Josef Stalin.

Compared to Beethoven's majestic and ground-breaking Ninth Symphony written over a century before, high expectations were set for Shostakovich's Ninth. It was believed he would emulate Beethoven's triumphal, crowning achievement with one of his own: a fanfare to the Soviet's victory over the Nazis in World War II, paying homage to its leader, Stalin. This was not to be.

In 1945, as Soviet forces were defeating the Nazis, Shostakovich composed his Ninth Symphony. The result was a symphony that Leonard Bernstein described as “the least

predictable and most surprising ninth symphony that exists – short, hilarious, circus-y.” This not-so-subtle demonstration of protest by one of the world's most celebrated composers was not lost on Stalin.

After the piece was premiered in 1945, Stalin was furious, and the Ninth Symphony was banned from public performance for the rest of Stalin's life. Meting out his own personal punishment against the Soviet regime, Shostakovich did not compose any new work until after Stalin's death.

Mark Wigglesworth, a conductor who will take the reins as chief conductor of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in 2025 provides further insight regarding the powerful impact of Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony, explaining that “in refusing to celebrate the victory along the lines demanded by Stalin, he not only stood up to the dictator's power, he belittled it.”

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR – KYLE RITENAUER

Kyle is currently the Interim Director of Orchestral Studies at Montclair State University. Kyle leads a busy career as a conductor in New York City among the top conservatories including The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music, and serves as cover conductor with the New York Philharmonic and National Symphony Orchestra. This season Kyle will be making his Lincoln Center debut leading the Juilliard Orchestra and Dance Department in their *New Dances*, featuring a world premiere production by Caroline Shaw, and will be making his Kennedy Center debut leading the National Symphony Orchestra in concert. Kyle will also conduct several performances at the Manhattan School of Music.

Kyle is on faculty at the Pierre Monteux School and has guest conducted the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Norwalk Symphony, Symphony New Hampshire, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, and has assisted at Opera de Montreal, the Des Moines Metro Opera, Utah Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the American Composers Orchestra.

Kyle is a graduate of The Juilliard School where he was awarded the Charles Schiff Conducting Award and studied with David Robertson. Kyle has assisted Giannandrea Nosedà, Gustavo Dudamel, Marin Alsop, John Adams, and has studied with Kurt Masur, Leonard Slatkin, Tito Munoz, and Michael Jinbo.

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Zach Wood
Brianna Almonte
Carlos Santamaria
Rafael Linares
Judith Kim
Sommer Altier
Katia Baranova

2nd Violin

Jonathan Frelix
Chelsea Xuereb
Miguel Paniagua
Park Choy
Rachel O'Connor
Haydn Ng
E'nyla Latta
Adriana King
Karina Kilbashian
Brayden Williams

Viola

Noah Stevens
Jasmine Tunac
Denton Moreland
Valentino Otero
Adeline Balfor
Carissa Dienes
Geanelly Vallecillo
Callie Justice
Josephine Dambeck
Sydney Link

Cello

India Enter
Annamaria Witek
Justeen Valere
Cecilia Grossman
Valentina Corona
Yitian Huang
Shayna Barkan
Kelvin Guillen
Alec Hamilton
Paige Stewart
Rachelle Romero
Max Caulkins
Amelia Smerz

Bass

JP Bernabe
Niles Scott
Neil Sanchez-Cruzalegui
Carlie Senatore
Ilana Zeidman
Tommy Horner

Flute

Anaya Torrence
Jacob Medina
Luiza Ribiero

Trumpet

Clifton Little
Ryan Branco

Oboe

David Reinstein
Iva Verba
Quinten Hansen

Trombone

Aidan Andreoli
Dan Harkins
Sophia Huf

Clarinet

Erin Smith
Jacob Han
Tristan Shafran

Tuba

JT Adinolfi

Bassoon

Dareen Butler
Jonathan Hart
Taylor Lee

Horn

Annie Ross
Faith Santana
Jeison Campoverde
Sheldon Senek

Percussion & Timpani

Hannah D'elia
Isabella Cruz
Nik Pothos