



EPIC'S 6TH SEASON

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the Arts at UCCS

**JUNE 5
2026**

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**Ent Center for the Arts, Chapman Foundations Recital Hall
Friday, June 5th, 2026, 7pm**

Performed by:
Andrew Staupe piano | Anni Hochhalter horn
Noah Kay oboe | Masha Popova flute
Ben Roidl-Ward bassoon | Sergei Vassiliev clarinet
epicmustsee.org

Louise Farrenc (1804–1875)

*Louise Farrenc - Sextet in C
Minor for Winds and Piano,
Op. 40*

1. Allegro
2. Andante sostenuto
3. Allegro vivace

15 Minute Break (Time for a refill)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

*Quintet in E-flat for Piano and
Winds, Op. 16*

1. Grave - Allegro ma non troppo
2. Andante cantabile
3. Rondo. Allegro, ma non troppo

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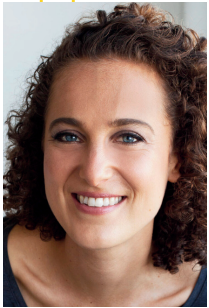


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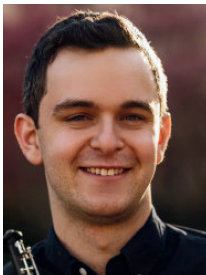
**Production by Larry Jones, Sergei Vassiliev, Chris Doiron
the amazing Ent Staff and Epic Team volunteers**



Andrew Staupe has emerged as one of the most distinctive voices in a new generation of pianists. With a piano concerto repertoire spanning over 70 works, including three world premieres, **Staupe has appeared as a soloist with many of the top orchestras throughout North America, Europe, and South America, including the Baltimore Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, the George Enescu Philharmonic in Romania, the Orquestra Filarmónica de Bogotá in Colombia, and many others.** He has performed recitals across the United States and extensively in Europe, appearing at Carnegie Hall, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow, the Schumann Haus in Leipzig, and the Salle Cortot in Paris. Staupe has a keen interest in new music and has collaborated with and performed compositions by Academy-Award-winning composer Howard Shore, Lowell Liebermann, Mario Davidovsky and many others. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Houston and Artistic Director of the Young Artist World Piano Festival in Minnesota.



Born in California and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, **Anni Hochhalter** is an active musician and innovator in the arts field. Specializing in chamber music, she has launched an exciting career as a recitalist, instructor, and social entrepreneur. Anni graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Music degree in French Horn Performance, studying with leading studio and orchestral musicians Rick Todd, James Thatcher, and Kristy Morrell, along with summers under Roger Kaza as a fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival and Texas Music Festival. In 2009, **Anni won first prize in the Yen Liang Young Artist Competition and performed Richard Strauss' First Horn Concerto in E-flat Major with the Diablo Symphony.** As a touring musician, she has performed with orchestras and chamber ensembles across North America, Europe, and Asia, and performs each summer as principal horn of the McCall Music Festival in McCall, Idaho. **Anni currently serves as Executive Director and musician chair of WindSync.**



Oboist **Noah Kay** enjoys a varied career as both an orchestral and chamber musician. **In 2017, he joined the Colorado Springs Philharmonic as Principal Oboe, and in September 2022, he was appointed Principal Oboe of Symphony in C in Camden, NJ.** Kay has performed and toured Japan, Europe, and the US with the **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**, including a recording on the Deutsche Grammophon label made in Warsaw. He has also performed with the NYC-based Knights, the International Contemporary Ensemble, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Winnipeg Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Princeton Symphony, and ProMusica Columbus. In 2024, Kay became a member of the eminent woodwind quintet **WindSync (MKI Artists)** for its 16th season. Notable recent performances in 2025 have included a recital with renowned pianist John Kimura Parker in Corpus Christi, TX, and residencies at Emerald City Music and Chamber Music Northwest.



Masha Popova enjoys a versatile career as a flutist and educator in the Central Texas area. She currently performs as **Principal Flute of the Shreveport Symphony**, as well as holds the position of adjunct instructor in chamber music at Baylor University. During the summers, she performs with the **Central City Opera Orchestra in Colorado as Principal Flute**. Prior to moving to Waco, she had completed a four year fellowship with the New World Symphony. Some **performance highlights include soloing with the Philadelphia Orchestra**, and performing as guest principal flutist with Auckland (NZ) Philharmonia and Seattle Symphony. In most recent seasons, Masha Popova has performed with the Baltimore Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, and Sarasota Orchestra. Masha received her Master of Music degree in flute performance from the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, studying with Leone Buyse. She attended the Curtis Institute of Music for her Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance, where she studied with Jeffrey Khaner.



Named one of 23 artists who are “changing the sound of classical music” by the Washington Post, Ben Roidl-Ward has been praised for his “dazzling technique” (The Sydney Morning Herald), “breathless virtuosity” (Bandcamp Daily), and “astounding flexibility and range” (The Double Reed). He is the Assistant Professor of Bassoon at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and also holds positions as **Principal Bassoonist of the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Illinois Symphony, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, as well as Co-Principal Bassoonist of Sinfonia Da Camera**. A devoted performer of contemporary music, Ben is the bassoonist of Chicago’s Ensemble Dal Niente and served as a Contemporary Leader for the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland from 2021-2025, where he also taught as a Bassoon Coach for the Lucerne Festival Academy. Ben’s dedication to working with and advocating for composers of his generation has led him to commission numerous works featuring the bassoon, and he has participated in the premieres of over 200 compositions to date.



Sergei Vassiliev is the founder and **Executive Director of EPIC Concerts**. Since 2009, Vassiliev has served as principal clarinetist of the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic**. Festival appearances include Festival Mozaic, the Colorado College Summer Music Festival, Sarasota, and Music Academy of the West, among others. He has held principal clarinet positions with the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra and Boise Philharmonic, and appeared as guest principal with Music in the Mountains. He has also performed with the Houston Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and most recently, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic** under Gustavo Dudamel and Gustavo Gimeno at Walt Disney Concert Hall and under Thomas Søndergård at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2019, he was featured as both artistic director and soloist in the Colorado Springs Philharmonic’s Signature Series.

Donations received since January 1, 2025

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THE GARBBOLOGISTS

BY LINDSAY JOELLE

JUNE 11-28



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EPIC SEASON 26-27

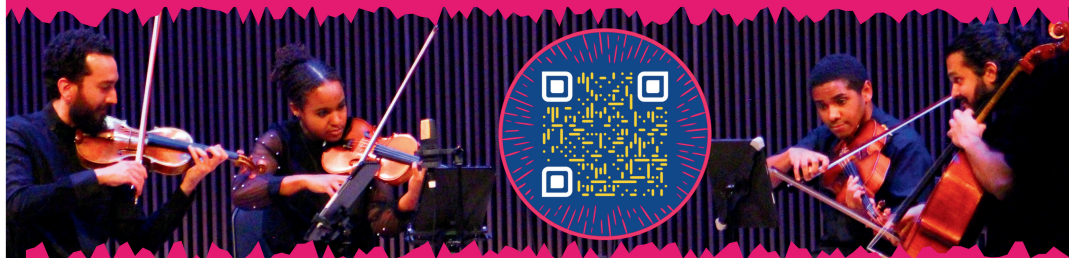
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UCCS University of Colorado
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L.A. PHIL TRIO
9.18.26

Stars align in Season opener! Principal clarinetist of the LA Phil is joined by principal bassoonist Whitney Crockett

PROGRESSION
10.23.26

Witness tonal evolution from Mozart to Schönberg to Pepin. Sparks will fly!

**THE AMERNET
QUARTET**
11.20.26

"Intelligence...and immensely satisfying – most notable for the quality of unjaded discovery that came through so vividly."

–The New York Times

CHARLIBEAN
1.29.27

Exploration of treasures for piano and woodwinds continues. Featuring pianist Andrew Staupé and All Star woodwinds from across the US

**BRAHMS
CLARINET
WITH IVALAS**
2.26.27

The beloved Ivalas String Quartet joins forces with EPIC director, clarinetist Sergei Vassiliev for the eternal Brahms Clarinet Quintet

TIM MCALLISTER
SAXOPHONE
5.7.27

"[Tim is] a fearless musician and risk taker...a one-of-a-kind artist the way Yo-Yo Ma is"

–John Adams, Pulitzer Prize Laureate and Grammy-winning composer

