

Arise!

New Jersey Youth Symphony

Galaxies of Joy

Saturday, December 13
7:00 p.m.

Union County Performing Arts
Center Mainstage
Rahway, NJ

New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025
2026
SEASON



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New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Dear **Wharton Arts** Community,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 season at Wharton Arts! I’m thrilled to invite you into a year that dares us to dream boldly, listen deeply, and arise together with purpose. Our theme, **Arise!**, calls us to create with courage and connect across generations and cultures through **Artistry, Representation, Inspiration, Self-Expression, and Empathy**. This season, **Arise!** is more than a theme—its an invitation to action. In a world yearning for light, we turn to the arts to uplift voices, spark imagination, and celebrate the brilliance of our students, faculty, and teaching artists. Through meaningful learning, inspired teaching, dynamic performances, and inclusive programming, we’ll build a vibrant community rooted in creativity, collaboration, and hope.

Let us arise together!

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen H. Cha-Pyo".

Helen H. Cha-Pyo
Artistic Director

Dear **Wharton Arts** Community,

As we step into a new season, we’re excited to present a vibrant array of performances and programs from the **New Jersey Youth Chorus, New Jersey Youth Symphony, Paterson Music Project**, and our **Performing Arts School**.

In keeping with this year’s theme, **Arise!**, we’re delighted to offer a variety of community oriented events for families, alumni, and donors. These gatherings not only bring us together but also help sustain our programs, as tuition alone does not cover all our expenses. We’re not just fundraising—we’re friend-raising and spirit-raising, building lifelong connections that strengthen our entire community.

This season’s highlights include the Paterson Music Project **Building Harmony Breakfast**, our annual **Fall Festival** and **Holiday Cabaret** at PAS, a special happy hour for parents who drop off their children at NJYS and NJYC rehearsals, our beloved annual **Playathon** fundraiser to support NJYS, our **Senior Gift** and other events in celebration for NJYC, and more festive gatherings throughout the year.

Our dedicated staff and faculty truly rise to the occasion, bringing creativity, fun, and community engagement to every event—for students, families, and alumni alike. We look forward to connecting with you and continuing to build the thriving Wharton Arts community we all cherish.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Caruso".

Gina Caruso
Executive Director



Creating our future, together.

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

New Jersey Youth Symphony

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor

John P. Stevens High School Treble Choir

Regina McElroy and Matthew Lee, Directors

PROGRAM

OLIVER KAHNG Pluto, Gatekeeper to the Underworld
(b. 2007) World Premiere

GUSTAV HOLST The Planets, Op. 32
(1874-1934)

- I. Mars, the Bringer of War
- II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace
- III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger
- IV. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
- V. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
- VI. Uranus, the Magician
- VII. Neptune, the Mystic



Imagery produced by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

ARTISTS

HELEN H. CHA-PYO



Dynamic, visionary, and passionate about using music to make a difference, **Helen H. Cha-Pyo** is an award-winning conductor and arts leader, currently in her eighth season as the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts—New Jersey’s largest independent performing arts education organization. Under her inspiring leadership, Wharton Arts has reached new heights, serving nearly 2,000 students across 13 New Jersey counties. Cha-Pyo has spearheaded innovative initiatives, including lifelong learning programs, free educational concerts for schoolchildren, and a significant expansion of jazz programs. She has also been a fierce advocate for underrepresented composers, bringing their voices to the forefront through groundbreaking concert programming and new commissions, supported by prestigious grants from organizations like New Music USA and Chorus America.

Leading the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), Cha-Pyo has guided its flagship ensemble on an international tour to Italy and created unforgettable performance opportunities, including standout appearances at Carnegie Hall’s Juneteenth Celebration concerts in 2022 and 2024. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and inclusiveness has transformed NJYS into a second home for more than 500 talented and dedicated young musicians across New Jersey. Under her baton, NJYS also released its first professional recording, *Microvids*—music by Stefania de Kenessey with pianist Donna Weng Friedman (Navona Records, 2025). Looking ahead, Cha-Pyo will lead NJYS on an international tour to Finland and the Baltics in the summer of 2026, a cultural exchange designed to inspire global citizenship, deepen cross-cultural understanding, and amplify the power of youth voices on the world stage.

Cha-Pyo’s tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO) for 16 years is a testament to her extraordinary ability to inspire young musicians. Under her leadership, ESYO became one of the nation’s premier music organizations for youth, embarking on international tours to Europe, China, South Korea, and Portugal. Her dedication to adventurous programming earned ESYO multiple ASCAP awards, and her vision led to the creation of ESYO CHIME, a program that brings music education to underprivileged youth in Schenectady and Troy, NY. In honor of her legacy, ESYO established the Helen Cha-Pyo Golden Baton Award and Scholarships, celebrating students who embody her commitment to using music as a means to uplift and enrich communities.

Since 2023, Helen Cha-Pyo has served as Artistic Director of the Bella Music Foundation (BMF), an organization dedicated to empowering

blind and visually impaired musicians through world-class education, performance opportunities, and career development. Under her artistic leadership, BMF has presented high-impact concerts featuring stellar soloists who are blind or visually impaired, including performances at Merkin Hall in New York City and the Barrymore Film Center in New Jersey, showcasing winners of the BMF International Concerto Competition. In September 2025, she conducted at the BMF International Music Festival for the Blind at the prestigious Main Auditorium of the UNESCO House in Paris, France continuing BMF's mission to promote inclusion and awareness through the transformative power of music.

Beyond the concert hall, Cha-Pyo's influence has been widely recognized. In 2019, she received The Dove Leadership Award from the David & Dovetta Wilson Scholarship Fund for her global impact as a musician who inspires young people. Her leadership and commitment to social change through music have also earned her the 2022 Angelos Artist Award and the prestigious Eastman Centennial Award from the Eastman School of Music.

Earlier in her career, Cha-Pyo made a significant impact as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir in New York City from 1996 to 2002, where she also served as Associate Director of Music at The Riverside Church, spearheading free educational concerts for public school children in NYC PS districts 4, 5, and 6. During this time, she recorded three albums with the Riverside Choir (JAV Recordings). From 2009 to 2013, she was the Artistic Director for the Kenya Jirani Children's Choir and Harlem Jirani Children's Ensemble, part of the Jirani Cultural Organization, an NGO dedicated to improving the lives of children through music. Her commitment included regular trips to Kenya to train local conductors and lead the ensembles on tours to South Korea and the NY/NJ/CT tri-state area of the United States.

Cha-Pyo is a sought-after guest conductor and clinician, leading All-State and Regional Festival Orchestras across the country and teaching at Montclair State University and Rutgers University. She has also guest-conducted and led workshops in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Currently, she serves on the board of the Youth Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, and immigrating to the U.S. at the age of 12, Cha-Pyo's musical journey began with piano and organ studies at The Juilliard School's Pre-College Program. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music in Choral and Orchestral Conducting and Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music.

Discover more about her work as an arts leader at helenchapyo.com and whartonarts.org.

OLIVER KAHNG



Oliver Kahng is a senior at Regis High School. For as long as he has known how to play music, he has been fascinated with how to create new pieces of music as well. He has been a member of the New Jersey Youth Symphony since third grade, and this is his tenth year with the program. NJYS has profoundly improved his musicianship and violin-playing skills and has given him the experience of playing in an orchestra. Aside from this piece, he has written two violin concertos and numerous short pieces for various instruments. In addition to music composition, Oliver is very much interested in mathematics. Oliver is also a member of the Governor's School of New Jersey in the Sciences class of 2025. In the future, he plans to continue writing music while also pursuing a career in mathematics.

NJYS CONDUCTORS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, *Artistic Director and Principal Conductor*

Joe Bergen, *Percussion Ensembles*
Aly Berkowitz, *Concertino Winds*
Nevena Bojovic, *Sinfonia*
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, *Youth Symphony*
Cooper Ford, *Concertino Strings*
Mark Gunderman, *Philharmonia*
Dr. Oliver Hagen, *Youth Orchestra*
Natasha Loomis, *Flute Choir, Flute Forum,*
and Fortissimo Flutes

Bryan Rudderow, *CL4tet*
Etleva Vatoci, *Primo Strings*
Shamie Royston, *Jazz Orchestra*
David Schumacher, *Jazz Workshop*
Gregory O. Williams, *Jazz Big Band*

NJYS YOUTH SYMPHONY COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

COACHES

Brennan Sweet, Violin
Naomi Youngstein, Violin
Michael Stewart, Viola
Lucas Buffon, Cello
Carlos Barriento, Bass
Paul Murphy, Brass Coach
Dr. Oliver Hagen, Wind Coach

VOLUNTEERS

Audition Volunteers: Hong Zhou, Madison Chu, Silja Duval, Xueyan Xu, Tiffany Vuong
Library Volunteers: Angela Kahng, Rosemary Martos
Volunteer photographer: Kathy Aparentado

Special thanks to all our Parents on Duty who support us each week.

Thank you to Peddi School for loaning NJYS student harp for rehearsal.

JOHN P. STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL TREBLE CHOIR

— MATTHEW CHI LEE & REGINA MCELROY, DIRECTORS —



The John P. Stevens High School Treble Choir, directed by Regina McElroy and Matthew Lee, is one of six vocal ensembles at John P. Stevens High School in Edison, NJ. The JPS choral program has a long-standing tradition of excellence, consistently earning Gold or Superior ratings at state, national, and international choir festivals.

JPS choirs have performed at several music educators conferences, including the NJMEA All-State Conference (2024), NAfME All-Eastern Conference (2017), ACDA Eastern Regional Conference (2022), and the ACDA National Conference (2023).

In 2017, the JPS Chamber Choir competed in the Sing N' Joy International Choral Festival, winning the Grand Prize and receiving an autographed manuscript from composer Morten Lauridsen.

In 2019, the JPS A Cappella Ensemble was featured in the New Jersey Youth Symphony's performance of Carmina Burana. That same year, they earned first place and the Adjudicator's Award, as well as the Choral Sweepstakes Award at the Heritage Music Festival in Chicago.

JPS ensembles have been invited to perform at Westminster Choir College, Rutgers University, Montclair State University, Lehigh University, and Wagner College. They have shared the stage with world-renowned groups such as VOCES8, Tenebrae, and the Princeton University Glee Club.

Each year, many JPS choir members are selected for the Central Jersey Region Choir, NJ All-State Choir, NAfME All-Eastern Choir, and All-National Honor Choirs.

Follow us on Instagram @jps.choir or visit jpschoir.org to learn more.

Soprano I

Advika Anand
Smruthi Arun
Shriya Deshna
Swara Jadhav
Sarah Kanchi
Vedika Srinivasan

Soprano II

Nidhi Santhosh
Mahi Agarwal
Riva Dave
Swara Joshi
Anagha Nagesh
Aarushi Venkatarangan

Alto

Marcy Dangervil
Trisha Hulikere
Mehroop Kaur
Imani Khandkher
Akira Kilson
Hrithika Vedula

NJYS YOUTH SYMPHONY

HELEN H. CHA-PYO, CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Emily Wang, *Watchung Hills Regional HS, concertmaster*
Mason Chu, *Delbarton School, asst. concertmaster*
Natalie Chong, *Ridge HS*
Lilia Duval, *Westfield HS*
Samuel Gayle, *St. Peter's Prep*
Leilani Gopal, *John P. Stevens HS*
Jingyi Han, *Peddie School*
Elliot Kahng, *Regis HS*
Oliver Kahng, *Regis HS*
Klaudia Kowalewski, *Ridge HS*
Ethan Li, *Millburn HS*
Mia Li, *Newark Academy*
Kinsey Liu, *Newark Academy*
Shota Ozaki, *Millburn HS*
Riya Satwalekar, *Westfield HS*
Ameya Srinivasan, *Edison Academy Magnet School*
Michael Tan, *Union County Magnet HS*
George Yang, *Newark Academy*

Violin II

Ethan Co, *Westfield HS, principal*
Ira Tiwary, *Livingston HS, asst. principal*
Saharsh Bangaru, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Henry Clyan, *Delbarton School*
Joaquim DaSilva, *Regis HS*
Allison Guo, *Summit HS*
Olivia Hoang, *Academy for Information Technology*
Vikrant Khanvilkar, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Audrey Kim, *The Pingry School*
Alexis Lee, *Newark Academy*
Sarah Mayfield, *Millburn HS*
Jaedan Navarro, *Lake Nelson Academy*
Ethan Ng, *Governor Livingston HS*
Calyne Paek, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Nitin Paranandi, *Ridge HS*
Daniella Portelli, *West Windsor HS South*
Ethan Pu, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*
An-Ru Song, *The Pingry School*
Jonathan Vizcarra, *Livingston HS*
Ella Vuong, *Lazar MS*
Keira Wynn, *Montgomery HS*
Pearly Zuo, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Viola

Mackenzie Correa, *Westfield HS, principal*
Juno Moon, *Bergen Catholic HS, assistant principal*
Calvin Chiou, *Livingston HS*
Aahana Shah, *John P. Stevens HS*
Adithya Anand, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Laila Bhatia, *Millburn HS*
Aahana Hegde, *John P. Stevens HS*
Abigail Loeser, *Union County VoTech HS*
Kritika Manwani, *John P. Stevens HS*
Maksim Milinkovic, *Summit HS*
Andrew Song, *Westfield HS*
Katelyn Sun, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*
Carinne Zhou, *Union County Magnet HS*
Ethan Zhou, *Newark Academy*
Alina Zhu, *Rutgers Preparatory School*

Cello

Elijah Shemesh, *Livingston HS, principal*
Kenneth Wu, *Avenues The World School, assistant principal*
Clark Seeder, *Westfield HS*
Rohit Barua, *Newark Academy*
Eva Cha, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*
Lawrence Guo, *Edison Intermediate School*
Adelyn Hsu, *Ridge HS*
Jiana Hsu, *William Annin MS*
Dylan Jiang, *Ridge HS*
Maya Kimmel, *Cranford HS*
Jeffrey Li, *Morris Knolls HS*
Katelyn Moy, *Chatham HS*
Hayun Son, *William Annin MS*
Yilan Wu, *Millburn HS*
Yuchen Yang, *Union County Vocational Technical Schools*

Bass

Alexander Gigliotti, *New Providence HS, principal*
Sophie Bohner, *Summit HS, assistant principal*
Bryan Amaya, *New Providence HS*
Allan Zhu, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Strings are listed in alphabetical order after the principals

Flute

Renée Whittemore, *Holmdel HS, principal*
Sara Suarez, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*
Devyn Xu, *Glen Rock HS*
Maya Pocina*, *Academy of Math, Science
and Engineering*

Piccolo/Bass Flute

Sara Suarez, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*
Devyn Xu, *Glen Rock HS*

Oboe

Angie Yang, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS, principal*
Anjali Chalasani, *Newark Academy*
Dana Kim, *The Pingry School*

English Horn

Bryan Xu, *Chatham HS*

Clarinet

Victor Chen, *Academy for Information Technology*^
Daniel Choi, *Metuchen HS*
Skylar Li, *Kent Place School +*
Fred Yao, *Ridge HS*

Bass Clarinet

Lev Koganov, *Livingston HS*

Bassoon

James Di Costanzo, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS,*
principal
Priyanka Vimalkumar, *Hillsborough HS*
CJ Margolis, *guest*

Contrabassoon

Ishaan Subramanian, *alumni guest*

French Horn

Koji Fujita, *Millburn HS, principal*
Vanessa Cabrera, *Morris Hills HS*
Lauren Herman, *Kent Place School*
Fiona Jackson, *Chatham HS*
Julian Misiewicz**, *Summit HS*
Alyx Martos, *alumni guest*
Steffen Kulp, *alumni guest*

Trumpet

Ananth Raman, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS, principal*
Thomas Cook, *Chatham HS*
Justin Lee, *Wall Township HS*
Fisayo Ogunsulire, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*

Trombone

Alex Fullam, *Roxbury HS, principal*
Aidan Joyal, *Morris Knolls HS*
Jack Van Seggern, *Whippany Park HS*

Euphonium

Sophia Fontaine, *Somerville HS, guest*

Tuba

Lucas Meehan, *Union County Vocational
Technical Schools*

Timpani

Benjamin Yao, *Saint Joseph HS*
Joshua Conklin, *alumni guest*

Percussion

Krishna Dowlapalli, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Isaac Ma, *Millburn HS*
Aakash Sengupta**, *John Adams MS*
Benjamin Yao, *Saint Joseph HS*
Josephine Yao, *Mount Saint Mary Academy*

Piano/Celesta

Christian Cuccaro, *Edison Intermediate School*

Harp

Joanna Jian, *The Wardlaw+Hartridge School*
Amory Matsibekker**, *Ridgewood HS*

Denotes Principals for Winds/Brass

Holst ^
Kahng +

*NJYS Fortissimo Flute member

**NJYS Youth Orchestra member

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

OLIVER KAHNG

PLUTO, GATEKEEPER TO THE UNDERWORLD

This is perhaps one of the most ambitious compositions that I have ever written, primarily due to the fact that the instrumentation is very broad in this piece; never before have I heard any of my pieces played by a full symphony orchestra. This piece can be thought of as a study on two different moods and scenarios. The first imitates Pluto as the dwarf planet through its coldness and distance from the Sun, and the second, which comes later, is a portrayal of the underworld in general, as Hades/Pluto is the god of the underworld in Greek and Roman mythology. Although there are many similarities between Holst's Planets suite and this composition, as the overall tone of the piece and some of the compositional techniques employed resemble that of Holst's style, there are also some key differences in style, chief among them being the extensive use of percussion, particularly in the second section. The piece also places a massive emphasis on the overall melody and its development throughout the piece. This piece captures some of my own conceptions on what an additional movement of The Planets might sound like, with some of my own compositional style introduced into the piece as well.

- Oliver Kahng

GUSTAV HOLST

THE PLANETS

Why did Holst omit Earth? We may never know. The absence of Pluto is easier to explain – the outermost planet of our solar system was only discovered in 1930, twelve years after Holst's most well-known composition premiered. The suite's immediate and overwhelming success startled Holst, who had envisioned it as a cutting-edge work inspired by Arnold Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces. Instead, it became a popular hit, continuing to exert profound influence on composers of any film music set in space.

Holst, who had no esoteric leanings, first developed an interest in astrology during a 1913 summer holiday in Mallorca, where a friend introduced him to the subject. Armed with Alan Leo's *What is a Horoscope and How is it Cast?*, Holst began writing horoscopes himself – and dedicated his next project to the stars. He composed a series of seven tone poems, inspired by the astrological "character traits" ascribed by astrologers to each planet – or rather to those born under their influence.

According to Simon Rattle, *The Planets* is "a very European work." Holst's familiarity with contemporary music is evident: Igor Stravinsky's raw, archaic energy, Richard Strauss' orchestral opulence and splendor, but also the French Impressionists such as Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy and Paul Dukas's influences have all left their traces. Yet Holst's sound remains distinct, never imitative. The novel sonic blends that fascinated early audiences, however, are less striking today, as countless film scores have drawn from Holst's palette.

- Program notes from Berlin Philharmonic

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor



CALLING ALL NJYS PARENTS!

Join us for a *Meet and Greet* with Wharton Arts Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Helen Cha-Pyo

When: Wednesday, January 14 @ 6:30-7:30 PM

Where: Hyde & Watson Rehearsal Hall, NJYS

Parents are invited to attend a special evening program with Helen including a Q & A session

Light refreshments will be served • Door prize awarded!



Arise!

WHARTON ARTS ACCESSIBILITY

Wharton Arts is committed to being accessible to all patrons, students, parents and visitors. All programs, classes, events, and concerts are accessible ensuring that everyone can participate in a diverse range of arts programming and classes. As an organization whose mission is dedicated to the positive impact music can have on individuals and in the communities we serve, we are dedicated to fostering a supportive and fully inclusive environment by embracing equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) in all of our initiatives.

Large Print Programs are available to patrons at all performances. Upon request, and with two weeks advance notice, specific accommodations such as assisted listening devices and priority seating will be made subject to our available resources.

Wharton Arts respects the needs of individuals with disabilities who are assisted by a companion (or companions) when participating in our programs. We understand that companions may either be individuals or service animals. We will make every effort to accommodate companion situations with regard to seating, mobility, and other needs as they arise for all our programs.

Wharton Arts does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.

How can we help make your visit better? Let us know by contacting Director of Operations Susan Peterson at 908-790-0700, ext. 114 or via email at susan.peterson@WhartonArts.org.

Visit our patron services page at:

<https://whartonarts.org/about/patron-services/>



WhartonARTS

Upcoming Events

December 14, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Symphony: Jazz Orchestra, Big Band, Jazz Workshop

Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Whippany

\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

January 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Symphony Alumni Night

Burgdorff Hall at NJYS, New Providence

January 14, 2026, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Symphony Meet & Greet with Helen Cha-Pyo for NJYS Parents

Hyde and Watson Hall at NJYS, New Providence

January 24, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Symphony: Percussion Ensembles

Burgdorff Hall at NJYS, New Providence

January 31, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Paterson Music Project Winter Concert

John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

February 1, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Chorus: Winter Concert

The Pingry School, Basking Ridge

\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

February 11, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Wharton Arts in the Community: Love Notes Valentine's Day Chamber Music Concert

Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge

February 15, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Wharton Arts in the Community: Sound Beyond Sight:

Matthew Whitaker with New Jersey Youth Symphony

Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge

\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

March 1-5, 2026

New Jersey Youth Symphony Open Rehearsals

NJYS, New Providence

March 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

New Jersey Youth Symphony: Jazz Orchestra Concert

Crossroads, Garwood

March 22, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Wharton Arts Day/NJYS Playathon

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Elizabeth

April 17, 2026

Wharton Arts Gala

Hyatt Regency Morristown

Tickets at whartonartsgala.org

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025-2026

Annual Appeal



Benjamin and Josephine Yao

NJYS Siblings

"For three years, NJYS has been a most essential part of my life. Being the only place that gives me exposure to music, I truly treasure my place in the community. NJYS has given me the confidence to perform at the highest levels and always encourages me to strive for the best." - Benjamin

"Before joining New Jersey Youth Symphony, I couldn't find the meaning in playing music. But after playing with others, they helped me discover that music isn't just notes to be played — it's like a story waiting to be told" - Josephine

Donate today at

WhartonArts.org

WHARTON ARTS

DONORS

Wharton Arts extends deep gratitude to our donors, including individuals, family foundations, and corporate sponsors, for their unwavering commitment to our organization. Your generosity serves as the bedrock for all our programs, fostering the growth and success of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, New Jersey Youth Chorus, the Performing Arts School, and the Paterson Music Project.

Your invaluable support provides financial aid, broadens the scope of our free community workshops, programs, and festivals, and champions equity in music education for children across New Jersey. Thank you for bringing the gift of music to countless children, families, and communities! This list includes donations made from July 1, 2024 to October 6, 2025. Please contact us if you see any errors or omissions.

Visionary \$50,000 and Above:

Carol Davis and Joel Marcus, MD
Lenore and Robert Davis
Robert and Cynthia Hamburger
Mustang Foundation
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
The October Mountain Foundation
The Pixley Hill Foundation
Frances and Paul Turner

Champion \$25,000 - \$49,999:

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Innovator \$10,000 - \$24,999:

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Fargo Advisors
American Composers Forum
BNE Real Estate Group
Helen Cha-Pyo and Daniel Pyo, MD
Find Your Light Foundation
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Wei Pan and Zhe An
Park Avenue Club Foundation Inc
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Douglas Smith
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WinnCompanies

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Kirke Bent
Richard Benzell
Lourdes Blanco and Andres Leder-
man
Jaclyn and John Bohner
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Sheila and Jack DaSilva
Diageo North America
Discovery Orchestra
Phil and Amy Evans
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More information at
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Arise to the Occasion

WhartonARTS Annual Gala

Helen H. Cho-Pyo, Artistic Director

Friday, April 17, 2026

Cocktail Reception
at 6:00 PM

Dinner and Performances
at 7:30 PM



Trailblazer Honoree
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Sound Beyond Sight

**Matthew Whitaker with the
New Jersey Youth Symphony**

February 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village,
Basking Ridge

\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

NJYS Youth Symphony

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor

Matthew Whitaker, Piano



Matthew Whitaker



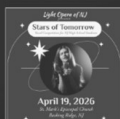
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Join the New Jersey Youth Symphony, led by Helen H. Cha-Pyo, for an inspiring **Black History Month** concert celebrating resilience, artistry, and inclusion. Internationally acclaimed blind pianist Matthew Whitaker will perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* alongside the New Jersey premiere of Quinn Mason's *Electric Beauty*, while also highlighting the vital work of The Seeing Eye and the Bella Music Foundation for the Blind and the Low Vision Support Program at Fellowship Village.

Co-presented by Wharton Arts and the
Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village.



Rigoletto - February 7 & 8
Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge, NJ



Stars of Tomorrow - April 19
St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge, NJ



A Capella Jamboree - May 24
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H.M.S. Pinafore - July 11 & 12
Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge, NJ



A Celebration of the Stage - October 4
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WhartonARTS

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AUDITIONS

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WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the **New Jersey Youth Chorus**, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the **New Jersey Youth Symphony**, which serve over 500 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the **Paterson Music Project** is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing.

From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton **Performing Arts School** has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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