

# GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Carlos Kalmar** Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

**Christopher Bell** Chorus Director



Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Pritzker Pavilion

## BEETHOVEN VIOLIN CONCERTO

**Grant Park Orchestra**

**Jordan de Souza**, conductor

**Stefan Jackiw**, violin

**Leonard Bernstein**

Overture to *Candide*

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

Violin Concerto

Allegro ma non troppo

Larghetto

Rondo: Allegro

STEFAN JACKIW

**William Grant Still**

Symphony No. 1, *Afro-American Symphony*

Longing: Moderato assai

Sorrow: Adagio

Humor: Animato

Aspiration: lento; con risoluzione

This concert is generously supported  
by *American Accents* Series Sponsor AbelsonTaylor.

Tonight's concert is being broadcast and streamed live  
on 98.7WFMT/wfmt.com



Canadian conductor **Jordan de Souza** completed a four-year term at the Komische Oper Berlin in 2020. He has worked with a number of European and North American orchestras and opera companies.

Born in Toronto, Jordan studied conducting at McGill University, Montreal and made his conducting debut aged 20 with Bach's St John Passion. On graduating, he joined the McGill faculty from 2011-2015 and went on to conduct several important choral works. He was also conductor-in-residence of Tapestry Opera in Toronto, conducting three world premieres.



**Stefan Jackiw** is one of America's foremost violinists, captivating audiences with playing that combines poetry and purity with an impeccable technique. He keeps a busy schedule performing with major orchestras around the world, and tours frequently with his musical partners, pianist Conrad Tao and cellist Jay Campbell, as part of the Junction Trio. He also enjoys collaborating with pianist Jeremy Denk.

Born to physicist parents of Korean and German descent, Stefan Jackiw began playing the violin at the age of four. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, as well as an Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory, and is the recipient of a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.



## **LEONARD BERNSTEIN** (1918 - 1990)

### **OVERTURE TO CANDIDE (1955)**

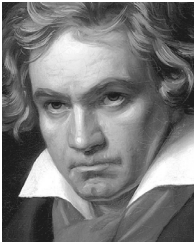
**Scored for:** three flutes including piccolo, two oboes, four clarinets including bass clarinet and E-flat clarinet, three bassoons including contrabassoon, four French horns, two trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings

**Performance time:** 5 minutes

**First Grant Park Orchestra performance:** August 14, 1957; Julius Rudel, conductor

"Well, the show is temporarily over, but the overture lingers on, I hope. And I also hope it will give you an idea of some of the fun and frolic that was in that show." This is how Leonard Bernstein introduced his Overture to *Candide* at a Young People's Concert with the New York Philharmonic in 1960. He was referring to the flop that was his operetta/musical comedy *Candide*, which closed after only two months on Broadway. The musical, based on a 1759 novella by Voltaire, was written in collaboration with librettist Lillian Hellman, who received most of the blame for the show's failure. After the show closed, Bernstein quickly moved on to other things, such as writing *West Side Story* and becoming music director of the New York Philharmonic. Despite the show's rough start, the sparkling Overture to *Candide* has remained a mainstay of the concert repertoire.

*(Read more at [gpmf.org](http://gpmf.org))*



**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** (1770 - 1827)  
**CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLIN AND ORCHESTRA,**  
**OP.61 (1806)**

**Scored for:** flute, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons,  
 two French horns, two trumpets, timpani, strings, and solo violin

**Performance time:** 42 minutes

**First Grant Park Orchestra performance:** August 1, 1942;  
 Leroy Shield, conductor and Evelyn Davis, violin

It is a cruel irony that Ludwig van Beethoven dearly loved the violin but was never able to master the instrument. Nevertheless, he did not shy away from composing for the violin, producing sixteen string quartets, ten violin sonatas, and numerous other chamber works throughout his career. Though there are fragments of a violin concerto in C from the early 1790s, it wasn't until he met a Viennese violinist named Franz Clement that he would be inspired to write his only complete violin concerto in 1806.

The Violin Concerto in D was composed in a bit of a frenzy. Beethoven's pupil Carl Czerny claimed that Beethoven only completed it two days before the premiere. A frequently repeated anecdote is that Clement had to sightread the last movement on that night. *(Read more at [gpmf.org](http://gpmf.org))*

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GRANT PARK  
MUSIC FESTIVAL



**WILLIAM GRANT STILL** (1895 - 1978)

**AFRO-AMERICAN SYMPHONY (SYMPHONY NO.1) (1930)**

**Scored for:** three flutes including piccolo, three oboes including English horn, four clarinets including bass clarinet, two bassoons, four French horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings

**Performance time:** 23 minutes

**First Grant Park Orchestra performance:** August 13, 1937; Hans Lange, conductor

William Grant Still began sketching the *Afro-American Symphony* as early as 1924 while studying composition with ultra-modernist composer Edgard Varèse.

As early as 1916, he wished to convey that “the Blues were not immoral or trivial, as some people wanted to believe,” he said, “but instead [were] an expression of the hopes and yearnings of a lowly people, wanting a better life.” By using elements of the blues to unite the *Afro-American Symphony*, Still sought to demonstrate the dignity of Black folk music by incorporating it into what white culture deemed the pinnacle of “high art”: the symphony. The first movement, “Longing,” begins with an instantly recognizable twelve-bar blues progression. A tenor banjo even lends the third movement, called “Humor,” some authentic color. This movement also briefly quotes George Gershwin’s famous tune “I’ve Got Rhythm” in the horns, which premiered a few weeks before Still began drafting the symphony. Going from struggle to triumph, the symphony ends with a stirring movement titled “Aspiration.” (*Read more at gpmf.org*)

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