A THOUSAND THUNDERBOLTS
presented in partnership with the Committee on Lectures

The Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra commemorates the victims of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921

LIVE BROADCAST
SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2021
7:30 PM
bit.ly/ISUSymph-Live
From the Artistic Director

A Thousand Thunderbolts was conceived in the summer of 2020, a time of historic racial unrest in the United States. As crowds gathered across the nation to demand change, corporations, institutions, and organizations alike rushed to issue statements in support of racial justice, in the hope that words would absolve them of their own contributions to decades, if not centuries of historic wrongs. This rhetoric cost them nothing, and unaccompanied by meaningful action, changed nothing. American citizens were still denied opportunities, still lost their jobs, lost their houses, and lost their lives for no other reason than the color of their skin.

Unlike many other arts entities, the Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra did not issue a statement then. Nor is Symphony of Diversity 2021 our statement: it is our action, the most concrete manifestation of our support and solidarity with these communities still fighting for justice. By commemorating the victims of one of the most shameful, tragic chapters in America’s past, the ISU Symphony seeks to illuminate the present, with the intention of helping shape a better future.

Apart from the testimony of a living survivor of the Massacre, all the words spoken tonight date back a century or more, brought to life by the spiritual inheritors of the mantle shouldered by the original authors. Iowa State University is represented by Artist in Residence Tiffany Johnson, also Artistic Director of Des Moines’ Pyramid Theater. Dr. Tiffany Crutcher leads a Tulsa civil rights foundation named after her twin brother Terence, killed by a police officer at a traffic stop in 2016. B.C. Franklin’s eyewitness account of the Massacre is delivered by Reuben Gant, Executive Director of a Tulsa organization dedicated to racial reconciliation, that bears the name of Franklin’s son. Reverend Dr. Robert Turner is pastor of AME Vernon Church in Tulsa, the only edifice to survive the total demolition of the Greenwood district during the Massacre. Dr. Turner can be found every Wednesday outside Tulsa City Council chambers, bullhorn in hand, demanding justice for his congregation, past and present.

Presented in alternation with the historic speeches are works by Black American composers: their musical meditations or reflections on grief, sorrow, anger, and the divine. But there is also joy and beauty. To that spiritual birthright of every person in this country, we add our voices in calling for their legal birthright: justice.

Jonathan Gauvis
PROGRAMME
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Suite from The Quiet One: V. Crisis  Ulysses Kay (1917-1995)

The Great Problem to be Solved (excerpt)  Frances Ellen Watkins (1825-1911)

Tiffany Johnson, Artist in Residence
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theater

Out of the Silence  William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Lynch Laws in America (excerpt)  Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)

Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, Executive Director
Terence Crutcher Foundation, Tulsa

Five Movements in Color: II. Soul of Remembrance  Mary Watkins (b. 1939)

The Tulsa Race Massacre and Three of its Victims (excerpt)  B.C. Franklin (1879-1960)

Reuben Gant, Executive Director
John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Tulsa

Source Code  Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

A Survivor’s Testimony  Lessie Randle (b. 1914)

Lessie Randle

String Quartet in G: II. Andante Moderato  Florence Price (1887-1953)

Men of Niagara (excerpt)  W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963)

Reverend Dr. Robert Turner, Pastor
AME Vernon Church, Tulsa

Lyric for Strings  George Walker (1922-2018)
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Jonathan Govias, Music Director

FLUTE & PICCOLO
Zoe Dorr*, Polk City

OBOE
Rachel Keske*, Sugar Grove IL
Eleanor Chalstrom, Sioux City

CLARINET
Kenidy Moeller*, Ankeny
Braeden Wehyrich, Boone

BASSOON
Mary Dratz*, Eagan MN
Ben Havens, Omaha NE

HORN
Logan TeKolste*, Altoona
Keeley Taylor, Maple Grove MN

TRUMPET
Rebecca Gomez*, Johnson
Jonah Tibbits*, Ames

TROMBONE
Alex Schwarte*, West Des Moines

HARP
Matilda Hogan, Ames

PIANO
Amanda Jennings†, Ames

PERCUSSION
Harris Rogerson*, Red Oak

VIOLIN I
Amelia Dixon‡, Adel
Olivia Helton‡, Des Moines
Heather Auwerda, La Grange IL
Kaya Zdan, Iowa City
Corey Lieu, Arlington Heights IL
Emilee Evans, Kansas City MO
Calvin Kanz, Cedar Rapids
Elaina Borg, Ames

VIOLIN II
Taylor Hanson, Cedar Falls
Elise Poulsen, Des Moines
Hannah Nguyen, Cedar Rapids
Anders Glad, West Des Moines
Claire Roe, Polk City

VIOLA
Nathan Bellows*, Cedar Rapids
Jack Kolker, Peosta
Sarah Glade, Sioux City
Emma Staut, Buffalo MN

VIOLONCELLO
Meiya Weeks*, Ames
Adrian Guan, Ames
Eva Dalstra, Fort Madison
Katelyn Hartman, Le Mars
Isabella Ayala, Marion
Jack Bonde, Davenport

CONTRABASS
Christopher Sell*, Cedar Falls
Alex Nicoletlis, Napierville, IL
Jacob Swanson, West Des Moines

ISU VIOLIN & VIOLA FACULTY
Prof. Borivoj Martinić-Jeřčić

ISU CELLO & BASS FACULTY
Prof. George Work

LIBRARIAN
Elise Poulsen

STAGE MANAGERS
Isabella Ayala
Rachel Keske

‡ denotes concertmaster
* denotes principal
† denotes special guest
About the Artistic Director

A student of Kurt Masur, Marin Alsop and David Zinman, conductor Jonathan Andrew Govias has worked with some of the leading ensembles of the world, including the symphonies of Montréal, Cincinnati, Kansas City, San Diego, the Tonhalle Orchester of Zurich, the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada and the Teresa Carreño Orchestra of Caracas.

He is the Artistic Director of Symphony of Diversity, an initiative that received national media attention in the US for its success in normalizing the presence of female and minority composers and performers in the concert hall. He is also Artistic Director of the Kay Meek Young Orchestras Encounter in Vancouver, a program that brings together multiple university, high school and middle school orchestras from across the region and the continent, for a week of engagement, interaction and performance.

As a youth orchestra and music education specialist, he has worked with leading outreach programs in England, Scotland, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Canada, Israel and South Africa, performing and demonstrating cutting-edge rehearsal techniques for social engagement. His keynote addresses on ensemble direction and music education since October 2010 include academic institutions such as the University of Western Ontario, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Cape Town University, Liverpool John Moores University, Western Washington University; centres for industry and innovation such Hub Zurich and Hub Vienna; two national symposia on the Arts in Education at London’s South Bank Centre; and NAMM and the music education association conferences for the provinces of Alberta and Quebec.

In addition to a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from McGill University, Govias is the recipient of multiple honours, including the Priddy Fellowship in Arts Leadership, the Reinhard Mohn Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurship, and the Abreu Fellowship at the New England Conservatory. Now on his third career, as Director of Orchestral Activities at Iowa State University, he previously worked as a Marketing Director for a major symphony orchestra, and as a corporate consultant for a German media multinational before returning to music.
Please consider supporting our work.

Symphony of Diversity is an initiative to pair the power of the Arts with true social impact, forging a new place and a new role for an orchestra within a community. If tonight’s performance resonates within you, please consider supporting the Orchestra program at Iowa State University. Over half the orchestra’s annual budget comes from ticket sales. Our revenue during the pandemic is zero. When you give to the ISU Symphony, you support musical and social community engagement at the regional, national and international levels. The ISU Orchestra goes beyond music. It is a force multiplier for improving lives at and far beyond the university.

Donations to the orchestra may be made online at www.isuf.info/orchestra