

*Arise!*

2025  
2026  
SEASON  
WINTER/SPRING

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director



# 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

Wharton**ARTS** 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](http://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 Scarangelo, 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](https://www.njyc.org).

**April 20** Sola Voce, Cor Amici, Camerata and Coriste

**April 22** Primo Coro



## 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 [NJYC.org](http://NJYC.org).





# 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 Scarangelo, 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](https://www.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](http://NJYC.org).



# Arise!

**To  
Artistry**



# New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

## Voices of the North: Nordic & Baltic Soundscapes

## Signature Concert

**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.



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](https://WhartonArtsDonate.org)





## 2026 Open Rehearsals Week March 1-5, 2026

**New Jersey Youth Symphony,**

New Providence

FREE Event. Register online at [NJYS.org](http://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.

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

**Burgdorff Hall** at NJYS, New Providence

FREE Event

**Percussion Ensembles I, II, & III:**

Joe Bergen, Conductor



# NJYS Jazz

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

**Crossroads**, Garwood

FREE Event. Register online at [NJYS.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](http://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





**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

## **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

**June 30, 2026**

Dzintari Open-Air Concert  
Hall Jūrmala, Latvia

**July 3, 2026**

Vilnius Congress Concert Hall  
Vilnius, Lithuania





# 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

**More information at [NJYS.org](https://www.njys.org)**



# *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

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**.



Matthew Whitaker



Quinn Mason

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](https://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](https://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 1:30-5:30 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 1:30–3:00 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](https://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](https://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 10:00 a.m.-2:00 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](https://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.

This arts program is made possible in part by a 2026 **HEART** (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of County Commissioners.



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# 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](http://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 14

SUMMER  
2026

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

# 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.

