



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
351 West University Boulevard | Cedar City, UT 84720

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Michael French
Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator
College of Performing and Visual Arts
Southern Utah University
Office: 435-865-8667
michaelfrench@suu.edu

**SUU's DEPT. OF MUSIC OFFERS TWO MASTERWORKS CONCERTS
JUPITER ASCENDING, A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT AND
THE BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM,
MARKING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR'S END**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The joyous sounds of **SUU's Symphony Orchestra** and a remarkable concert commemorating the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War launch the **Department of Music's Masterworks 2015-2016 Season Series**. The season begins officially on **Wednesday, October 28** with *Jupiter Ascending*, An **SUU Symphony Orchestra** and then on **Friday, October 30** with **SUU's Wind Symphony and Choirs** performing *The Battle Cry of Freedom*. Both concerts concert are scheduled to be performed at Cedar City's **Heritage Center Theater** and performance begin at **7:30pm**. Tickets are **\$10** for adults, **\$8** for alumni with card and **\$5** for youth. **SUU faculty, staff and students are admitted free with a valid I.D. card.**

Under the direction of **Dr. Xun Sun**, the Symphony Orchestra performs a diverse program including the first and fourth movements of Robert Schumann's "Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 38" also known as the "Spring Symphony," and selections from Danny Elfman's score for the film *Spider-Man*. The concert features **Ms. Xinwen Fu** as guest artist who will conduct the SUU Symphony Orchestra for one selection, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Symphony No. 41 in C major" known as the "Jupiter Symphony" (which inspired the concert's title).

Making his SUU debut as conductor, **Dr. Steven Meredith** has conceived the concert *The Battle Cry of Freedom* which features SUU's Wind Symphony, Concert, Opus and Women's Choirs. The performance spotlights great American music in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil war, including special arrangements of Civil War era music such as *Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *Tenting Tonight*, *The Battle Cry of Freedom* and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Also featured on the program will be Morton Gould's *American Salute*, Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom*, folk music such as *Cindy* and *Shenandoah*, and spirituals such as *Deep River*, *Ride the Chariot*, and *All My Trials*.

The Battle Cry of Freedom will be emceed by **SUU President Scott Wyatt** who will provide special narration. There will be performances by guest artists the **Red Rock Singers** and **Canyon View High School's A Cappella Choir**. The concert will include a performance inspired by a love letter by soldier Sullivan Ballou to his wife Sarah, staged by **Shauna Mendini**, Dean of SUU's College of Performing and Visual Arts, featuring acting students **Samantha Allred** and **Trevor Messenger** and **Dr. Xun Sun**, violin, and **Tracey Bradshaw**, piano, performing an arrangement of Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell." The concert will be ideal for community members, faculty, students and American History enthusiasts.

Dr. Xun Sun serves as Director of Orchestral Activities at Southern Utah University, conducts SUU's Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble and teaches Advanced Instrumental Conducting and Applied Instruction of Violin at the Music Department. Dr. Sun continues to teach the master classes in conducting in Hunan, China. Mr. Sun has continually broadened his professional career as an orchestral conductor and has conducted the world premiere of the *Dream of Helen*, a collaboration between SUU and the Hubei Opera and Dance Drama Theatre of China. He conducted the world renowned China Philharmonic Orchestra in a recording called *America Journey* with music by American composers Marshall McDonald and Steve Nelson. In 2007, he was invited to conduct the Lviv Philharmonic in the 8th International Contemporary Music Festival in Ukraine. Mr. Sun has conducted opera performances including Carlisle Floyd's *Susanna*, Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*. Dr. Sun serves as the Music Director/Conductor of the Orchestra of Southern Utah (OSU). Under his leadership, the OSU world has premiered the symphonic suite "Spanish Trail Suite" by Marshall McDonald and Steve Nelson. Born in the city of Taiyuan, China, Dr. Xun Sun began his formal music training and violin studies at Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China at age 11 through the government's scholarship program for exceptional music students. This substantial music training led him to successful graduate studies in the United States. Under the Evelyn Ryan Nelson Concertmaster Fellowship at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory of Music, he earned master's degrees in Instrumental Conducting and Violin Performance. He holds a Doctor's Degree in Education from Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York.

Dr. Steven Meredith is the Director of Choral Activities and Music Technology Southern Utah University. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Choral Music Education from the University of Utah, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from Arizona State University. He is a certified instructor with the Technology Institute for Music Educators (TI:ME) and is an Apple Certified Pro. Dr. Meredith was originally appointed to develop the (pending) Master of Music degree in Music Technology at SUU, and was additionally appointed to the choral position in the fall of 2015.

As a conductor, Dr. Meredith's choirs have been in great demand for their flexibility of tone and ability to perform a wide variety of literature. Recent performances include Josh Groban's *In the Round Tour* in

Salt Lake City and Las Vegas, *Star Wars Live* (International Tour) touring performances of *Video Games Live* with the Utah, Las Vegas and Golden West Symphony Orchestras and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He is also the conductor for the Synagogue for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Meredith is also one of the most sought-after concert vocal performers in the United States. As a bass-baritone vocal soloist, he has been described as a performer of "uncommon intelligence and musicality" (*San Antonio Express-News*) with a tone described as "seamless and superb" (*Arizona Republic*). A favorite of conductor Robert Shaw, Dr. Meredith sang Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and *9th Symphony* under his direction with orchestras throughout the United States. Dr. Meredith has also appeared with other notable conductors, including Margaret Hillis, Hermann Michael, Stewart Robertson, and Robert Page. In Utah, he has performed numerous times with the Utah Symphony and Opera, as well as being a featured vocal soloist and guest conductor with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Dr. Meredith has also had a significant career as a studio voice artist and producer and has appeared in films, film trailers and on many national and local commercial recordings. He has been heard nationally and internationally in work for IMAX films, ABC Sports, *Xena: Warrior Princess* and the LDS Church. He was featured as a soloist in the BYU-TV miniseries, *Fires of Faith*. As a studio producer, Dr. Meredith has specialized in integrated media (graphics, video, music) for both recorded and live applications. For commercial clients, he has created radio and television commercials, audio books, presentational materials, and original background and foreground music as well as producing a large number of live events integrating sound and visual images. For educational clients, he has produced several large-scale artistic works integrating live music, video and dance.

Beginning in 2010, Dr. Meredith released his first commercially available CD: *Christmas Cometh Caroling: The Complete Alfred Burt Carols*, and has followed that up with additional releases, including *Christmas Tapestry* (featuring Blend5) in 2011, and *Songs of the World* in 2012. He is currently working with the EMH Classical Music label to produce Christmas works for the Warner/Chappell music library. All of his CDs are available from a variety of online sources and local retailers.

Don't miss these remarkable concerts. For more information on SUU's College of Performing and Visual Arts' events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as the new Center for Shakespeare Studies and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. The Center for Shakespeare Studies offers a minor in Shakespeare Studies. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the

College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: *JUPITER ASCENDING*, A SUU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT, AND *THE BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM* CELEBRATING 150th ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL WAR'S END

- WHAT:** The joyous sounds of SUU's Symphony Orchestra and a remarkable concert commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's end launch the Department of Music's Masterworks 2015-2016 Season Series. The season begins officially on Wednesday, October 28 with *Jupiter Ascending*, An SUU Symphony Orchestra Concert, and then on Friday, October 30 with SUU's Wind Symphony and Choirs performing *The Battle Cry of Freedom*.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Department of Music
- WHEN:** *Jupiter Ascending*, Wednesday, October 28, 2015
The Battle Cry of Freedom, Friday, October, 30, 2015
- TIME:** 7:30pm
- WHERE:** Heritage Center Theater, Cedar City, UT
- TICKETS:** Adults: \$10, Alumni with card: \$8, Youth: \$5
SUU faculty, staff & students free with a valid I.D. card
- PURCHASE:** Centrum Ticket Office, 435-586-7872 (Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm)
Online: www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts