

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

**Sinfonia
Concertino Strings
Primo Strings**

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

Dorothy Young
Center for the Arts
Drew University
Madison

Arise!

New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025
2026
SEASON

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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

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.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erika V. Fanelle".

Erika Fanelle
Trustee, Interim Executive Director

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

NJYS Primo Strings

Etleva Vatoci, *conductor*

NJYS Concertino Strings

Cooper Ford, *conductor*

NJYS Sinfonia

Nevena Bojovic, *conductor*

JOHANN STRAUSS JR......The Blue Danube Waltz

(1825-1899)

arr. Richard Meyer

Benjamin Yao, Ken Cubillas, *Percussion*

BRIAN BALMAGES.....Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song

(b.1975)

ALBERTO GINASTERA.....Danza Final (from *Estancia*)

(1916-1983)

arr. Robert Longfield

Benjamin Yao, Ken Cubillas, *Percussion*

NJYS Primo Strings

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Finale—Serenade No. 9
(1756-1791)..... "Posthorn"
arr. Sandra Dackow

WILLIAM OWENS.....Beyond These Horizons
(b. 1963)

RICHARD MEYER.....Mantras
(b. 1957)

KATIE O'HARA LABRIE A New Adventure
(b. 1982)

NJYS Concertino Strings

PETER WARLOCK Capriol Suite
(1894-1930)
I. Basse-Danse
II. Pavane
VI. Mattachins (Sword Dance)

KATHRYN GRIESINGER Legends of Glory
(b. 1979)

SOON HEE NEWBOLDElementa
(b. 1974)

- I. Flights of Fancy
- II. Terra
- III. Fire and Ice

NJYS Sinfonia



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

ARTISTS

NEVENA BOJOVIC



Nevena Bojovic, Serbian native, is a violin teacher and a performer from Summit, NJ. Mrs. Bojovic holds a B. Mus. in violin performance from the University of Musical Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. After moving to the US, Mrs. Bojovic continued her studies with the renowned teacher, Mr. Kawasaki, and obtained a M. Mus. Degree from Brooklyn College, NY. Mrs. Bojovic has had the pleasure of

performing throughout the Tri-state area as a freelance musician with numerous ensembles. Mrs. Bojovic's orchestral experience includes performances throughout Europe with Serbian Chamber Orchestra and St. George Strings ensembles.

Mrs. Bojovic received Suzuki teacher training and certification from School for Strings, NYC. She has been a faculty member of SCMC (New Providence, NJ), String Project (Brooklyn College, NY), United Nations International School (New York, NY), Far Brook School (Short Hills, NJ), NJYS Summer Orchestral Camp (New Providence, NJ) and is currently conductor of Sinfonia, NJYS and orchestra director at the Summit High School, Summit, NJ.

COOPER FORD



An NJYS alum, **Cooper Ford** is thrilled to make his return as the conductor of Concertino Strings. He is currently the Orchestra Director at North Brunswick Township High School in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where he also teaches classes in Music Production. As a published composer, he has written a variety of original works and

arrangements, which have been performed by school and youth orchestras across the country. Recently, he began a collaboration with Manjula Ramachandran, an accomplished Carnatic musician, to write authentic & accessible music in the South Indian Classical tradition for strings. Cooper received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The College of New Jersey and Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Florida. He is also a recipient of the ASTA/NJ Classroom Teacher of the Year and the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award. Outside of teaching and composing, he is also active as a guest conductor, clinician, and speaker. He is grateful to his school music program and all his teachers growing up, who not only taught him to play the violin and tuba, but inspired his pursuit of music education.

ETLEVA VATOCI



Etleva Vatoci is a freelance performer and teacher based in Summit, NJ. She has an extensive performance background, having toured Europe with the State Symphony Orchestra of Athens, Greece and the Opera and Ballet Orchestra in Tirana, Albania. Upon relocating to the United States, she performed with various ensembles in New England. Mrs Vatoci holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from University of Arts,

Tirana, Albania and completed her Master of Music studies at the John Cali School of Music, Montclair State University. In her studio, she teaches violin and viola, with her students excelling in Regional and All-state orchestra and achieving distinguished results in the ASTACAP program. Additionally she has lended her expertise to coaching sectionals and chamber groups at NJYS during the school year and summer camp for several years. In 2023, she joined the Stokes Music Summer Camp faculty. Mrs. Vatoci has also been an Orchestra Director in the Livingston School District since 2010, where she continues to inspire and educate young musicians.

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 PRIMO STRINGS
ETLEVA VATOCI, CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Krystal Li, *co-concertmaster, Harrison Elementary*
Yaming Wang, *co-concertmaster, Harrison Elementary*
Stella An, *Mount Horeb Elementary*
Olivia Babaoglu, *Salt Brook Elementary*
Natalie Bates, *Mother of Divine Grace School*
Jill D'Agostino, *Oak Knoll School*
Arya Ha, *Allen W. Roberts Elementary*
Shreya Krishnan, *Oak Street School*
Suvi Kuo, *Harrison Elementary*
Warren Li, *Washington School*
Emily Mi, *Franklin Elementary*
Olivia Mi, *Franklin Elementary*
Kaitlyn Yu, *Allen W. Roberts Elementary*
Andrew Zhang, *Metuchen Campbell School*
Chloe Zheng, *Wyoming Elementary*

Violin II

Edin Gonzalez, *co-principal, Oak Street Elementary*
Penelope Ramsay, *co-principal, Stony Brook School*
Cassandra Errazo, *Holy Trinity School*
Zara Guillaume, *Lincoln Hubbard Elementary*
Philipp Hoff, *Lawton C. Johnson Summit MS*
Austin Hong, *Chatham MS*
Jasper Huang, *Franklin School*
Alexis Leu, *William Annin MS*
Nakshatra Mithun, *Roosevelt Intermediate School*
Sofia Soloff, *FN Brown Elementary*
Max Svetlanov, *School One Elementary*
Ariana Sztancsik, *Thomas P. Hughes Elementary*
Yoanna Xu, *Liberty Corner School*
Sebastian Zazzali, *Washington Elementary*

Viola

Edward Hong, *co-principal, Franklin Elementary*
Eliana Mark, *co-principal, Montclair Kimberley Academy*
Juniper Chen, *New Providence MS*
Gabby Coto, *Jefferson Elementary*
Charvik Kethireddy, *William Annin MS*
Muhua Zhang, *Allen W. Roberts Elementary*

Cello

Marcus Shadid, *co-principal, Oak Street Elementary*
Nathan Kuo, *co-principal, Millburn MS*
Amav Goyal, *Deerfield Elementary*
Sanvi Gupta, *Hillside Intermediate*
Yannie Ip, *Oak Street School*
Samuel Li, *Jefferson Elementary*
Ammon Niederhausern, *Bernardsville MS*
Ian Payt, *William Annin MS*
Grace Schroder, *Livingston Avenue School*
George Winton, *Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary*

Bass

Anika Bansal, *co-principal, Mountain Park Elementary*
Amelia Kanji, *co-principal, Thomas P. Hughes Elementary*
Hugo Daniel Alves Infante, *YO guest*

Percussion

Kenneth Cubillas, *guest*
Benjamin Yao, *YS guest*

NJYS CONCERTINO STRINGS
COOPER FORD, CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Audrey Shen, *concertmaster, Cedar Hill Elementary*
Nour Benhattal, *Lawton C. Johnson Summit MS*
Leo Cheng, *Warren Mount Horeb Elementary*
Siddharth Gupta, *Millburn MS*
Esther Ji, *Trinity Christian School*
Ruth Ji, *Trinity Christian School*
Yahan Jiang, *Kent Place School*
Nathlie John, *William Annin MS*
Alice Kim, *Central MS*
Olivia Kim, *Chatham MS*
Elizabeth Pan, *Washington School*
Owen Pressman, *Valley View MS*
Anooshka Sen, *Lawton C. Johnson Summit MS*
Genevieve Spaulding, *Columbia MS*
Evan Xia, *The Wardlaw+Hartridge School*
Rachel Yang, *Franklin Elementary*

Violin II

Maysan Shellhammer, *principal, Wyoming Elementary*
Karl Jose Flavio Amaral, *Newark Academy*
Raajan Bhor, *Allen W. Roberts Elementary*
Saharsh Bindal, *Deerfield Elementary*
Eliana Dorner, *Edison Intermediate School*
Maxine He, *Benjamin Franklin MS*
Audrey Hsu, *Harrison Elementary*
Alessandra Palazzolo, *Foundations First Christian*
Ryan Park, *Burnet Hill Elementary*
Mihira Santhapuri, *Salt Brook Elementary*
Ayan Sheth, *John P. Stevens HS*
Benjamin Spaulding, *Summit HS*
Lian Wijerama, *Bedminster Township School*
Sage Williams, *Readington MS*
Luthien Xu, *Columbia MS*
Violet Yeh, *Deerfield Elementary*

Viola

Isabella Barmas, *principal, Heritage MS*
Aahana Kundu, *Newark Academy*
Sophia Shieh, *Millburn MS*
Danica Tuan, *Madison Junior School*
Katherine Ursic, *Hillside Avenue School*
Jiarui Wu, *Chatham MS*

Cello

Zhining Fan, *principal, Allen W. Roberts Elementary*
Laith Bedri, *The Pingry School*
Vienna Hoang, *Allen W. Roberts Elementary*
Radha Holland, *Chatham MS*
Arielle Hua, *Deerfield School*
Austin Hua, *Washington School*
Nautica Niederhausern, *Bernardsville MS*
Gavin Steed-Bordner, *New Providence MS*
Nathaniel Thomas, *The Pingry School*
Olivia Tran, *Hillside Avenue School*

Bass

Asher Radin, *principal, William Annin MS*
Karl Jose Flavio Amaral, *Newark Academy**
Sarah Brubaker, *Millburn MS*
Nicholas Huang, *Chatham MS*
Ayan Sheth, *John P. Stevens HS**

Harp

Sophia Shieh, *Millburn MS*

*** Participant in 2026 NJYS Doubling Program**



Creating our future, together.

NJYS SINFONIA
NEVENA BOJOVIC, CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Gloria Liu, *concertmaster, Newark Academy*
Arya Akuthota, *William Annin MS*
Anny Chen, *Mendham Country Day School*
Luca Dowden, *Lawton C. Johnson*

Summit MS

Katherine Janiszewski, *Newark Academy*
Chelsea Li, *Edison Intermediate School*
Livy Newman, *Governor Livingston HS*
Sumeya Shellhammer, *Millburn MS*
Alexander Springer, *New Providence MS*
Keshav Veettil, *Edison Intermediate School*
Alexander Wu, *Newark Academy*
Emily Yang, *Millburn Washington School*
Freya Yang, *Washington School*
Ethan Zuo, *The Peck School*

Violin II

Charles Grundy, *principal, New*
Providence MS
Arella ChengEn Ho, *Millburn MS*
Elias James, *William Annin MS*
Ariya Khan, *Brookside MS*
Harry Liu, *Lawton C. Johnson Summit MS*
Shambhavi Mishra, *Chatham MS*
Elsa Qi, *Glenwood Elementary*
Kayun Son, *Mount Prospect Elementary*
Milly Wang, *The Pingry School*
Jason Xiong, *Millburn MS*
Alice Yin, *Briacliff MS*
Marco Zhou, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*

Viola

Lucas Sun, *principal, Benjamin Franklin MS*
Ziyad F. Ali, *The Pingry School*
Ria Kumar, *Academy of Allied Health*
Sciences

P. Jacob Mathew, *Millburn HS*
Sophia Pilachowski, *Roosevelt*
Intermediate School

Cello

Jaxon Lai, *principal, Newark Academy*
Vaanya Aggarwal, *Millburn MS*
Alina Belfield, *Central MS*
Quentin Fang, *Valley View MS*
Myles Guillaume, *Lawton C. Johnson*
Summit MS
Zixuan Jiang, *Millburn MS*
Gitanjali Kameswaran, *Kent Place School*
Mateo Moses, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Benjamin Tang, *Hillside School*
Abigail Tu, *Hillside Intermediate*
Kevin Zhao, *Infinity Institute*
Elina Zhu, *Millburn MS*

Bass

Abitha Narayanan, *principal, William*
Annin MS
Hugo Daniel Alves Infante, *YO guest*

Thank You

Special thanks to all our Parents On Duty!

We couldn't do this without you.

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

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

NJYS Fortissimo Flutes, Flute Forum, Flute Choir, Concertino Winds
Dolan Hall, Annunciation Center, St. Elizabeth University, Florham Park
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

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

NJYS Jazz Orchestra, NJYS Big Band, NJYS Jazz Workshop
Dolan Hall, Annunciation Center, St. Elizabeth University, Florham Park
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

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

PAS Honors Recital
St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit
Free

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

Paterson Music Project Spring Concert
William Paterson University, Wayne
FREE

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

NJYS Youth Orchestra, Philharmonia, Percussion Ensemble
Nicholas Music Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
\$20/Adults, \$15/Students & Seniors

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

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

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

PMP Community Day
John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson
FREE

June 12, 13, & 20, 8:00 p.m.: June 13 & 21, 2:00 p.m.

Wharton Community Players Present "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Wharton Arts Black Box Theater
\$25/Adults, \$20/Students & Seniors

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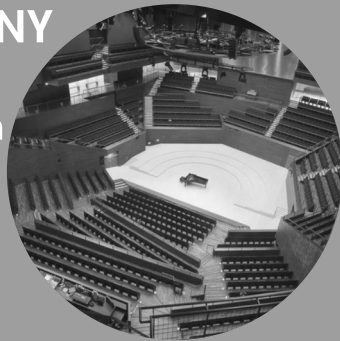
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NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

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



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Arise!

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal 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

Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8*
in G minor, Op. 88

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Tickets



More information
at **NJYS.org**



WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cho-Pyo, Artistic Director

Summer
Camps 2026

June 21 - August 7

Performing Arts School

Music Around the World

Meet the Instruments

Piano Explorers

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New Jersey Youth Symphony

June 21 - July 2

Orchestral Camp

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More information at
WhartonArts.org

New Jersey Youth Chorus

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

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Welcoming at the door
Extraordinary in song

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Auditions in June



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singers build
confidence,
musicianship,
and lifelong
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Auditions are held in
a relaxed and
supportive setting.



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

Arise!

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal 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



CL4tet:
Bryan Rudderow, Coach

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More information
at **NJYS.org**

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

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



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



More information
at **NJYS.org**

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MAY CONCERT



Help NJYS meet the
Playathon Goal of
\$100,000!

New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS
Helen H. Cho-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

Playathon



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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 January 1, 2025 to February 4, 2026. Please contact us if you see any errors or omissions.

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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.

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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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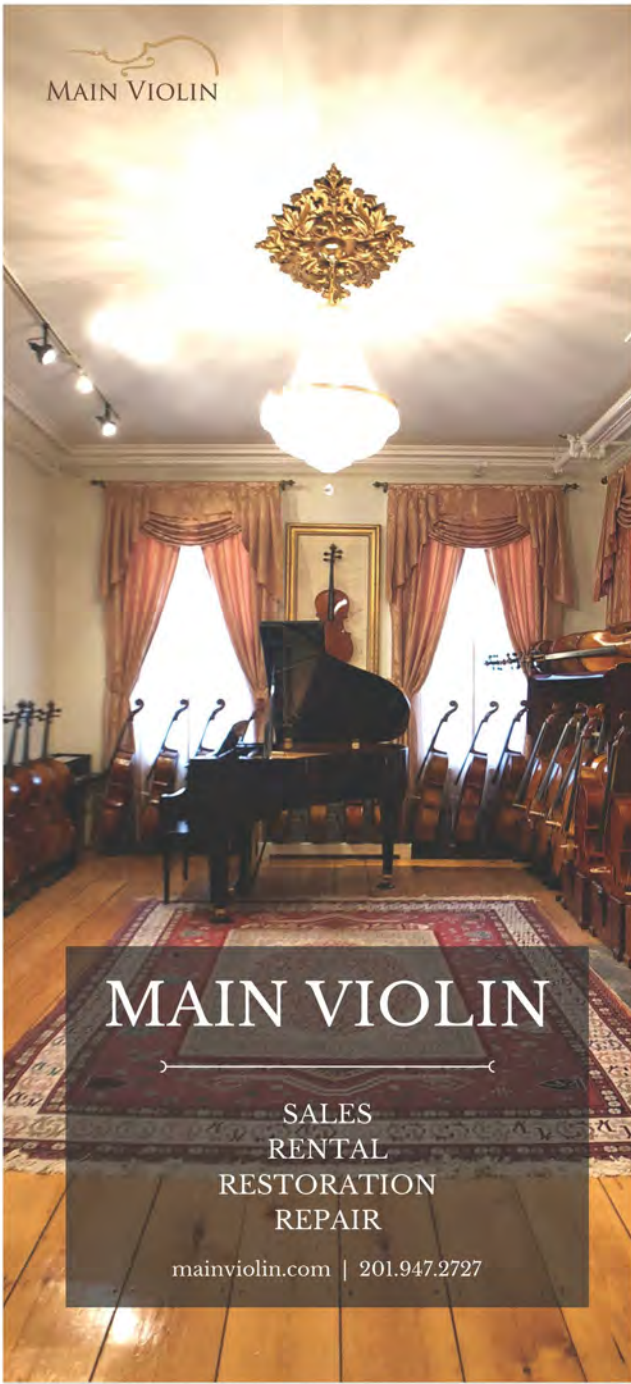


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