

Arise!

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025
2026
SEASON
WINTER/SPRING



WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

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. It's 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,

Helen H. Cha-Pyo

Artistic Director & Principal Conductor



WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

Spring invites us to look ahead with optimism, purpose, and renewed energy. I am truly delighted to be part of Wharton Arts at this exciting and pivotal moment in our history.

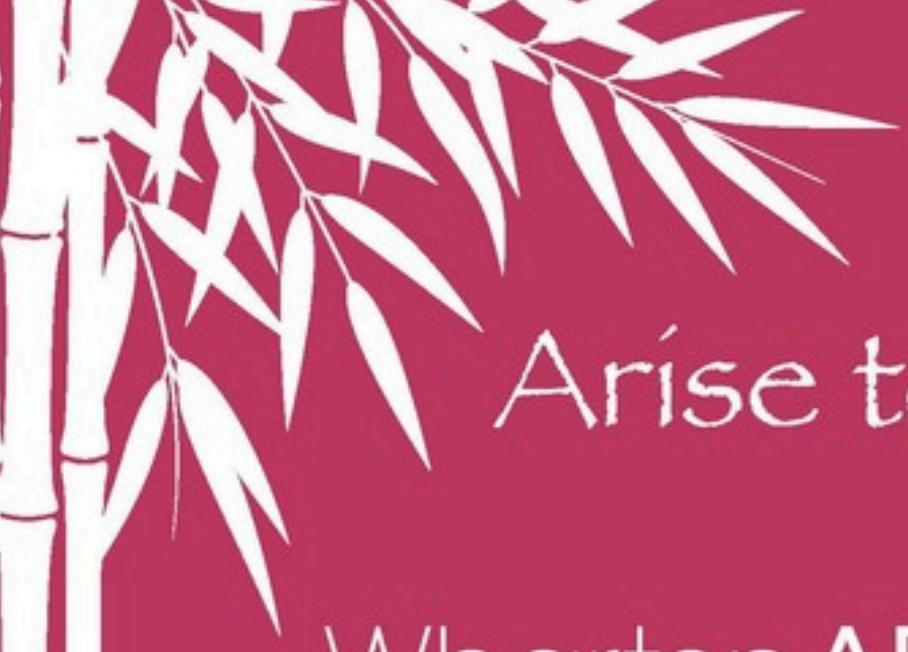
My connection to this organization is deeply personal. For thirteen years, I watched my own children grow and thrive as members of the New Jersey Youth Chorus. The joy, artistic training, and personal growth they gained here were transformative for our family. Driven by a desire to steward that same experience for future generations, I joined the Board of Trustees two years ago. Now, as Interim Executive Director, I am committed to providing the steady leadership and strategic vision necessary to ensure more families can find the same inspiration and community we did.

At the heart of our future is the integration of our four signature programs: the **New Jersey Youth Chorus**, **New Jersey Youth Symphony**, **Paterson Music Project**, and **Performing Arts School**. Together, they form a connected artistic pathway that nurtures young people at every stage of their creative journey. By strengthening collaboration across these programs, expanding access, and deepening our community impact, we are creating opportunities that extend far beyond the stage.

While each program has its own distinct voice, all are guided by a shared belief in the transformative power of the performing arts. Thank you for being part of this journey. I look forward to all we will create together this spring and beyond.

Erika Fanelle

Trustee, Interim Executive Director



Arise to the Occasion

WhartonARTS Annual Gala

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

Friday, April 17, 2026

Cocktail Reception at 6 PM

Dinner and Performances at 7:30 PM



HYATT REGENCY® MORRISTOWN

located on the Green

3 Speedwell Avenue

Morristown, New Jersey 07960

WhartonArtsGala.org

New Jersey Youth Chorus

WhartonARTS

Winter Concert

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

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

Hauser Auditorium at The Pingry School,
Basking Ridge

NJYC Primo Coro, Coriste:

Trish Joyce, Director

NJYC Cor Amici, Camerata:

Dan Malloy, Director

NJYC Sola Voce:

Joanna Scarangello, Director

Accompanists: Phillip Steffani,
Andrew Macirowski, and Leah Frank



Our young artists offer a wide-ranging program that celebrates the beauty, emotion, and connection unique to choral music. Featuring a rich blend of classical works, contemporary pieces, and seasonal favorites, they share their gift of singing and the spirit of community. Let the music uplift you with moments of warmth and joy.

The Vocal Edge Festival

April 18, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Chatham United Methodist Church,

Chatham

FREE Event. Advanced registration required for participants.

Designed for boys in grades 6–8, this one-day choir festival welcomes both individual participants and school or community ensembles. Working with guest clinician Dr. Brandon Williams, singers will explore repertoire and techniques appropriate for changing voices in a supportive, engaging environment. The Festival begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes with a public concert at 4:00 p.m.

Open Rehearsals

April 20 & 22

FREE Event. Register online at NJYC.org.

April 20 Sola Voce, Cor Amici, Camerata and Coriste

April 22 Primo Coro





Together We Sing Choral Exchange

April 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Far Brook School, Millburn

FREE Event

NJYC Primo Coro: Trish Joyce, Director

Join the New Jersey Youth Chorus!

June 2026

2026-27 Season Auditions will be held in June. Registration is open from April 1-June 1, 2026. Audition requirements and application are available at NJC.org.

NJYC's Primo Coro hosts a choral exchange with Far Brook School with clinician Dr. Rachel Carlson. Following a day of workshops and collaborative rehearsals, the ensembles will present an informal public concert showcasing their work together. This performance is open to the public and offers a unique opportunity to hear young singers in a supportive, engaging setting.



Voices Rising: Women's Choral Invitational

May 2, 2026

FREE Event

NJYC's Coriste welcomes local high school women's ensembles for an exclusive invitational workshop with composer and conductor, Dr. Andrea Ramsey. Singers will explore innovative repertoire, deepen their artistry, and refine their vocal and musical skills. The day concludes with a shared performance open to the public.

Spring Concert

May 17, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University,
New Brunswick

NJYC Primo Coro, Coriste:
Trish Joyce, Director

NJYC Cor Amici, Camerata:
Dan Malloy, Director

NJYC Sola Voce:
Joanna Scarangello, Director

Accompanists: Phillip Steffani, Andrew
Macirowski, and Leah Frank

Celebrate spring with the New Jersey Youth Chorus as our young singers bring a fresh, uplifting program to life. Featuring a mix of classical and contemporary repertoire, this concert reflects the season's spirit of growth, joy, and shared musical expression.

**Tickets and more information
at NJYC.org**

Community Collaborations

March 15 Life of Song Festival
Washington, DC

Sola Voce & Cor Amici

June 20 Festival Sponsored by
National Concerts
Carnegie Hall, New York City

Camerata

June 26 Sing A Mile High Festival
Denver, CO

Sola Voce & Core Amici

June 27 Festival Sponsored by
Choirs of America
Carnegie Hall, New York City

Coriste

ACDA Eastern Division

February 26, 2026
Providence, RI

Coriste will perform at the American
Choral Directors Association's (ACDA)
Eastern Division Conference.

Take Me Out To The Ballgame!

June 12, 2026

Citi Field, Flushing

Join us at Citi Field as the New Jersey Youth Chorus performs the National Anthem for the Mets' matchup against the Atlanta Braves. Experience the thrill of live baseball as NJYC brings energy, pride, and musical excellence to America's favorite pastime. Tickets at NJYC.org.



Arise!

To Artistry



New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Voices of the North: Nordic & Baltic Soundscapes

April 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University,

New Brunswick

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

NJYS Youth Symphony:

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor

Journey into the sweeping soundscapes of Northern Europe as the NJYS Youth Symphony, led by Helen Cha-Pyo, brings to life the striking rhythmic force of Estonian composer Veljo Tormis's *Overture No. 2* and the majestic grandeur of American composer Howard Hanson, whose Scandinavian heritage is celebrated in his *Symphony No. 1* ("Nordic"). The program also features the **2026 NJYS Concerto Competition Winner**, showcasing one of the orchestra's outstanding young soloists.

Signature Concert



This concert serves as a powerful prelude to the Youth Symphony's highly anticipated Summer 2026 tour to Finland and the Baltics, offering audiences a glimpse into the musical landscapes and cultural connections that will shape the ensemble's international journey.





2026 PLAYATHON

Playing Today to Shape Tomorrow's Musicians

March 22, 2026 at 4:00-5:30 p.m.

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Elizabeth
FREE Event

More than a fundraiser, the NJYS Playathon is a joyful afternoon of music that showcases the dedication of our young musicians while fueling the future of the program. Funds raised directly support student scholarships and ensure that high-quality orchestral training remains accessible to all.

Nearly 600 young musicians light up the mall in a family-friendly pops concert designed for audiences of all ages.

Scan to Donate
WhartonArtsDonate.org





January 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Burgdorff Hall at NJYS, New Providence
FREE Event

Percussion Ensembles I, II, & III:
Joe Bergen, Conductor

2026 Open Rehearsals Week
March 1-5, 2026
New Jersey Youth Symphony,
New Providence
FREE Event. Register online at NJYS.org.
Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at any of
our 15 ensembles. Meet our passionate
artistic team and immerse yourself in a live
rehearsal. Young musicians in grades 2-11
are warmly welcomed! Discover the joy of
making music at NJYS.



NJYS Jazz

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

Crossroads, Garwood

FREE Event. Register online at NJYS.org.

Featuring Guest Artist Ingrid Jensen, Trumpet
Charles Mingus & Charlie Parker Combos

April 19, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.

Wharton Black Box Theater, Berkeley Heights

FREE Event

Featuring all NJYS Jazz Combos



More information at NJYS.org



May 2, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Dorothy Young Performing Arts Center

at Drew University, Madison

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

Sinfonia: Nevena Bojovic, Conductor

Concertino Strings:

Cooper Ford, Conductor

Primo Strings:

Etleva Vatoci, Conductor

May 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Dolan Hall, Annunciation Center at
Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

Fortissimo Flutes, Flute Forum,

Flute Choir: Natasha Loomis, Conductor

Concertino Winds:

Aly Berkowitz, Conductor

**Tickets and more information
at NJYS.org**





May 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Dolan Hall, Annunciation Center at
Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

Jazz Orchestra: Shamie Royston, Director

Big Band: Gregory O. Williams, Director

Jazz Workshop:

Dave Schumacher, Director



Featuring
Guest Artist
Tia Fuller,
Saxophone

May 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers
University, New Brunswick
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

Philharmonia:

Mark Gunderman, Conductor

Percussion Ensembles I, II, & III:

Joe Bergen, Conductor





NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

American Celebration of Music in
Scandinavia & the Baltics
Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

June 27, 2026

Helsinki Music Center Concert Hall
Helsinki, Finland

June 29, 2026

Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre
Tallinn, Estonia

May 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University,
New Brunswick
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

Youth Orchestra: Dr. Oliver Hagen,
Conductor



June 30, 2026

Dzintari Open-Air Concert
HallJūrmala, Latvia

July 3, 2026

Vilnius Congress Concert Hall
Vilnius, Lithuania



More information at NJYS.org

Season 2026-27 Open Auditions

May 12-31, 2026

Join us for an inspiring year of music-making
at the New Jersey Youth Symphony!

January 15 Requirements Posted

April 1 Excerpt Requirements Posted

April 1-May 1 Audition Registration Open



Arise!

To Representation



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts in the Community

Performing Arts School Student Recital Highlights

TBD

Autumn Lake Healthcare,
Berkeley Heights
FREE Event

Enjoy an evening celebrating the spirit of
our community at this special gathering.



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts in the Community

Love Notes

Valentine's Day Chamber Music Concert

February 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village,
Basking Ridge

FREE Event

Fortissimo Flutes:

Natasha Loomis, Conductor

CL4tet: Bryan Rudderow, Coach

Charles Mingus Jazz Combo:

Shamie Royston, Director

Enjoy an evening of jazz and woodwind
chamber ensembles from the New Jersey
Youth Symphony featuring an array of
classical and modern works.



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts in the Community

Sound Beyond Sight

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

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

Sieminski Theater, on the campus of
Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge
\$26/Adults, \$21/Students & Seniors

NJYS Youth Symphony

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor

Matthew Whitaker, Piano

NJYS CL4tet: Bryan Rudderow, Coach



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 **Bella Music Foundation for the Blind**.

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

WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts Workshops

Parent Circle

**Cultivating a Safe Place for
Conversations About Mental Health
March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

New Location!

570 Central Avenue, New Providence
FREE Event. Register online at WhartonArts.org.

Join Helen Cha-Pyo and Deb Joyal, moms and musicians, in a series of informal conversations exploring the ins and outs of supporting student musicians.



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts Workshops

ONLINE!

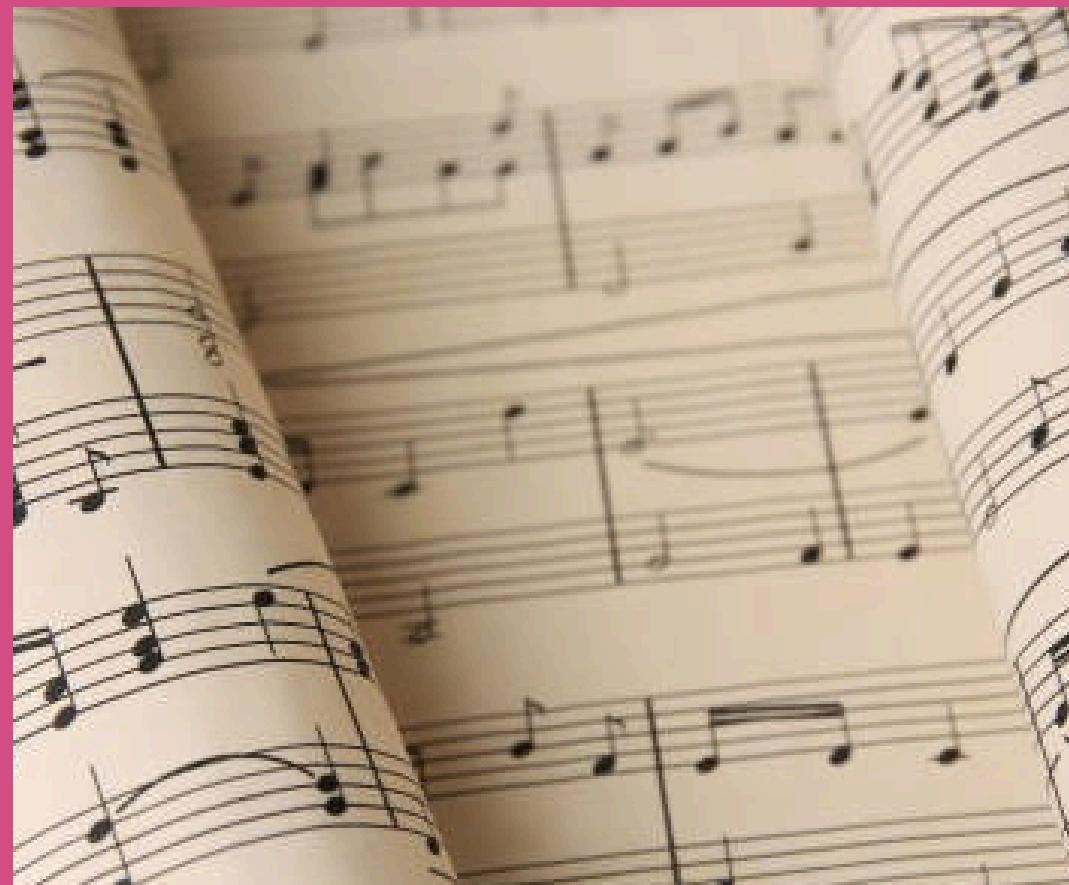
Sight-Reading Workshop

How to Improve Sight Reading Skills

April 10, 2026 at 7:00-8:15 p.m.

FREE Event. Register online at WhartonArts.org.

Join Artistic Director **Helen Cha-Pyo** for an **online workshop** focused on practical strategies to strengthen sight-reading skills and build musical confidence.



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts Day

March 22, 2026 at 2:00-5:30 p.m.

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Elizabeth
FREE Event

**Wharton Arts Day 2026 is a joyful
celebration of music, performing arts
education, and community!**

From 2:00–3:30 p.m., enjoy interactive musical activities throughout the mall, perfect for all ages. The afternoon culminates from 4:00–5:30 p.m. with the New Jersey Youth Symphony's Playathon and a special performance by the Wharton Arts Day Festival Ensemble, bringing nearly 600 young musicians together for a high-energy finale you won't want to miss.



WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts Chamber Music Concerts

April 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Burgdorff Hall at NJYS, New Providence
FREE Event

Enjoy a showcase of talented young
chamber musicians from Wharton Arts.

April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Lantern Hill, New Providence
FREE Event

More information at WhartonArts.org.



Arise!

To Inspiration



Paterson Music Project

WhartonARTS

Winter Concert

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

John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

FREE Event

Suggested donation of canned or dry food.

Enjoy a showcase of all Saturday ensembles from our youngest Prelude 1 students to the Silk City Symphony. Featuring traditional and contemporary ensembles, this concert will be sure to delight all musical palates!





**More information
at PatersonMusicProject.org**

Day of Jazz

April 25, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

FREE Event

Suggested donation of canned or dry food.

The Third Annual Day of Jazz will feature all PMP jazz and contemporary ensembles along with guest bands from other Paterson Public Schools.

Spring Concert

May 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

William Paterson University, Wayne

FREE Event

Suggested donation of canned or dry food.

Leap into spring with PMP's advanced ensembles! Featuring Silk City Symphony, Symphonic Band, Harmony Strings, School 6's Senators of Swing, Guitar Ensemble, and more.



Community Day

May 30, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

John F Kennedy High School,

Paterson

FREE Event

Close out the season with an event for the whole family! Enjoy games, crafts, food and performances by PMP students.

Arise!

To Self- Expression





CAFÉ Choir

Make a joyful noise! Join the Wharton CAFÉ Choir and make music with a vibrant community! FREE and no audition required—just bring your voice and enthusiasm! **Visit WhartonArts.org.**

CAFÉ Choir Concert

Our *Creative Aging For Everyone* Choir presents a program of old hits, classic choral works, and showtunes. Come be inspired by this fun and lively program.

April 29, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.
Wharton Black Box Theater,
Berkeley Heights
FREE Event
Susan Kirkland, Director
Peter Hill, Piano

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



Honors Recital

May 3, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Saint John's Lutheran Church, Summit

FREE Event

Join us for an afternoon of performances by distinguished young musicians from the Wharton Performing Arts School.



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ucnj.org



Company in *Alice by Heart*

Tickets and more information
at WhartonArts.org

May 30, 2026 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Wharton Black Box Theater,
Berkeley Heights
\$15/Adults, \$10/Students & Seniors

Wharton's teen **Musical Theater Company** presents the hit musical, *Alice by Heart*. In a London bomb shelter during World War II, Alice escapes into Wonderland to cope with the chaos above. *Alice by Heart* is a moving, magical story about friendship, loss, and the power of imagination when the world feels upside down.

Alice by Heart is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are provided by MTI. www.mtishows.com



Wharton Community Players Present

Shakespeare's
A Midsummer Night's Dream

June 12, 13 & 20, 2026 at 8:00 PM

June 14 & 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Wharton Black Box Theater,

Berkeley Heights

\$25/Adults, \$20/Students & Seniors

**Tickets and more information
at WhartonArts.org**



Start your summer season with **Wharton Community Players'** production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Wharton's own Lilli Markey. Magic, love, and mischief collide in Shakespeare's whimsical comedy. When a group of lovers and amateur actors venture into a forest ruled by mischievous fairies, chaos and enchantment ensue. Filled with mistaken identities and magical transformations, this timeless tale explores the unpredictable nature of love, all under the spell of moonlit mischief.

Arise!

To Empathy



60 Locust Avenue
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
(908) 790-0700
info@whartonarts.org

Visit
WhartonArts.org
for tickets and
more information.

2025
2026
SEASON

2026 Summer Camps
New Jersey Youth Symphony

June 21-July 2

Performing Arts School

June 22-August 7

570 Central Avenue
New Providence, NJ

Visit **WhartonArts.org**
for more information.

SUMMER
2026

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director



Wharton Arts is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and 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.



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

