



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

**“Harp-o-ween”**  
**The TCU Harp Ensemble**  
With guest harpists from the TCU Music Preparatory  
Kela Walton, Director

October 27, 2023

3:00pm

PepsiCo Recital Hall

**Program**

Five Preludes on the Name of Olga Samaroff Stokowski  
No. 5 Fraîcheur

Carlos Salzedo  
(1885-1961)

La Llorona

Traditional Mexican  
arr. Laura Zaerr

IsabellaGrace Ebo, Alexis Lizama, Silvia Torres Rodarte, & Kela Walton

Old Black Cat

Julie Keyes

Harper Hook\*

Deep in the Forrest

Traditional French Canadian  
Arr. Betty Paret (1923-2011)

Madeleine Allen\* & Kela Walton

Halloween Pranks

Betty Paret  
(1923-2011)

Madeleine Allen\*, Harper Hook\*, & Kela Walton

Dreaming from *Coraline*

Bruno Coulais (b. 1954)  
arr. Silvia Torres Rodarte

(Continued on page 2)

- The Selkie  
James Waters (1930-2006)  
Arr. Aryeh Frankfurter (b. 1966)  
Alexis Lizama, violin; IsabellaGrace Ebo, Silvia Torres Rodarte, & Kela Walton
- Giga  
Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)  
Trans. Carlos Salzedo (1885-1961)  
Silvia Torres Rodarte
- Essence of Ruby  
Brandee Younger  
(b.1983)  
IsabellaGrace Ebo
- Funeral March of a Marionette  
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)  
Arr. Maurice Draughn (b. 1979)  
IsabellaGrace Ebo & Silvia Torres Rodarte
- Six Duets (*Sech Duette*), Op 63.  
No. 4 Autumn Song (*Herbstlied*)  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
Arr. Shari Pack
- Tarantella Di Armento  
Traditional Lucano  
arr. Giuliana De Donno (b. 1963)  
IsabellaGrace Ebo, Alexis Lizama, Silvia Torres Rodarte, & Kela Walton

\* Indicates harpists who are currently TCU Music Preparatory students

### Program Notes

Many of the pieces performed this evening share a connection with the moods, myths, and celebrations of the autumnal allhallowtide season. Allhallowtide encompasses All Saints' Eve (also known as All Hallows' Eve or Halloween), All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Remembrance Sunday.

Carlos **Salzedo** came to the United States upon the invitation of Arturo Toscanini to play with the Metropolitan opera in 1908 and eventually became the professor of harp at Curtis. *Fraîcheur* (coolness or freshness) is "for harp alone or several harps in unison" and is written in Salzedo's preferred 5/4 time signature. Composed in Seal Harbor, Maine in September of 1917, *Fraîcheur* evokes the change in the air between seasons. The thematic motive of ascending harmonics are produced on the same four strings throughout the piece, with constant pedal changes providing the variations in pitch and harmony.

*La Llorona* (the Weeping Woman) haunts the folklore of Mexico and Latin American cultures. In some versions of her story La Llorona is portrayed as a ghost, and in other tellings she is trapped between realms — not dead but not really alive either. In all versions of the legend she weeps loudly as she mourns the loss of her children, often by the banks of the river in which they drowned. While no two individuals may tell the story of La Llorona the same way, she is often the first concept of fear and anxiety many Mexican and Mexican American children experience.

(Continued on page 3)

The lyrics to **Old Black Cat** tell the story of a old cat who is still capable of some mischief on Halloween night, but decides it would be safer to take a nap inside. Both *Old Black Cat* and the French Canadian tune **Deep in the Forrest** use extended techniques on the harp to evoke musical images. During **Halloween Pranks** the performers take turns improvising and using extended techniques on the harp to play musical “pranks” during the rests between the melodic phrases.

**Dreaming** was composed by Bruno **Coulais** for the stop-motion animated film *Coraline*. Eleven-year-old Coraline discovers an alternate universe full of button-eyed doppelgängers behind a secret door in her new house, unaware that it contains something dark and sinister. In keeping with film’s creepy and wonderfully strange atmosphere, *Dreaming* was originally sung for the film’s soundtrack by the Children’s Choir of Nice in a nonsense language.. This arrangement for 2 harps and violin is by first-year TCU Harp Ensemble member Silvia Torres Rodarte

Selkies are mythological creatures, mainly associated with the northern Scottish Isles, that can shape-shift between seal and human forms by removing or putting on their seal skin. Selkies can be friendly and helpful but also dangerous or vengeful. Often depicted as seductive in human form they can be coerced into marrying humans, usually by someone who steals their seal skin. The best known tune for **The Selkie** is not traditional, but was written by Jim **Waters** in 1954 and popularized by Joan Baez in the early 1960s. Aryeh Frankfurter who performs on a variety of mostly string instruments originally recorded this arrangement with he and his wife, Lisa Lynne, playing the 2 harps.

**Arcangelo Corelli’s** Opus 5 *Sonate a violino e violone o cimbalò* are perhaps the most commercially successful volume of music ever published, having remained continuously in print since they first appeared in 1700. These solo sonatas for violin and continuo instrument, his only set of solo sonatas, spread quickly all over Europe and were reprinted more than fifty times in the 18th century alone. **Giga** comes from the Sonata No. 9 in A major. The infectious **Giga** dance tune was transcribed for harp and published in 1923 by Salzedo, and is based heavily on the popular keyboard realizations of the time.

Committed to combining the modern harp traditions of Carlos Salzedo, Dorothy Ashby, and Alice Coltrane, Brandee **Younger** made history in 2022 as the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition. Younger’s **Essence of Ruby** is inspired by the trailblazing and barrier breaking Dorothy Ashby’s recording *Essence of Sapphire*. Ashby began her harp studies at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, the oldest public school harp program in the U. S.

**Funeral March of a Marionette** was originally written by Charles **Gounod** for solo piano in 1872 and then he orchestrated the piece in 1879. Perhaps most recognized in the twentieth century as the theme music to the TV program “Alfred Hitchcock Presents.” There are inscriptions in the score that depict the story of a Marionette that dies in a duel, a funeral procession, followed by the mourners taking some refreshments before finally returning to the house. This arrangement for two harps is by Detroit based harpist Maurice **Draughn**, who like Ashby graduated from Cass Technical High School’s harp program.

**Autumn Song** (Herbstleid) by Felix **Mendelssohn** ushers in the change of seasons. Originally for two female voices, the poem by Karl Klingemann talks of losing faith in love as the weather grows colder. Shari **Pack** was inspired to compose and arrange for harp ensembles by her six daughters, all of whom play the harp.

The **Tarantella** is a southern Italian folk dance, characterized by a fast upbeat tempo and 6/8 meter. The tarantella dancer and musician may try to upstage each other by playing faster and dancing longer in an effort to tire out the other performer. Lucania was a historical region in Southern Italy that corresponds to the modern-day region of Basilicata where the town of Armento is found. The arranger of the traditional **Tarantella Di Armento**, Guiliana **De Donno** founded the first school for Italian traditional and popular harp music in Viggiano also in the Basilicata region.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.  
Please silence all electronic devices including watches and phones.