



## Ben Van Winkle and The Figment

February 17, 2024 | 7:30 PM

### **Welcome to our Digital Program**

Thank you for making use of our new digital program book! Please dim your phone brightness and silence your phone for the duration of the performance.

### **Program**

Please silence your device and dim your screen for the duration of the performance to minimize distraction for those around you.

Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Presents BEN VAN WINKLE & THE FIGMENT

## February 17, 2024 | 7:30 PM Walker Theatre

#### **BEN VAN WINKLE**

THE FIGMENT
Given Graber | electric bass
Ethan McGrath | piano
Gordon Inman | sax/reeds
Keith Lloyd | drummer
Lon Eldridge | guitar

Adrienne Ziarkowski | dancer Maria Jordania | singer

Video/audio recording of this concert is prohibited.

#### Act I - A Medley (34")

Falling Leaves
Garden
Supernatural?
Duet
Arkai
Driving Buddy
Thru
New Shoe

#### Act II - MYTHS (31")

Insatiable desire
Goddess Waltz
Only Time
Daffodils
Able
Tentation Infinie
Fall Too Hard
I Don't Need It
Tempted By the Effort
Stay a While

## INTERMISSION (15")

#### Act III- Alive (38")

Introduction
Time to Be Alive
Some Would Say
Everything is Energy?
Blur and Beach

#### Figment Have a Good Time Real You

#### This performance is funded in part by:



## ARTSBuild

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by a federal award number SLFRP5534 awarded to the State of Tennessee by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

#### **Artist Biography**



#### **Ben Van Winkle**

cellist, singer, composer

Ben Van Winkle is a cellist, singer and composer from Chattanooga Tennessee. He graduated from Tennessee Tech with a 4.0 in Mechanical Engineering, then in 2016 he quit his engineering job to

pursue music full time which he says was "all part of the plan". Since then he has made frequent appearances in the cello section of the Chattanooga Symphony, and has had two of his orchestral works, "Pure Music No.1" and "Sense of Scale" performed by the orchestra. In 2021 he composed a piece that is featured in "The Light We Share" - a feature length film produced by the local group "The Popup Project". Also in 2021 in collaboration with the Figment Chamber Ensemble, Ben released his debut album, "Saunter On" which is available on all platforms.

**Program Notes** 

Act I - A Medley

## Act I - A Medley

The first act consists of a selection of music that Van Winkle has released as well as a couple of short orchestral works. This act will start with a purely orchestral work called "Falling Leaves" which depicts the graceful dance of leaves as they first fall from the tree in autumn. After that many of the songs in this medley are from Van Winkle's debut album "Saunter On" except for "Arkai" which is another purely orchestral piece and "Garden" which was Van Winkle's first single.

**Act II - MYTHS** 

## **Act II - MYTHS**

The second act to be performed on this program is a suite of music called "MYTHS" that Van Winkle intends to record and release as an album. Each of the songs in this set of music is an allegory to an ancient Greek myth. Inspired by Carl Jung's idea of the need for all of us to find our "personal myth" that lives in each of our lives, Van Winkle attempts to represent these timeless stories with circumstances and emotional experiences from his own life, and that he has witnessed in the lives of others.

The first piece in this set, dubbed "Insatiable Desire", depicts the story of Euripides and Demeter where, for punishment for cutting down a tree sacred to her, Demeter curses Euripides to have insatiable hunger no matter how much he eats. Van Winkle relates this to the feeling he suspects we all feel from time to time where we just cannot satisfy ourselves no matter how much we eat. Following this is the short "Goddess Waltz" where our dancer, Adrienne Ziarkowsky is first introduced.

The next short installment, dubbed "Only Time" is told from the perspective of Chronos when he realizes that he's planted the seed for all of the future and the only way to see how it will unfold is to let time pass. This is tied closely with the scientific idea, spearheaded by Stephen Wolfram, of computational irreducibility, where there are no shortcuts in the chaotic system that is our universe, it must unfold on its own.

After that is a bubbly song called "Daffodils". This song depicts the untold happy ending of Echo and Narcissus. In the classic myth, Echo is cursed to only be able to repeat the words of other people, and Narcissus, after treating Echo poorly because of this, is cursed to fall in love with the reflection of himself that he sees in the water. After years and years, a daffodil grows in his place (This is where we get the scientific name for the flower, Narcissus!) In the song the characters explore their powers of reflection and use them to fall in love with each other, Narcissus reflects the way echo moves and Echo imitates the way he sings.

The next myth to be represented in song is the myth of "Tantalus" told in Van Winkle's "Tentation Infinie". According to the myth, Tantalus is cursed to be forever hungry and thirsty but with fruit a water just out of reach. The more that he reaches for the fruit on

the fruit tree the further it goes away, and the more he attempts to drink the water just at his feet, the further it recedes. Van Winkle relates this to romantic relationships that seem to become more and more impossible as one falls more and more in love.

Next we have "Fall Too Hard" which represents the myth of Icarus, who, despite being warned, flew too close to the sun and his wings burned which caused him to fall. Van Winkle relates this to how with many things in life, we are tempted to "see for ourselves", and sometimes being told not to do something only makes us want to do it even more.

In the next song, "I don't need it", Van Winkle relates the process of getting over an addiction, or getting out of a harmful dependent relationship, to the myth of Hecate, who is sometimes known as the Goddess of Boundaries.

The next "Tempted by the Effort" represents the myth of Sisyphus who is tasked with pushing a boulder to the top of a hill every day for eternity where it inevitably rolls back down to the bottom for him to push it again. Despite this, Sisyphus is not miserable, which is similar to how we can find the meaning and purpose in work itself and in the suffering that we experience in pursuit of the goal, not necessarily the goal itself.

The last song in this suite of music, "Stay A While" represents the myth of Eros and Psyche. The song depicts the ending of that myth where, after a long period of mutual betrayal and lack of trust, the two forgive each other and Eros offers that Psyche join him and live in the sky with the gods for eternity. The song depicts two lovers who haven't seen each other for quite some time who realize their mistakes, and commit that they have learned from them and that they are ready to give unbounding love to the other to the end of time.

**Act III - Alive** 

## **Act III - Alive**

The third act of this concert will comprise music that will go on to become an album called "Alive". This suite of music explores many of the different psychological and emotional experiences involved with being a human. The act starts with an "Introduction" which seems to be a passionate explosion into reality. One could see this as the big bang or an awakening of sorts. The second song, "Time to be Alive", depicts a gathering of friends coming together to celebrate. Certain gatherings can feel magical and give a sense of synergy to all the people who are there. This song is about that feeling, about sharing the present moment with others, about celebrating each other and the life we share together. "Some Would Say" muses about the idea that humans often are drawn to idols. So much so that they can create them knowingly just so they have someone or something to ground them and unite them. The song toys with the possibility of this being a beneficial and good thing in spite of the blatant delusional nature of it. The song "Everything is Energy" explores the theory that every piece of matter is made-up of the same thing, energy, and how there's nothing that separates each of us and every inanimate object we encounter. It questions the

definition of life and asks if the universe itself is alive. "Blur and Beach", a lyric-less piece designed to provide Ben with a deep soundscape for him to channel inner expression thru his improvised cello playing and singing. "Figment" questions what happens to all the different versions of ourselves that are lost to us every time we make a decision. Perhaps the alternate versions of ourselves go on to exist without us. Perhaps we have a sense for this extra dimension, and perhaps our decisions are influenced by our awareness of the multiple outcomes that can transpire from every moment. "Have a Good Time" Depicts the scene of someone at their deathbed reflecting on their life and coming to the conclusion that with all its ups and downs it's been a good life. They are happy knowing that they have experienced life in all of its exciting and also mundane forms, because perhaps when one transcends into everything-ness those experiences become invaluable memories that distinguish the soul from everything else. Although it is an intensely emotional experience they accept their fate and look forward to whatever is on the other side of death. "Real You" is a song about expression. It simply states that, when it comes down to it, people seem to appreciate genuine expression in others. Often we are so focused on how the outside sees us that we forget to see ourselves from the inside. This song is simply reminding us to dance confidently and disregard the opinions of the people watching, and to focus only on the movement of our bodies themselves.

#### **Musicians**

#### **Tonight's Musicians**

Violin 1

Joshua Holritz

Violin 2

Sheri Peck

Viola

Metiney Suwanawongse

Cello

Eric Reed

Bass

**Taylor Brown** 

**Flute** 

Kristen Holritz

Amelia Dicks

#### Oboe

Jessica Smithorn

#### **Clarinet**

Joseph Miller

#### **Bassoon**

Carlos Clark

#### **French Horn**

Gordon James

#### **Percussion**

David Pedigo

Nathan Shew

#### Harp

Kate Rogers

#### **CSO Contract Musicians**

#### Violin 1

Joshua Holritz, Associate Concertmaster

Nicholas Naegele, Assistant Concertmaster

Nathan Banks

**Caroline Drexler** 

Jeanne Johnson

David Katz

Calvin Lewis

Mark Reneau

Jasper Sewell

#### Violin 2

Sheri Peck, Principal Second Violin

Mary Benno

**Emily Drexler** 

Nick Hoy

Rebecca James

Rachael McFarlane

Lee Smith

Jennifer Whittle

#### Viola

Metiney Suwanawongse, Principal

Katelyn Hoag

Cristina Micci-Barreca

Casie Runkle

Susan Saliny Gabriel Schlaffer

#### Cello

Eric Reed, Principal Spencer Brewer Annie Camp Micah Donar Suzanne Sims Paul Vest

#### **Double Bass**

Taylor Brown, Principal Dexter Bell Kaleb Collins Jonathan McWilliams

#### **Flute**

Kristen Holritz, Principal Lisa Meyerhofer (Leave of Absence) Amelia Dicks, Principal Piccolo

#### Oboe

Jessica Smithorn, Principal Teresa Spilko Carey Shinbaum, English Horn

#### **Clarinet**

Robert West, Principal (Leave of Absence) Emily Bowland Joseph Miller, Bass Clarinet

#### **Bassoon**

Eric Anderson, Principal Shelby Jones G. Eddie McCrary, Contrabassoon

#### Horn

Gordon James, Principal Angela DeBoer Matthew Meadows Joseph Demko (Leave of Absence) Mackenzie Newell

#### **Trumpet**

Christian Pagnard, Principal Michael Brown

#### **Trombone**

Prentiss Hobbs, Principal Kevin Dombrowski Christopher Brown (Leave of Absence) Evan Clifton

#### Tuba

Neil Konouchi, Principal

#### **Timpani**

Alex Wadner, Principal

#### **Percussion**

Matthew West, Principal David Pedigo

#### Harp

Caroline Brown Hudson, Principal

#### **Keyboard**

Alan Nichols, Principal

#### **Donate**

Just as every musician has a role in a symphony orchestra, every donor plays a part.

Invest in your community by donating to the CSO today!

**DONATE** 





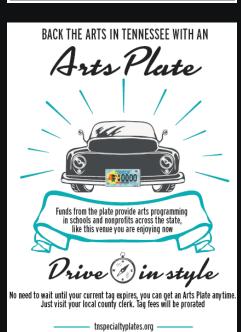


In 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression, the Chattanooga Symphony was established by an orchestra led by Melvin Margolin and Borden Jones. Since then, the CSO has bestowed a legacy of excellence in musical performance and education.

Fifty years later, in 1983, Barnett & Company began its legacy by offering personalized investment advice to help manage an ever-changing market. Barnett & Company specializes in investment management, financial planning, and provides estate planning consultations.

Barnett & Company applauds the musicians, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera for their continued dedication to the arts.

Contact us for your complimentary no-obligation consultation at 423.756.0125 or email jessica@barnettandcompany.com www.barnettandcompany.com in f



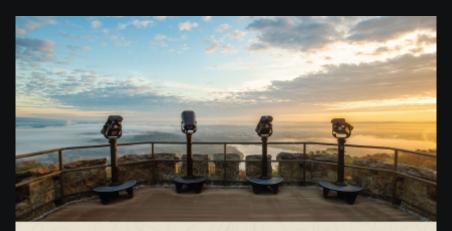






The Region's Choice for Assisted Living & Memory Care





Discover spectacular views, charming venues, and amazing adventure.

## **RUBY FALLS**



# SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

#### PRIVATE INSTRUCTION IN:

piano, voice, guitar, strings, percussion, organ, & conducting



Proud to be the home of the Chattanooga Youth Symphony.

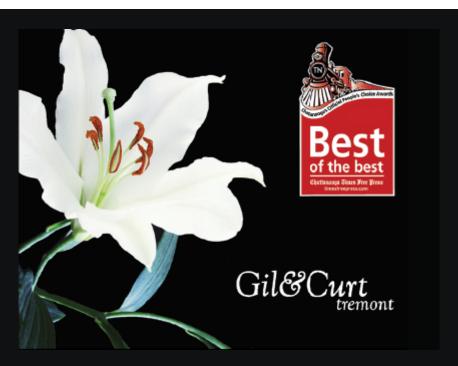
#### CONTACT

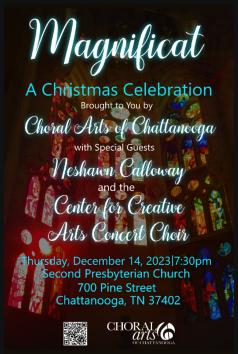
Jeff Parker 423.648.2545

#### LOCATION

401 Gateway Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37402

www.fbcsfa.org

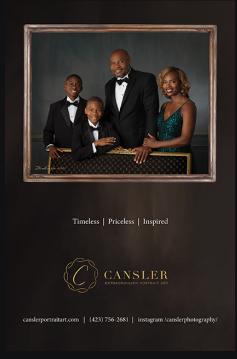
















Proud to support the communities we serve.

firsthorizon.com

@2023 First Horizon Bank. Member FDIC.



ATHENS DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

Athens Distributing is proud to support the arts.



## CONGRATULATIONS

to the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera on celebrating 90 years. We are proud to support its continued efforts of inspiring, engaging, and enriching our community through music and music education.

BAKER DONELSON



OUR SERVICES

**FULL SERVICE CATERING EVENT SPACE RENTAL** PRIVATE CATERING **COOKING CLASSES** BARTENDING

**EVENT STAFFING** CORPORATE EVENTS NON-PROFIT EVENTS MOBILE ESPRESSO CART CONTACT

WWW.PARTYBITESCATERING.COM YUM@PARTYBITESCATERING.COM 423-708-5222



@PARTYBITESCHA



