

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

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

NJYS

**Jazz Orchestra
Big Band
Jazz Workshop**

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

Ukrainian Cultural Center
Whippany, NJ

Arise!

New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025
2026
SEASON



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arts

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Co-founded by, and currently
supported by funds from, the
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

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

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

NJYS Jazz Orchestra

Shamie Royston, Director

NJYS Big Band

Gregory O. Williams, Director

NJYS Jazz Workshop

Dave Schumacher, Director

HORACE SILVERDoodlin'
arr. Lance Bryant

Mary Lou Williams Combo

Lance Bryant, *Coach*

Anjna Gopalakrishnan, *Flute*; Mark Chloewicki, Aaryan Gopalakrishnan,
Leshan Li, *Alto Sax*; Maceo Morris, Luca Rider, Adya Tripathy, *Trumpet*;
Tobey Liu, *Trombone*; Sarah Sun, *Piano*; Suhrud Joshi, *Bass*;
Onward Fernandez, *Drums*

JOHN COLTRANEMr. PC

DUKE ELLINGTONC Jam Blues

NJYS Jazz Workshop

JACKIE MCLEANLittle Melonae
arr. Gregory O. Williams

JJ Johnson Combo

Gregory O. Williams, *Director*

Aurit Mukherjee, *Alto Sax*; Eugene Chae, *Tenor Sax*; Charlie Ford, *Bari Sax*;
Ajay Bastianpillai, *Trumpet*; Adia Roberts-Moore, *Trombone*; Dallas Tyson,
Piano; Drew Tyson, *Bass*; Nikolas Ruzicka, *Drums*

JOHN BIRKS GILLESPIENight in Tunisia

Dizzy Gillespie Combo

Peter Lin, *Coach*

Jalen Fan, Tyler Jacome, Jin Quon, *Alto Sax*; Bryce Yedidia, *Tenor Sax*;
Ayan Dalmia, *Bari Sax*; Joseph Orellana Palacios, *Trombone*; Nathaniel
Fabella, *Guitar*; Drew Tyson, *Bass*; Olivia Lu, Davin Murkis, *Drums*

HANK MOBLEYBoss Bossa

Billie Holiday Combo
Dave Schumacher, *Director*

Derek Fullam, *Alto Sax*; Octavio Sosa, *Tenor Sax*; Conrad Pocina, *Bari Sax*; Mia Luciana Pardo, *Bass*; Sreeram Piniseti, *Drums*; Shamie Royston, *Piano*

BENNY CARTER The Wiggle Walk

GREGORY YASINITSKY Blue Diamond

CHARLES MINGUS Haitian Fight Song
arr. Andrew Homzy

NJYS Big Band

JOE HENDERSON The Kicker

Charlie Parker Combo
Matt Slocum, *Coach*

Ethan Kuo, *Alto Sax*; Matthew Heyer, *Tenor Sax*; Joshua Koonyevsky, Alexander Hrung, *Trumpet*; Spencer Traub, *Trombone*; Gabriel Faiella, *Bass*; Dallas Tyson, *Piano*; Teji Varadarajan, *Drums*

MILES DAVIS AND VICTOR FELDMANJoshua

Charles Mingus Combo
Shamie Royston, *Director*

Luka Milinkovic, *Alto Sax*; Alexander Prather, *Tenor Sax*; Jerome Roberts-Moore, Wilson Pillajo, *Trumpet*; Ezenwa Don Nwankwo, *Piano*; Drew Tyson, *Bass*; Arjun Kapur, *Drums*

Selections from:

CHARLES MINGUSNostalgia in Times Square

THELONIUS MONK Straight No Chaser

MONGO SANTAMARIA Afro Blue

PYOTR ILYICH TCHIAKOVSKYThe Nutcracker Suite
arr. Billy Strayhorn

NJYS Jazz Orchestra



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

ARTISTS

SHAMIE ROYSTON



Born in Denver, Colorado, **Shamie Royston** is a pianist, composer and educator. New York Times states: "She is a rhythmic vanguardist...who channels Kenny Kirkland, Geri Allen, Ahmad Jamal and McCoy Tyner." Her exquisite style of piano playing is a combination of traditional and contemporary sounds, which embodies a deep-rooted and soulful spirit. With her fiery, yet soulful piano playing, she has toured Europe and the United States having performed in many of the top jazz venues and festivals in the world.

Shamie has been commissioned to compose and arrange works for Grammy-Winning vocalist Dianne Reeves, Allison Miller and Grammy nominated Tia Fuller, as well as other prominent musicians. In October 2022, Shamie was recently awarded a fellowship from the Berklee College of Music Jazz, Gender and Justice Program, to do a 2 week long residency at the UCROSS Foundation, where highly acclaimed artist of all forms come to work on their craft. She is the first recipient to receive this from the Berklee College of Music. She was also commissioned to compose a song for the 2023 JEN Conference (Jazz Education Network). Her most recent accomplishment is composing a song on Terri Lynn Carrington's Grammy award winning album "The New Standard" entitled "Uplifted Heart." This album recently won a Grammy for "Best Jazz Instrumental" in February 2023.

Shamie is not only a performer and composer, but deemed as a Master Educator. At the prestigious Berklee School of Music, Shamie held a full-time a professorship in the Jazz Composition Department. It was here, where she co-directed ensembles with grammy award winning Terence Blanchard and led jazz composition and jazz arranging classes. Shamie has also been on faculty with the prestigious Carnegie Hall NYO (New York Youth Orchestra) Jazz summer program for young musicians, and has adjudicated and worked with college and high school level jazz ensembles. Her most recent endeavor was in July 2024, she was chosen to be on faculty to teach New York City teachers at a retreat about jazz ensembles and incorporating jazz into their school programs. She has been on many panel discussions including, "Women In Jazz Discussion" at the Monterey Jazz Festival, a presenter at the JEN Conference, and a panelist for school districts on "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Schools" and many more. She is an active member of the community where she continues to inspire students in music education and excellence in academic achievement.

Shamie's CD entitled, *Beautiful Liar* which was released in June 2018 has received many great reviews in Downbeat, Jazziz and on NPR. It was also in the first round of voting for *Best Jazz Instrumental Album* for the 2019 Grammy Awards. Her debut CD entitled *Portraits*, was released

in 2014 under the Hot Tone Music, record label. She is currently working on a new project which will be released in the near future.

As a performer, composer and educator, Shamie Royston will forever be a leading force in music, and music education. She will always be on the precipice of innovation while remaining a preeminent voice in the jazz world.

GREGORY O. WILLIAMS



Jazz educator **Gregory Williams** has nearly a quarter of a century of experience in the classroom serving diverse student populations. As a professional musician, composer, arranger, and copyist, Williams has toured and recorded with notable artists including Marcus Roberts, Eric Reed, Wynton Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Vincent Gardner, Elvin Jones, Wycliff Gordon, Tim Warfield, and Terell Stafford. Awarded the 2006-2007 and 2009-2010 Educator of the Year Award by the Plainfield Public Schools, his students have received recognition in dozens of festivals and competitions, including a superior rating and best rhythm section award at the 2013 New Jersey Association for Jazz Education State Final Jazz Festival.

DAVID SCHUMACHER



David Schumacher, BA, MM, Director of NJYS Jazz Workshop, A Chicago native who has been a touring musician and educator for over 35 years. At age 23 Dave started his career with the legendary Jazz master, vibraphonist Lionel Hampton (for 5 years from 1983-89). From 1990 he joined Harry Connick, Jr. as an original member of Connick's orchestra for the next 19 years. Dave has toured and/or recorded with many world class jazz artists including T. S. Monk On Monk, Tom Harrell Octet and Big Band, Art Blakey Big Band, the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie, Mel Tormé among many other jazz greats. Schumacher has impressed audiences in over 460 cities in 41 countries on 5 continents on the live stage and on countless major television broadcasts. In 2013 Dave was hired as the first Director of Jazz Studies for the New Jersey Youth Symphony and was for the next five years instrumental in the development of its combo/workshop program and bringing Jazz to the NJYS. Currently as well as his new role as Director of NJYS Jazz Workshops, Dave maintains a private teaching studio at The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts teaching saxophone, clarinet and improvisation. As a composer and leader, Schumacher has three CD's to his credit and he continues to perform as a freelance musician. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Rutgers University and a Master of Music in Jazz Performance from New Jersey City University.

LANCE BRYANT



Saxophonist and vocalist, **Lance Bryant** comes out of Markham, Illinois, a small town near Chicago. He received his formal music education at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, where he studied saxophone and, composition and arranging. After moving to New York City in the mid. 1980s, Lance continued his education, studying saxophone and arranging privately with Frank Foster, the former director of the Count Basie Orchestra. He also studied composition with Bruce Adolphe of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society. In 1990 Lance began his decadelong relationship with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and in 1993 became the Orchestra's Musical Director and Principal Arranger. Lance has performed, recorded and traveled extensively with major artists such as Phyllis Hyman, Jon Hendricks, Pete "LaRocca" Sims, Wallace Roney, Abdullah Ibrahim, James Williams and others. His connection with spirituality and music has endured. In 2002 he released Psalm, the first of four CDs featuring original songs, and jazz arrangements of hymns and Spirituals. Lance's teaching experience has included woodwind instructor for Covenant Christian Academy in Peabody, MA, director of the Phillips Academy Gospel Choir in Andover MA, Berklee's Saxophone Weekend for the Berklee College of Music summer program, and Jazz at Lincoln Center's Middle School Jazz Academy program. Recent Broadway experience includes the musical After Midnight, featuring the music of Duke Ellington, Shuffle Along, featuring Tony Award winner Audra MacDonald, and A Celebration of Cole Porter, performing with Harry Connick Jr. Currently Lance is touring with the newly re-formed Lionel Hampton Big Band featuring Jason Marsalis and with venerated pianist/composer Abdullah Ibrahim and Ekaya.

PETER LIN



Peter Lin is a Taiwanese-American trombonist, producer, and educator based in New Jersey & New York City. Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and raised in northern New Jersey, Peter played violin and piano before picking up the trombone at 10 years old. His love for music continued, motivating him to pursue a jazz studies degree at the esteemed music programs of William

Paterson University (undergraduate) and Rutgers University (graduate). Since then, he has become an integral part of the music scene, performing and sharing the stage with renowned artists including Ron Carter, Slide Hampton, Winard Harper, Charli Persip, Jerry Weldon, George Cables, Valerie Ponomarev, JD Allen, Josh Evans, and Radam Schwartz. He also spent a considerable amount of time studying with his influences, including trombone masters Slide Hampton, Steve Turre, Conrad Herwig, Robin Eubanks, Steve Davis, and Frank Lacy. He continues to perform prolifically as both a leader and sideman at

established venues in the tri-state area such as Carnegie Hall, NJPAC, Blue Note, Dizzy's, Birdland, Smalls, and Zinc Bar.

In 2018, Peter released his first album, *With Respect*, which included his arrangements on classic Chinese and Taiwanese folk songs. Featuring Winard Harper on drums as well as James Zollar on trumpet, this album topped at #3 on the NACC Charts and #4 on the RMR Charts. In 2019, he released his second album, *New Age Old Ways*, which included eight original compositions and features JD Allen on tenor saxophone. Additionally, the album included an original comic book illustrated by Kelly Lin.

Peter Lin leads the AAPI Jazz Collective, which features some of the best up-and-coming AAPI musicians in the NYC area. The group performs arrangements of classic songs from various Asian countries re-imagined in a new modern way as well as exciting originals. This group has performed at various festivals and venues, but also continues to play every year for the Met Museum's Lunar New Year celebration. Their debut album, *Identity*, released on July 18, 2025 on Origin Records.

In addition to Peter's prolific musical career, he continues to promote jazz education, holding a prestigious faculty position at Melissa Walker & Christian McBride's non-profit organization, Jazz House Kids, as well as NJYS in New Providence, NJ. He teaches lessons, masterclasses, and provides tech consultations on a regular basis. Valuing entrepreneurship, Peter founded Yardbird Entertainment, along with his partner Abel Mireles, which has become a leading music production company. Peter produced the first AAPI Jazz Fest back in 2022 held at Rutgers Newark, which continues to this day.

Follow us on Social Media!



New Jersey Youth Symphony:



@newjerseyyouthsymphony



NJYS Jazz:



@NJYSJAZZ

MATT SLOCUM



Drummer and composer **Matt Slocum** has released six recordings of original music as a leader. *Sanctuary* (Sunnyside Records, 2019) was named one of *Downbeat Magazine's* "Best Recordings of 2019." *Modern Drummer* writes that "Slocum's writing and playing emphasize a breathing, expressive, virtually speech-like flow of shifting meters... A fresh voice." *JazzTimes* writes that "Slocum has established the one thing all musicians desire: a singular sound." Slocum's work has been supported with composition grants from Chamber Music America, Meet the Composer, the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, New Music USA, and the Puffin Foundation. Slocum recently composed, premiered, and recorded *With Love and Sadness*, a project he was commissioned to write in 2020 through Chamber Music America's *New Jazz Works* program. Slocum has toured throughout North America, Europe, and Asia and has performed and/or recorded with artists such as Steve Cardenas, Gerald Clayton, Taylor Eigsti, Aaron Goldberg, Larry Grenadier, Jon Irabagon, Lage Lund, Linda Oh, Jaleel Shaw, Walter Smith III, Dayna Stephens, Anthony Wilson, Ben Wendel, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. In addition to teaching individual and ensemble lessons, Matt Slocum has also worked with students through teaching masterclasses and clinics at programs such as Berklee College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music, Brubeck Institute, San Francisco State University, the University of Southern California, the University of Minnesota, Los Angeles County High School For the Arts, Sonoma State University, the University of Montana, and the University of the Arts. He is currently an adjunct instructor at Newark Academy and NJYS Jazz.

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*

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!

NJYS JAZZ ORCHESTRA
SHAMIE ROYSTON, DIRECTOR

Alto Saxophone

Ethan Kuo, *Millburn HS*

Luka Milinkovic, *Summit HS*

Tenor Saxophone

Matthew Heyer, *Delbarton School*

Alexander Prather, *Academy of
Information Technology*

Baritone Saxophone

Conrad Pocina, *Valleyview MS*

Trumpet

Alexander Hrung, *Millburn HS*

Joshua Koonyevsky, *South Orange MS*

Wilson Pillajo, *Plainfield Academy of
the Arts and Advanced Studies*

Jerome Roberts-Moore, *Jonathan Dayton HS*

Trombone

Spencer Traub, *Morristown Beard School*

Peter Lin, *Guest Performer*

Piano

Ezenwa Don Nwankwo, *Plainfield Academy
for the Arts and Advanced Studies*

Bass

Gabriel Faiella, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*

Drew Tyson, *Manchester Regional HS*

Jazz Drums

Arjun Kapur, *Newark Academy*

Sreeram Piniseti, *Chatham HS*

Teji Varadarajan, *Newark Academy*

NJYS BIG BAND
GREGORY O. WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

Alto Saxophone

Jalen Fan, *Union County Magnet HS*

Derek Fullam, *Roxbury HS*

Tyler Jacome, *Immaculata HS*

Aurit Mukherjee, *Union County Magnet HS*

Jin Quon, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Tenor Saxophone

Eugene Chae, *Madison HS*

Octavio Sosa, *Harrison HS*

Bryce Yedidia, *Leonia HS*

Baritone Saxophone

Ayan Dalmia, *Millburn HS*

Charlie Ford, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Trumpet

Ajay Bastianpillai, *Union County Magnet HS*

Joe Kozlowski, *Guest Performer*

Trombone

Adia Roberts-Moore, *Jonathon Dayton HS*

Joseph Orellana Palacios, *Plainfield
Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies*

Piano

Dallas Tyson, *Manchester Regional HS*

Guitar

Nathaniel Fabella, *Leonia HS*

Bass

Mia Luciana Pardo, *New Providence HS*

Jazz Drums

Davin Murkis, *Livingston HS*

Nikolas Ruzicka, *New Providence HS*

NJYS JAZZ WORKSHOP
DAVID SCHUMACHER, DIRECTOR

Flute

Anjna Gopalakrishnan, *Conackamack MS*

Alto Saxophone

Mark Cholewicki, *Valley View MS*

Aaryan Gopalakrishnan, *Conackamack MS*

Leshan Li, *Franklin Elementary*

Trumpet

Maceo Morris, *Saddle Brook HS*

Luca Rider, *Frank R Conwell MS 4*

Adya Tripathy, *Chatham MS*

Trombone

Tobey Liu, *Malcolm E. Nettingham MS*

Piano

Sarah Sun, *Chatham MS*

Bass

Suhrud Joshi, *Millburn HS*

Jazz Drums

Onward Fernandez, *Newark Academy*

Olivia Lu, *Brooklawn MS*

NJYS JAZZ
VOLUNTEERS

Rehearsal Assistance: Javanda Tyson

Photography: Goran Pocina, Mr. Lu

Concert Assistance: Mrs. Lu

Special thanks to all our Parents On Duty!
We couldn't do this without you.



Creating our future, together.

WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts in the Community

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



Quinn Mason

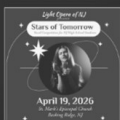
Join the New Jersey Youth Symphony, led by Helen H. Cha-Pyo, for an inspiring **Black History Month** concert celebrating resilience, artistry, and inclusion. Internationally acclaimed blind pianist Matthew Whitaker will perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* alongside the New Jersey premiere of Quinn 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

St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge, NJ



H.M.S. Pinafore - July 11 & 12

Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge, NJ



A Celebration of the Stage - October 4

St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge, NJ



The Mikado

Various Dates & Locations

Check Website

www.lonj.org

✦ 2026 ✦

Light

Opera

of NJ



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

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

FREE

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

Paterson Music Project Winter Concert

John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

FREE

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

New Jersey Youth Chorus: Winter Concert

\$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

FREE

February 15, 2026, 3:00 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

FREE, registration required

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

New Jersey Youth Symphony: Jazz Orchestra Concert

Crossroads, Garwood

FREE

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

Wharton Arts Day/Playathon

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Elizabeth

FREE

April 17, 2026

Wharton Arts Gala

Hyatt Regency Morristown

Tickets at whartonartsgala.org



WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

Summer Camps 2026

June 21 - August 7

Performing Arts School

NEW LOCATION! 570 Central Avenue, New Providence

Music Around the World

Meet the Instruments

Piano Explorers

Violin Explorers

Broadway Adventures

Theater Explorers

Triple Threat Musical

Theater Intensive

Drama Kids

New Jersey Youth Symphony

June 21 - July 2

Orchestral Camp

Chamber Music Camp

Double Reed Camp



More information at
WhartonArts.org



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
Matthew Whitaker



HYATT REGENCY® MORRISTOWN

located on the Green

3 Speedwell Avenue
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

WhartonArtsGala.org

New Jersey Youth Chorus

New Jersey Youth Symphony

Performing Arts School

Paterson Music Project

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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Paterson Children's Foundation
Jacqueline Phillips, MD and
Lionel Phillips
PwC Charitable Foundation
Judith G. Wharton
Ruth Zowader

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

The Alpert-Kaufman Private Wealth
Management Group of Wells
Fargo Advisors
American Composers Forum
BNE Real Estate Group
Helen Cha-Pyo and Daniel Pyo, MD
Find Your Light Foundation
Goldman Sachs
Bob Kelly
Susan and Lloyd Peterson
Princeton Area Community
Foundation
Julia and Shurjo Sen
Joseph and Mary Clare Serzan
Jeanne D'Haem and Bruce Stein
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Belá and Alice Szigethy
The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack
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D'Addario Foundation
Juliet and James Eck
Dana and Joseph Feldman
E. J. Grassmann Trust
Charissa Wong Horton, MD and
William Horton
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Michele and David Johnson
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Jim Metcalfe
Joyce and Samuel Moulthrop
Plastic Surgery Center of New Jersey
at SMG
PNC Bank Foundation
Petra Schemmann
Pamela and L.T. Spinker
Inge and David Spungen
Union Foundation
Naida S. Wharton Foundation

Leader \$2,500 - \$4,999:

Helen Ahn and Joseph Kwiatek
Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church
BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.
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