

NEXT Ensemble Upcoming Events written by Carey Campbell

Ogden's own NEXT Ensemble is back for its fourth season! If you're not already familiar with us, we are a group of chamber musicians dedicated to transforming the concert experience by presenting top-notch music in an audience-friendly way. NEXT Ensemble is made up of musicians from around the Wasatch front.

Our first concert of the season, held in September, was a doozy: Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale* for narrator and chamber ensemble. It is a Faustian story about a soldier who trades his soul (and his violin) to the devil in exchange for earthly pleasures, which he soon figures out was a bad idea.

We actually presented *Soldier's Tale* twice — once at Alleged and again at Union Grill. The performance at Union Grill was part of our Family Series and thus open to all ages (Alleged is a 21+ venue). Some brought their children, who were delighted by the story and the way the music brought it to life. We at NEXT Ensemble believe that children and young adults deserve the opportunity to hear live music, and we are happy to be offering all-ages concerts this year in addition to our Underground series at Alleged.

Our presentation of the holiday opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* was an enormous success last year, and we will re-stage the opera again this year at the Bigelow Hotel on Sunday, December 9. We will have two performances in order to accommodate all, 4:00pm & 7:00pm. This season will include our annual New Year, New Music concert, which features new pieces by local composers. We will uphold our commitment to composers who are typically underrepresented in classical music programming by offering another installment of our acclaimed Women in Music concert as well as a Music Without Borders concert.

Coming up soon, on November 3rd and 10th, NEXT Ensemble will present a salute to veterans. This concert, which we have titled *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, will take a look at the vast array of music celebrating soldiers — not war, but instead the people who fight in them, come home from them, and sometimes sacrifice their lives in them.

We do hope to see you at one or all of our events this season. The full concert schedule is at www.nextensemble.org.

Photo Credit: Issac Goerkeritz

Photos are from last year's performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at the Bigelow.





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