

BELOIT & JANESVILLE SYMPHONY



beloitjanesvillesymphony.org

SPRING CONCERT
SUNDAY, APRIL 19th at 2 PM
Blackhawk Technical College
Dr. Benjamin Firer, Conductor

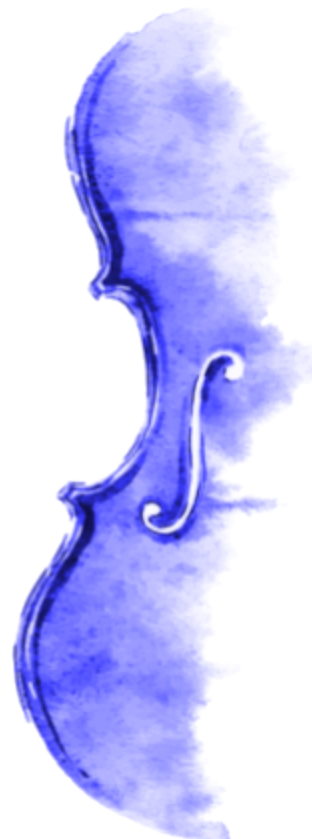


CONCERT PROGRAM
TSAR'S BRIDE OVERTURE
NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

COLORS

FEATURING HUGO SAAVEDRA, TROMBONE
BERT APPERMONT

SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN D MINOR OP. 107
"REFORMATION SYMPHONY"
FELIX MENDELSSOHN



VIVID
BELOIT & JANESVILLE
SYMPHONY



DR. BENJAMIN FIRER
Guest Conductor

Benjamin Firer joined the faculty of Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts in August 2025 as Assistant Professor of Conducting. Firer's multifaceted role at CCPA includes directing the university orchestras, opera, teaching conducting and leading the orchestral studies seminars.

He also serves as Music Director of the Harper Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Conductor of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra and principal conductor of Harmonie North. Guest conducting engagements for the 2025-2026 season include Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, Lake Forest Civic Orchestra, Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra, Williamsport Symphony Orchestra and cover conducting the Orlando Symphony Orchestra.

A dynamic and sought-after guest conductor, Firer has appeared with orchestras nationally and internationally, including the Budafok Dohnányi Orchestra (Hungary),



Milwaukee Symphony, Altoona Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, DuPage Symphony, Miami Symphony, Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, and Orchestre de la Francophonie (Canada). He has also served on the conducting staff of the Quad Cities Symphony, Dubuque Symphony, and Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra. He previously directed collegiate orchestral programs at Northeastern Illinois University, Penn State University, Juniata College and Lewis University. Firer serves as a conducting mentor with the Illinois Council of Orchestras devoted to supporting budding orchestral conductors and music educators. Firer holds a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern University and a Master's Degree from Yale University.



HUGO SAAVEDRA
Trombone Soloist

Hugo Saavedra, born in Colombia, is an internationally recognized trombonist and educator whose dynamic career spans solo, orchestra, and chamber

music performance across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He began his musical journey at the age of twelve in his hometown, where an early passion for the trombone quickly developed into a lifelong pursuit. In 2023, Hugo recorded an album of historic Latin American classical repertoire as a project for the Latin Grammys with the goal of elevating underrepresented composers and celebrating the richness of Latin cultural heritage in classical music.

A frequent performer with leading U.S. orchestras, Hugo

has appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago-Joffrey Ballet Chicago Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Hugo holds degrees from Northwestern University and Roosevelt University, where he studied with Michael Mulcahy, Timothy Higgins, Douglas Wright, Christopher Davis, and Jay Friedman. His artistry reflects both technical mastery and a deep commitment to using music as a catalyst for social change and cultural representation. As an orchestra fellow, he trained with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, collaborating closely with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in both performance and community engagement initiatives.

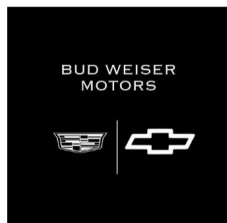
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