LEON BOTSTEIN conductor

WILLIAM SHARP baritone
DONALD BERMAN piano
J. PETER BURKHOLDER host

CONCERT TIMELINE

2 hours and 30 minutes

The Fourth	Central Park	Orchestral Set				
of July	in the Dark	No. 2	Intermission	Symphony No. 2	Discussion	
6 min	8 min	16 min	20 min	38 min		



Charles Ives

Born 10/20/1874 in Danbury, CT **Died** 5/19/1954 at age 79 in New York City

The Fourth of July from the Holidays Symphony

Written c. 1914–18, in Ives' early 40s; revised 1931

Premiered 2/21/1932 in Paris; musicians from the Orchestre Symphonique de Paris; Nicolas Slonimsky *conductor*

Central Park in the Dark

Written c. 1909, at age 34; revised 1936 Premiered c. 1907–08, as per Ives' recollection

First documented performance: 5/11/1946 at the McMillin Theatre at Columbia University; Juilliard Graduate School student orchestra; Theodore Bloomfield *conductor*

Orchestral Set No. 2

An Elegy to Our Forefathers *4 min*The Rockstrewn Hills Join in the People's Outdoor
Meeting *5 min*

From Hanover Square North, at the End of a Tragic Day, the Voice of the People Again Arose 7 min

Assembled c. 1919, at age 44

Premiered 2/11/1967 in Chicago; Chicago Symphony

Orchestra; Morton Gould conductor

Intermission

MEET & GREET some of the musicians in the lobby

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REFRESHMENTS available in the lobby

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Symphony No. 2

Andante moderato (moderately slow) 6 min
Allegro molto (con spirito) (very fast, with spirit) 11 min
Adagio cantabile (slow, in a singing style) 9 min
Lento maestoso (slow and majestic) 2 min
Allegro molto vivace (very fast and lively) 10 min
no pause after the first and fourth movements

Written c. 1902–09, in Ives' late 20s and early 30s Premiered 2/22/1951 at Carnegie Hall; New York Philharmonic; Leonard Bernstein *conductor*

The audience is invited to stay after the performance for a discussion with Botstein, Sharp, Burkholder, Berman, and cultural historian Joseph Horowitz.



Our new album, *Exodus*, is now available!

Heard in concert in Fall 2023, these works were written by Jewish composers while they were in exile from their homelands during World War II: Josef Tal's *Exodus*, Walter Kaufmann's *Indian Symphony*, and Marcel Rubin's Symphony No. 4, *Dies irae*.

Purchase the album in the lobby, or stream it on all major platforms.

All timings are approximate.

¶ ⊚ X ▶ @TheOrchNow



Charles Ives' America

SAT 11/16/24 at 7 PM & SUN 11/17/24 at 2 PM

Performances #284 & #285 Season 10, Concerts 11 & 12

Fisher Center at Bard Sosnoff Theater

The Music

THE FOURTH OF JULY FROM THE HOLIDAYS SYMPHONY

Notes by TŌN tuba player Tyler Woodbury

In Charles Ives' *The Fourth of July*, the clash of patriotic tunes and nostalgic memories creates a kaleidoscopic soundscape that transports listeners to a regular Independence Day in New England. Ives wrote this piece as part of a larger work, the *Holidays* Symphony, which also includes movements titled "Washington's Birthday", "Decoration Day", and "Thanksgiving and Forefathers' Day". Altogether, his plan was to depict the passing of the seasons as he came to know them during his longtime residency in New England. As a native of the region myself, I can confirm that the mark of the summertime spirit concurs with Ives' choice of the Fourth of July.

In my eyes, one of the most important aspects of this work is the idea of childhood memories. Especially as time passes, we can get a skewed view of the past in our minds. There can be small snippets of a moment, sometimes overlapping and evolving into a completely fabricated thought, rather than a memory. Or something forgotten can rush back to you instantly with one little spark. One way or another, memories are far from crystal clear pictures of the past, which is exactly how lives composed his reminiscence

of this holiday. In fact, nothing about Ives' style can be described as "crystal clear", but rather he is known for his overlapping musical quotations, distorted melodies, and complex harmonies. Almost as if you were watching decaying film, these elements come together to create a hazy yet realistic sound of the past.

CENTRAL PARK IN THE DARK

Notes by TŌN violinist Haley Maurer Gillia

Central Park in the Dark is a miniature tone poem written by Charles Ives around 1909. While Ives is now regarded as one of the 20th century's most influential American composers, he actually had a full-time job in insurance and found most of his success and recognition after his death.

The work showcases the new ways Ives found to depict sonically the world around him: through polytonality, tone clusters, dissonance, and layering. The piece is meant to describe a hot summer night in Central Park, with the sounds of nature and urban life, from a park bench. Interestingly, Ives explains that these are his musings on how the park used to be "before the combustion engine and radio monopolized the earth and air." This nostalgia is especially poignant from our vantage point in 2024, well over 100 years after Ives wrote it. It creates a sense of connection—even in 1909 he was considering what the city was like before technology changed so many things. As someone born and raised in

New York City, summer in the city evokes specific feelings, and I feel a connection to Ives' vision even a century later. In the city, there is always a layering—of smells, sounds, visuals—and a density to the sound and thickness of the summer city heat, even in the park. This is palpable in the composition of the work. To me, the strings that open the piece represent the omnipresent heat and the surrounding nature.

After the strings begin, different instruments enter, slowly introducing us to more elements of the scene, building up texture and density. This overlaying, or collage, technique of musical lines creates a cacophony that brings to life the city Ives has imagined: ragtime piano, a siren, a horse-drawn carriage, nature, and the hot summer night all mixing together. As you listen, consider what these sounds might represent to you; you can be on the Central Park bench in 1906, imagining what the park might have been like even before then, or you could be in Brooklyn's Prospect Park in 2004, as I was, or in 2024, in a seat at Carnegie Hall.

ORCHESTRAL SET NO. 2

Notes by TŌN violinist Haley Schricker

Ives frequently had a roundabout way of stitching together his musical ideas into their final forms, and his Orchestral Set No. 2 is no exception. It was conceived of not as a single narrative, but as three distinct pieces, written in the 1910s and assembled around 1919. Each movement is a sort of vignette composed of melodic fragments, giving off an intentionally disjunct impression.

The first movement, "An Elegy to Our Forefathers", begins with an atmosphere of otherworldly sounds, produced by an offstage ensemble scored for zither, harp, chimes, and bells. It sounds so ahead of its time that when I first heard the opening of this piece, I couldn't believe I was hearing

something written over 100 years ago! This eerie beginning is followed by indistinct paraphrases of Stephen Foster melodies and hymn tunes, along with a snippet from the African American spiritual like "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

The rambunctious second movement, "The Rockstrewn Hills Join in the People's Outdoor Meeting", reflects the camprevival meetings Ives attended in his youth. It features a collage of hymn tunes like "Bringing In the Sheaves" along with folk songs such as "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and "Rock-a-bye Baby", all reimagined as ragtimes. If a ragtime "Rock-a-bye Baby" wasn't enough of a surprise, the middle section of the movement features some of Ives' most strikingly dissonant music—and that is a high bar! After all the calamity, the movement concludes with a gentle coda.

Can you imagine commuting to work as usual when suddenly those around you spontaneously join their voices in song? This moment that Ives experienced was a reaction to the news having broken out of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania by the German Navy on May 7, 1915. Ives was so moved by the reaction of the crowd that day that it inspired the final movement of this set, "From Hanover Square North, at the End of a Tragic Day, the Voice of the People Again Arose". The choir intones the Te Deum at the beginning, followed by snippets of other melodies intertwining until "In the Sweet By and By" is clearly heard. A solo accordion finishes the melody and fades away, until all that remains is the "background noise" effect created by a separate smaller ensemble.

SYMPHONY NO. 2

Notes by TŌN violinist Emerie Mon

Charles Ives has no shortage of personal descriptors to boast of: actuary, composer, prodigy organist, Yalie, and most significant

of all, Connecticut native. Although he wrote six symphonies during his career, his Symphony No. 2 is notable due to the fact that it was composed around a particularly pivotal time in his life. After graduating from Yale University in 1898 Ives moved to New York, having decided to go into the insurance business over his already-established successful career as an organist. This decision to re-prioritize music and composing as a mere creative outlet likely contributed to the increasingly free and experimental outlook present in his works thereafter.

The soundscape of the Second Symphony is a beautiful hodgepodge of Ives' life experiences as the son of a bandmaster, picking up hymns at church services, hearing vernacular music and folk songs intown, and, of course, a Western European

music education at Yale to top it all off. Set in five movements, one can hear aspects of classical giants such as Beethoven, Brahms, and Dvořák which induce a strong feeling of the sublime. On the other end, tunes like "America the Beautiful" in the third movement and "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean" most obviously in the first and fifth movements make faceted appearances, alongside nods to Ives' own earlier works. All combined, it hints at the direction in which the likes of Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, and Still would expand decades into the future. Moments of lush orchestration, choral and expansive, make his ear for harmony from the perspective of an organist amply known; and with a punchline of an ending, this symphony is an aurally engaging and cinematic adventure up to its last note.

The Artists

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor



Leon Botstein is founder and music director of The Orchestra Now (TŌN), music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO), artistic codirector of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival, and conductor laureate and principal guest conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO), where he served as music director from 2003 to 2011. He has been guest conductor

with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre, Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Taipei Symphony, Simón Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfónica Juvenil de Caracas in Venezuela, among others. In 2018, he assumed artistic directorship of Campus Grafenegg and Grafenegg Academy in Austria.

Recordings include acclaimed recordings of Othmar Schoeck's *Lebendig begraben* with TŌN, Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner* with the ASO, a Grammy-nominated recording of Popov's First Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra, and other various recordings with TŌN, ASO, the London Philharmonic, NDR Orchestra Hamburg, and JSO, among others. He is

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editor of The Musical Quarterly and author of numerous articles and books, including The Compleat Brahms (Norton), Jefferson's Children (Doubleday), Judentum und Modernität (Bölau), and Von Beethoven zu Berg (Zsolnay). Honors include Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award; the American Academy of Arts and Letters award; and Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria, for his contributions to music. Other distinctions include the Bruckner Society's Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor for his interpretations of that composer's music, the Leonard Bernstein Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, and Carnegie Foundation's Academic Leadership Award. In 2011, he was inducted into the American Philosophical Society.

DONALD BERMAN piano



Donald Berman is a multi-dimensional American pianist, scholar, and educator who has consistently placed an emphasis on 20th and 21st century music, and on American composers in particular. He has made dozens of recordings on a variety of labels, both as soloist and as collaborative pianist. An enthusiastic commissioner of new music, he has added over 200 works to the contemporary canon. His body of work as a recording artist demonstrates both the breadth and depth of his engagement with music of our time. Many of his recordings are world premieres, but he has also illuminated historic and previously unknown works of American composers (Americans in Rome) Bridge; The Unknown Ives vols. 1 & 2 /CRI,

New World; The Uncovered Ruggles/New World), performed with orchestras (George Perle: Serenades/BMOP, Christopher Theofanidis' Piano Concerto/Summit), collaborated with singers (This Island and The Edge of Silence with Susan Narucki / Avie), and with chamber ensembles (The Worlds Revolve with Borromeo Quartet/ Avie). His recording of Ives' Concord Sonata was met with international acclaim in 2024.

Mr. Berman, a Radcliffe scholar, is general editor of three volumes of *Charles Ives' Shorter Works for Piano*, a project finished in 2022 that took 30 years to complete. He is chair of keyboard studies at The Longy School of Music of Bard College and directs the New Music Ensemble at Tufts University. In his position as president of the board of The Charles Ives Society, he is curating an extensive expansion of the Society's Ives archive, a treasure trove of in-depth information accessible to all via charlesives.org.

Mr. Berman's trajectory as a musician and scholar was set in motion by four important teachers: Mildred Victor, George Barth, and principally John Kirkpatrick (who premiered the *Concord* Sonata in 1939) and legendary pedagogue Leonard Shure.

J. PETER BURKHOLDER host



J. Peter Burkholder is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Musicology at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and author of the four most recent editions of A History of Western Music and Norton

Anthology of Western Music. He has served as President of the American Musicological Society and of the Charles Ives Society, and his scholarship on Charles Ives, modern music, musical borrowing, and music history pedagogy has won numerous awards and has been translated into six languages. He was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society for American Music in 2024. His most recent book is Listening to Charles Ives: Variations on His America (2021).

WILLIAM SHARP baritone



Baritone William Sharp has a reputation as a singer of artistry and versatility, garnering acclaim for his work in concert, recital, opera, and recording. He performs actively and has appeared with most major American symphony orchestras, including New York, Chicago, Washington, Boston, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. His discography of several dozen discs encompasses music spanning 900 years, from the 12th century to today. He joined the Peabody Conservatory faculty in 2002. His students are performing throughout the world in concert and opera.

THE ORCHESTRA NOW (TŌN)

Founded in 2015 by Bard College and led by Leon Botstein, TŌN is a graduate program that is training the next generation of music professionals, offering a master's degree or an advanced certificate. The members of the orchestra are graduates of the world's leading conservatories, and hail from countries across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Many have gone on to have successful careers in orchestras around the world.

TŌN performs dozens of concerts a year at venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Fisher Center at Bard. The orchestra has performed with numerous distinguished guest conductors and soloists, including Leonard Slatkin, Gil Shaham, Neeme Järvi, Stephanie Blythe, Fabio Luisi, Vadim Repin, Joseph Young, Peter Serkin, Naomi Woo, and JoAnn Falletta

Among TŌN's many albums on the Hyperion, Sorel Classics, and AVIE labels are May 2024's *The Lost Generation* and rare recordings of Othmar Schoeck's *Lebendig begraben* and Bristow's *Arcadian* Symphony. Recordings of TŌN's live concerts from the Fisher Center can be heard regularly on Classical WMHT-FM and WWFM The Classical Network, and the orchestra has appeared over 100 times on *Performance Today*, broadcast nationwide.

More info at ton.bard.edu.

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Leon Botstein, Music Director

Violin I

Chance McDermott
Concertmaster
Samuel Frois
Hanyu Feng
Nayoung Kim
Lana Auerbach
Seunghye Park
Lap Yin Lee
José Manuel Pietri-Coimbre
Yuchen Zhao
Emerie Mon
Luca Sakon
Mingyue Xia IAP '25

Violin II

Haley Schricker Principal
Haley Maurer Gillia
Angeles Hoyos
Zeyi Sun
Heather Lambert
Shengjia (Sherry) Zhang
Jonathan Fenwick
Enikő Samu
Carlos Torres
Katherine Chernyak '24
Yaewon Choi*

Viola

Enoch Ng *Principal*Chia-Mei (Lily) Li
Michael Halbrook
Samuel Omalyev
Tania Ladino Ramirez
Elizabeth Chernyak '24
Keegan Donlon
Nelsy Badia

Cello

Shawn Thoma Principal Alfred Western Dariimaa Batsaikhan Jihyun Hwang Elvira Hoyos Malagon Michael Zyzak Sam Boundy Anita Balázs

Bass

Jack Corcoran *Principal*Shion Kim
Holdan Arbey Silva Acosta
Yu-Cih Chang
Zacherie Small
Jud Mitchell

Flute

Jordan Arbus *Principal* ¹⁻³ Olivia Chaikin *Principal* ⁴ Chase McClung *Piccolo* ^{1,2,4}

Oboe

Quinton Bodnár-Smith Principal^{1,2} David Zoschnick Principal⁴ Yejin Kim

Clarinet

Colby Bond *Principal* ^{1,3} Dávid Kéringer *Principal* ² Zachary Gassenheimer *Principal* ⁴

Bassoon

Miranda Macias *Principal* ¹⁻³ Kylie Bartlett *Principal* ⁴ Chaoyang Jing *Contrabassoon*

Horn

Ziming Zhu Principal ^{1,3} Stefan Williams Principal ⁴ Daniel Itzkowitz Tori Boell Douglas Nunes Assistant ⁴

Trumpet

Forrest Albano *Principal* ^{1,4} Giulia Rath *Principal* ^{2,3}

Mark Kovács Jid-anan Netthai *Cornet*⁷ Eric Evans APS '26

Trombone

Stephen Whimple
Principal 1-3
Zachary Johnson Principal 4
Samuel Boeger Bass
Trombone

Tuba

Tyler Woodbury

Accordion

Sean Gallagher

Timpani

Pei Hsien (Ariel) Lu

Percussion

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¹The Fourth of July

²Central Park in the Dark

³Orchestral Set No. 2

⁴Symphony No. 2

^{*} not performing in this concert

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As we begin our celebration of the orchestra's 10th Anniversary season, TON gratefully acknowledges the generosity of each and every donor who makes our work possible. Ticket sales cover less than a guarter of the expenses for our concerts and educational initiatives. With the sustained support of audiences like you, we can continue this unique educational program for classical musicians on the cusp of professional careers. Thank you for making this important investment in the future of classical music.

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THE ORCHESTRA NOW

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Jared Goldstein Director of Production Dávid Bánóczi-Ruof '22 Production Administrator

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Lex Morton Audio Supervisor Duane Lauginiger Head Audio Engineer

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Moe Schell Costume Supervisor Parker Nelson First Hand Sara Sa Assistant Costume Shop Manager

Lighting

Josh Foreman Lighting Supervisor Walli Daniels Electrician Nick Hawrylko Head Electrician

Orchestra

Stephen Dean Orchestra Production Manager Grace Anne Orchestra Stage Manager

10 / THE ORCHESTRA NOW TON.BARD.EDU / 11 Liz Cohen Assistant Stage Manager
LJ McCaw Orchestra Stage
Manager
Nora Ruhenstone '11 Associate

Nora Rubenstone '11 Associate Orchestra Production Manager

Scenic

Rick Reiser Technical Director Zoe Barash Carpenter Sam Dickson '19 Carpenter Eric Leary Assistant Technical Director

Maggie McFarland '21 Props Coordinator

Mike Murphy Carpenter
Hick Renadette Head Rigger/
Flyperson
Michael Risio Carpenter

Sosnoff Stage Crew

Samuel Boeger TŌN '25 Stagehand Tori Conner IAP '25 Stagehand Anastasia Dong '24 CMC '25

Stagehand Nicolás Gómez Amín GCP '25 Stagehand

Hamed Haidari '25 Stagehand Stanley Legan '26 Stagehand Beitong Liu '23 CMC '24 Stagehand

João Melo '25 Percussion Coordinator

Eszter Pokai '25 Stagehand Adriana Rivera Corujo Stagehand Naysa Roquemore '28 Stagehand Robert Strickstein Stagehand Jun Yokomizo-Mauldin '25 Stagehand Mara Zaki '25 Deck Supervisor

Video

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Theater & Performance and Dance Programs

Jennifer Lown Program
Administrator
Sabrina Sa Artistic and
Administrative Assistant

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Irene Zedlacher

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Leon Botstein Christopher H. Gibbs

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Francesca Brittan Sarah Hibberd

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