



*presents*

**CHRISTINA ADAMS** violin  
**JIAYI ZHENG** violin  
**VERONIKA VASSILEVA** viola  
**ALICIA ROWE** cello

11.14.20

VIRTUAL  
CONCERT

*This concert is sponsored by*  
**Martha Darling & Gil Omenn**  
*and is supported by a grant from*



## - PROGRAM -

**CARLOS SIMON** Warmth from Other Suns

*Tonight's performance of Warmth from Other Suns is sponsored by Billie & Henry Johnson.*

**FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN** String Quartet No. 62 in C Major, Op. 76, No. 3 "Emperor"

Allegro  
Poco Adagio; Cantabile  
Menuetto. Allegro  
Finale: Presto

**ALEXANDER BORODIN** String Quartet No. 2 in D Major

Allegro moderato  
Scherzo: Allegro  
Notturmo: Andante  
Finale: Andante; Vivace

*SHAR Music has sponsored the purchase of tonight's music for  
our permanent library collection.*



*Special thanks to KERRYTOWN CONCERT HOUSE for recording space for  
the third of our House Concerts at Kerrytown Concert House*



# PROGRAM NOTES

BY BENJAMIN TISHERMAN, MARISSA HONIG, & SAMUEL KOEPPE

*Franz Joseph Haydn*  
is born

⋮

1732

1797

⋮

*String Quartet No. 62*  
is composed

*Alexander Borodin*  
is born

⋮

1833

1881

⋮

*String Quartet No. 2*  
is composed

*Carlos Simon*  
is born

⋮

1986

2020

⋮

*Warmth from Other  
Suns* is composed

## Warmth from Other Suns (2020)

Carlos Simon, Jr.

Born 1986; Washington, D.C.



Between the years of 1916 and 1970, nearly six million African-Americans left the rural South to escape the pervasive and life-threatening discrimination of Jim Crow laws. This mass exodus became known as the Great Migration and is the subject of Isabel Wilkerson's 2010 book *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize winner and professor of journalism at Boston University, devoted 15 years to researching and gathering eyewitness testimonies in order to tell the story of one of the largest migrations in American history. Using archival documents and first-hand accounts, she discusses the larger forces and inner motivations that compelled people to flee, along with the challenges they confronted upon arrival to their final destinations.

"I chose to bring these stories to life through the voice of a string quartet," writes Carlos Simon of his *Warmth from Other Suns* (2020), inspired by Wilkerson's book. Commissioned by the Sphinx Organization, this six-minute piece features shimmering violin tremolos, poignant dissonances, and sighing, resonant chords in all four string voices. Remembering the Great Migration at this time in America's history and exploring its impact on the lives of millions of Americans is especially poignant following events like the tragic killing of George Floyd in May 2020.

A native of Atlanta, GA, Carlos Simon's music ranges from concert music for large and small ensembles to film scores with influences of jazz, gospel, and neo-romanticism. Simon was named as one of the recipients of the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence. The Sphinx Medal of Excellence is the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization, recognizing extraordinary classical Black and Latinx musicians.

Simon earned his doctorate degree at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Michael Daugherty and Evan Chambers. He has also received degrees from Georgia State University and Morehouse College.

<http://coliversimon.com/>

<https://www.isabelwilkerson.com/>

## String Quartet No. 62 in C Major, Op. 76 (1797)

Franz Joseph Haydn

Born March 31, 1732; Rohrau, Austria. Died May 31, 1809; Vienna, Austria



One of the more influential and prolific figures in music history, Franz Joseph Haydn was a composer whose music was both vital to the development of 18<sup>th</sup>-century classical music and an enduring emblem of Austrian nationalism. Called the “father of the string quartet” for his contributions to the genre, his chamber music established standards of quality, style, and form that generations of composers have since emulated.

Over his lifetime Haydn published about 68 of these quartets, each with its own unique melodic features. This egalitarian combination of four string voices reflects the Enlightenment-era values of equality and balance. The String Quartet No. 62 in C major, Op. 76 is the third within a set of six quartets written at the request of Viennese aristocrat Joseph Georg von Erdödy. Together, the collection stands as the last complete set of quartets Haydn ever composed.

The quartet draws its nickname “Emperor” from a melodic quotation of “Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser” (“God Save Emperor Francis”) in the second movement. Haydn’s melody was inspired by the English anthem “God Save the King,” which he would have heard on his two tours of London in the early 1790s. Haydn’s visits to Great Britain may have inspired some of his best known works, from the London Symphony to the “Gypsy Rondo” piano trio.

Haydn’s patriotic “Emperor” melody has enjoyed an extensive performance life. Carl Czerny wrote a set of variations on “Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser” for piano and string quartet in 1824. Clara Schumann used the tune as the basis for her “Souvenir de Vienne,” Op. 9 for solo piano. Haydn’s melody served as Austria’s national anthem for over a century, later becoming Germany’s anthem from 1922 to 1945, and again in 1991 when East and West Germany were reunited.

### Events of 1797 (String Quartet No. 62 composed)

- John Adams inaugurated as President
- Naval conflict between U.S. and France begins
- First clock patent granted to Eli Terry of Connecticut
- First medical periodical in the U.S. is founded, *The Medical Repository*
- Romantic novels by women authors were the popular books of the period; *The Coquette* by Hannah Foster was the best seller

## String Quartet No. 2 in D Major (1881)

Alexander Borodin

Born November 12, 1833; St. Petersburg. Died February 27, 1887; St. Petersburg



While Alexander Borodin’s name appears frequently on concert programs, he actually made his career as a chemist, not a composer. Known for his research in medicine and organic chemistry, Borodin studied at the Medico-Surgical Academy of Russia from 1850-1856, receiving his doctorate in 1858. After studying abroad in Germany for a few years, he was appointed adjunct professor at the Medico-Surgical Academy, advancing to full professor in 1864. In addition to his research and teaching, he was a member of The Mighty Handful, a group of five composers devoted to establishing a truly Russian school of composition. His acquaintance with this group, which included the likes of Modest Mussorgsky and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, led to the genesis of some of his finest musical work.

Composed in 1881, Borodin’s String Quartet No. 2 in D Major is dedicated to his wife, Ekaterina. While not strictly programmatic, the quartet is a tender snapshot of their early romance in musical form. The couple had married in 1862, the same year he was finishing up postdoctoral studies at the University of Heidelberg and beginning composition lessons with Mily Balakirev. In this way, the quartet stands as a memory of the year Borodin’s professional, personal, and musical lives intersected.

The quartet begins with an exchange between first violin and cello – the two dominate the first movement – with the first violin waxing especially rhapsodic. The development section evokes idyllic memories of their early days in Heidelberg. The second movement begins as a playful scherzo that slows to a charming waltz evocative of a Russian fairy tale. The movement transitions between these two moods perhaps to illustrate the young couple’s playful and romantic courtship.

The most famous movement of this quartet, the nocturne, begins with an instantly recognizable cello solo used as the theme for “And This is My Beloved” in the musical *Kismet*. This melody has also been used in television and film, underscoring scenes from *Star Trek: Discovery* as well as the 2006 Disney short *The Little Matchgirl*. Midway through the movement, ascending runs in the violins quicken the pace as the opening theme returns. This movement’s honesty and charm has made it one of Borodin’s most famous compositions.

The final movement begins with a slow introduction before beginning a joyful Vivace. Before its conclusion, an interruption recalls the slow introduction. The tempo resumes, and the piece ends with a soaring high note from the first violin and a hot-blooded Russian chorus underneath.

### Events of 1881 (String Quartet No. 2 composed)

- First professional baseball played in Detroit
- Grand opening of J.L. Hudson’s clothing store
- Boston Symphony Orchestra founded
- *Pinocchio*, by Carlo Collodi, published in Italy
- Clara Barton founds American Red Cross
- Kellogg’s introduces granola
- Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffman* is premiered in Paris
- Barnum & Bailey circus established
- President Garfield assassinated and Chester Arthur becomes president

## CHRISTINA ADAMS

Violinist Christina Adams appears frequently as a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician. She has collaborated with leading artists from around the country, including New York Philharmonic principals Frank Huang, Michelle Kim, Cynthia Phelps, and Carter Brey, and has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Adams joined the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in the 2018-2019 season, and is the artistic director of “If Music Be the Food...Lansing,” a concert series that benefits the Greater Lansing Food Bank ([www.ifmusicbethethefood.com](http://www.ifmusicbethethefood.com)). She also maintains a private studio of violin and viola students, and spends her summers in Italy as the Assistant Director of Strings and Chamber Music at the Brancaloneoni International Music Festival.

Christina holds degrees from the University of South Florida (Dr. Carolyn Stuart), Boston University (Bayla Keyes), and a DMA from U-M (Aaron Berofsky). For more information, visit [christinaadamsvln.com](http://christinaadamsvln.com).



## JIAYI ZHENG

Violinist Jiayi Zheng joined the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra during the 2018-2019 season. Jiayi started on violin at the age of four in Chengdu, China and moved to Boston in high school. Her love for playing in an orchestra has taken her around the globe to Argentina, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Germany among others. She has spent her summers at the Aspen Music Festival (CO), Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) and Spoleto (SC) festivals as an orchestral fellowship recipient. She has had the privilege of collaborating with conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Manfred Honeck, Krzysztof Urbanski, and Hugh Wolff. Her mentors include David Halen, Kathleen Winkler, and Valeria Kuchment.

Jiayi received her Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and Bachelor of Music degree from Rice University. When she’s not playing the violin, Jiayi can be found traveling, reading, and cooking. She currently resides in Ann Arbor, MI. <https://www.jiayizhengviolin.com>



## VERONIKA VASSILEVA

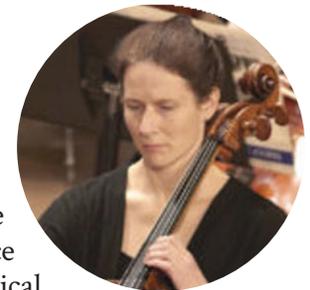


Born into a family of musicians, Veronika Vassileva received intense musical training from an early age. She was three when she started ear training and playing the piano with her mother, and at the age of five was accepted into the Sofia Music School in Bulgaria as extraordinarily talented. Under the tutelage of her father, Veronika added the violin at age seven and made her concerto debut three years later performing as the winner of the first prize at the German national competition “Jugend musiziert.” Throughout her teens she won numerous prizes at competitions and was a regular soloist with orchestras in Germany, France, and Bulgaria. Before relocating to the United States, Veronika also frequently performed with her brother Vasko Vassilev, concertmaster of the Covent Garden Royal Opera House. As a violinist, Veronika received a Bachelor cum laude from the University of North Texas (UNT), and a Master of Music with distinction from DePaul University in Chicago. As a violist and baroque violinist she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of North Texas in 2015. At the end of 2015, she relocated with her husband Dr. Devin Iler and their two dogs Bobbi and Zuka to the Detroit Metroplex. Her family has since grown with their two daughters Mira and Zoey.

Veronika Vassileva is professionally sought after on all three instruments – violin, viola, and baroque violin – and in various musical styles performing and traveling nationally as well as internationally in chamber music, chamber orchestra, or symphonic orchestra settings. As a member of small chamber music groups, Veronika Vassileva has been part of and traveled with the Shostovsky Piano Trio, Amir String Quartet, with UNT’s graduate string quartet, The Bancroft String Quartet, and her period instruments string quartet Quartet Galant. She was invited to perform at Chamber Music International alongside prestigious musicians such as Susan Dubois, Jo and Ko Kawasaki, and Eugene Osadchy. As a jazz musician, Veronika can be found on recordings of the Grammy Award winning band Snarky Puppy, as the featured gypsy violinist at the annual Denton’s Cirque du Horror Halloween show, and in Ben Folds’s touring orchestra. An avid fan of Broadway musicals, Veronika was part of Lyric Stage in Irving, TX, for five years playing the original Broadway orchestrations. Other highlights include a performance of Schoenberg’s “Pierrot Lunaire” on a Schoenberg grant at the Austrian Cultural Center in New York City, a special participation at the International Leos Janacek Festival and Conference in the Czech Republic, and an invitation to perform with the Valencia Opera Orchestra in Valencia, Spain.

Since her relocation to Michigan, she has been performing with the Ann Arbor and Toledo Symphony Orchestras. In 2016 Veronika was invited to perform at Kerrytown Concert Series alongside Detroit Symphony Co-Concertmaster Kimberly Kolayonides-Kennedy, and in 2017 she was part of Dr. Nancy Ambrose King’s CD recording with the Ann Arbor Camerata. This season, Veronika Vassileva is delighted and thankful to have had the opportunity to prepare with her colleagues one of the programs for the online series “A<sup>2</sup>SO House Concerts at Kerrytown Concert House.”

## ALICIA ROWE



Alicia Rowe received degrees in cello performance from the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California. A member of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra since 1994, she also performs as a regular member of the A<sup>2</sup>SO String Quartet, bringing classical music to children throughout southeast Michigan. Alicia has taught cello and chamber music at the Ann Arbor School for Performing Arts, the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, and the Plymouth Canton Community Schools. She maintains a private cello studio in Plymouth.