

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

**NJYS Percussion  
Ensembles**

**NJYS Philharmonia**

1:00 p.m.

**NJYS Youth  
Orchestra**

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 10, 2026  
Nicholas Music Center  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick

*Arise!*

New Jersey Youth Symphony  
WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

2025  
2026  
SEASON

discover  
jersey  
arts

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NEW JERSEY



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

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



Creating our future, together.

# New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

## **NJYS Percussion Ensembles**

Joe Bergen, *director*

## **NJYS Philharmonia**

Mark Gunderman, *conductor*

**MICHAEL HUESTIS** .....Haut Metall Holz  
(b. 1873)

**GEORGES BIZET** ..... Dance Bohem, *Carmen Suite No. 2*  
(1838-1875)  
arr. Bryan Slawson

*NJYS PE I & II*

**MARC MELLITS** .....Gravity  
(b.1966)

**IANNIS XENAKIS** .....Okho  
(1922-2001)

*NJYS PE III*

**ARAM KHACHATURIAN** .....Masquerade Suite  
(1903-1978)

- I. Waltz
- III. Mazurka
- IV. Romance
- V. Galop

*NJYS Philharmonia*



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

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## ARTISTS

### JOE BERGEN

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**Joe Bergen** is a musician, educator, composer, and arts administrator who focuses on creating and developing diverse and equitable music communities. Joe is best known as a founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Mantra Percussion, Inc., a future-focusing arts organization dedicated to a lasting influence on percussion performance and percussion education. In

addition to Joe's recent appointment as director of percussion at the New Jersey Youth Symphony, Joe is the director of percussion studies, adjunct music education professor, and marching band instructor at Caldwell University. He is also an adjunct music instructor at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, and the NJ state chapter president of the Percussive Arts Society.

Joe has recorded for film, TV, radio, and video game soundtracks, released nearly two dozen recordings on various record labels, and has toured North America, Asia, and Europe. Highlight performances include featured artist on the San Francisco Symphony's American Mavericks series and Pulitzer-prize winning composer David Lang's Collected Stories series at Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall's REDCAT theater in Los Angeles, the Right Now festival in Seoul, Korea, and Sacrum Profanum series in Krakow, Poland. He has presented educational workshops for Carnegie Hall, the New Jersey Music Educators Association, the Percussive Arts Society, and Mannes Conservatory of Music. His compositions have been performed by students and professional ensembles around the country.

Joe's most recent project featured him in a new role as manager and producer for the percussion ensemble Recap Quartet, a group of former students from Mantra Youth Percussion. Recap's debut album, "Count to Five," garnered national attention, making National Public Radio's Top 10 Classical Albums of the Year, top 100 Songs of the Year, and featured story on NPR's All Things Considered.

Joe's latest project features him again in a new role as part of the production and writing team for a forthcoming film about the Alaska Beringia region, created through interdisciplinary artistic collaboration with musicians and composers, Native Alaskan artists & storytellers, and environmental scientists. The project seeks to address the cultural, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the Alaskan Beringia region while celebrating its incredible cultural and biological diversity and natural beauty. The project is produced by Found Sound Nation, a program funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs, with additional support made possible by a grant from the National Parks Service.

Joe is a doctoral student at Boston University, studying music education. His research interests include community-music, interdisciplinary studies,

and preservice teacher education. Joe cites his love for teaching music from his early experiences performing in youth orchestras, marching bands, percussion ensembles, and drum and bugle corps. He is thrilled to work with the next generation of musicians at NJYS!

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## MARK GUNDERMAN

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**Mark Gunderman** is internationally active as a violinist, educator, and conductor. He currently conducts the orchestra programs at both Franklin Middle School and Franklin High School in Somerset, NJ. He is in his tenth year as conductor of NJYS's Philharmonia. Before becoming a conductor, Gunderman was the head violin instructor with Midori & Friends, an organization

dedicated to providing music and instrumental instruction to New York City's public schools. He also lived for a time in Lisbon, Portugal where he was a violinist in the Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa and a professor at the Nacional Academia Superior.

An active freelance musician in all styles of music, Gunderman performs in solo, chamber and orchestra concerts and resides and teaches in New Providence. Gunderman graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Music degree and from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Master of Music degree.

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## NJYS CONDUCTORS

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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*

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## PHILHARMONIA COACHES

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Crispian Fordham, *Winds*

Vernon Post, *Brass*

Joe Bergen, *Percussion*

Danielle Sinclair, *Violin*

Leslie Parker Johannessen, *Violin*

Victoria Witmer, *Viola*

Susan Meuse, *Cello*

Carlos Barriento, *Bass*

Joe Bergen, *Percussion*

**NJYS PHILHARMONIA**  
**MARK GUNDERMAN, CONDUCTOR**

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**Violin I**

Jessica Chen, *Chatham MS, Concertmaster*  
Nolan Wang, *Edison Intermediate School,*  
*assistant concertmaster*

Arushi Bindal, *Millburn MS*

Christian Camposagrado, *Seton Hall*  
*Preparatory*

Allison Cheng, *Millburn MS*

Aeyden Farah, *Valley View Elementary*

Artus Ip, *William Annin MS*

Ryka Jain, *Edison Academy Magnet School*

Chenrui Jia, *The Peck School*

Nicholas Kao, *Seton Hall Preparatory*

Lia Quon, *Central MS*

Idhya Shailabh, *Ridge HS*

Anand Swaminarayan, *Secaucus HS*

Adam Webb, *Delbarton School*

Charlotte Zhuang, *Columbia MS*

**Violin II**

Qing Yu, *Chatham MS, principal*

Leo Xu, *The Pingry School,*  
*assistant principal*

Lucy Burgoon, *Westfield HS*

Gayatri Chakravarty, *Union County*  
*Vocational Technical Schools*

Zijian Chen, *Millburn MS*

Anh Dang Vu, *Bridgewater-Raritan MS*

Aashritha Kolli, *The Pingry School*

Chloe Li, *The Pingry School*

Amelia Sabel, *Millburn MS*

Sydney Singer, *Millburn HS*

Keegan Soares, *Newark Academy*

Sebastian Soloff, *HB Whitehorne MS*

EunChae Song, *North Hunterdon HS*

Maura Steed-Bordner, *New Providence MS*

Akshara Vikram, *New Providence HS*

Natalie Walker, *Edison Intermediate School*

Claire Zhang, *Millburn MS*

Edward Zhu, *Millburn MS*

**Viola**

Ian Warme, *New Providence MS, principal*  
Bela Sinkar, *William Annin MS,*  
*assistant principal*

Sophie Filas, *Mount Olive HS*

Kara Housel, *New Providence MS*

Kevin Zhang, *William Annin MS*

**Cello**

Bryan Yuan, *William Annin MS, principal*

Sabrina Qadri, *The Pingry School,*  
*assistant principal*

Neev Bothra, *John P. Stevens HS* 🎓

Katy Li, *Bridgewater-Raritan MS*

Emma Ung, *Millburn HS*

Timothy Wei, *Parsippany Hills HS*

Aiden Xu, *The Peck School*

Isaac Zheng, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*

Chloe Zhou, *Newark Academy*

**Bass**

Avika Dhir, *Millburn HS, principal*

Vihaan Mikkilineni, *Millburn HS, assistant*  
*principal*

Adrian Bolisay, *Watchung Hills Regional HS,*  
*principal*

Julian Bolisay, *Watchung Hills Regional HS,*  
*assistant principal*

*Strings are listed in alphabetical order*  
*following the principals.*

**Flute**

Emma Zhu, *Millburn MS, principal*  
 Adithya Balakumar, *Millburn HS*  
 Charlotte Gao, *Millburn MS*  
 Lexi Qiu, *William Annin MS*

**Oboe**

Meghana Kumar, *Woodrow Wilson MS, principal*  
 Yuho Song, *Heritage MS*

**Clarinet**

Colin Hu, *Millburn MS, principal*  
 Alex Doyle, *Newark Academy*  
 Isabelle Lim, *Mount Pleasant MS*  
 Gabriella Siuta, *Union Catholic Regional HS* 🎓

**Bassoon**

James Di Costanzo, *YS guest*  
 Ishaan Subramanian, *Alumni guest*

**French Horn**

Annabelle Tao, *Mount Saint Mary Academy, principal*  
 Andy Lu, *William Annin MS*

**Trumpet**

Rebecca Finkel, *Kent Place, principal*  
 Joe Buono, *guest*

**Trombone**

Gavin Nugent, *Midland School #1, principal*  
 Rishan Wagle, *Livingston HS*  
 Vernon Post, *guest*

**Tuba**

Finn Gallagher, *guest*

**Percussion**

Frank Wang, *William Annin MS*  
 Martin Yin, *Far Brook School*  
 Ben Yao, *YS guest*  
 Isaac Ma, *YS guest*

🎓 *Denotes Graduating Seniors*

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**NJYS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES**  
**JOE BERGEN, DIRECTOR**

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**Percussion Ensemble I&II**

Milo Wolf, *Allen W Roberts Elementary*  
 Frank Wang, *Annin MS*  
 Martin Yin, *Far Brook School*  
 Mira Mayer-Kuckuk, *Gill St. Bernards School*

**Percussion Ensemble III**

Aakash Sengupta, *John Adams MS*  
 Ryan Wen, *The Pingry School*  
 SriKrishna Dowlapalli, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*  
 Isaac Ma, *Millburn High School*  
 Benjamin Yao, *Saint Joseph HS*  
 William Stewart, *River Dell HS*

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*Thank You*

**Philharmonia Volunteers**

**Auditions:** Qiong Zhao, Sue Zhao

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

# New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

## NJYS Youth Orchestra

Dr. Oliver Hagen, *conductor*

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK**.....Symphony No. 8 in G Major  
(1841-1904)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegretto grazioso
- IV. Allegro ma non troppo

*NJYS Youth Orchestra*



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

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## DR. OLIVER HAGEN

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Conductor and pianist **Oliver Hagen** played piano on Third Coast Percussion's 2017 Grammy-winning album, *Reich: Mallet Quartet, Sextet, Nagoya Marimbas & Music for Pieces of Wood*.

Hagen is currently on faculty at the Juilliard Preparatory Division and Newark Academy. He was recently named conductor of the Youth Orchestra at New Jersey Youth Symphony. Hagen has worked as a guest conductor with the Grossman Ensemble at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition. He was formerly Assistant Conductor of the *Ensemble Intercontemporain*, appointed by Pierre Boulez. Hagen had the good fortune to perform under Boulez's direction towards the end of his life, playing Solo Piano 1 in Boulez's own work, *Répons*. This will always be one of Hagen's most cherished memories.

As a pianist in Ensemble Signal for over fifteen years, Hagen has collaborated with Steve Reich, recording the composer's *Radio Rewrite* for Harmonia Mundi, and premiering the *Reich/Richter* in a two-month run celebrating the opening of the *Shed* in NYC. Also as a member of the ensemble, Hagen has appeared at venues such as Carnegie's Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center Festival, Library of Congress, Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA, and the Big Ears Festival in Tennessee. Hagen conducted the ensemble in *Peter and the Wolf* at the Guggenheim, with fashion icon Isaac Mizrahi narrating.

Hagen has finished the first draft of his new textbook on conducting, entitled *One Note at a Time*. Writing this book has been motivated by his passion for teaching, his professional conducting work, his master's degree in Music Education at Hofstra University, and his doctoral degree in conducting with Brad Lubman from the Eastman School of Music.

Hagen made his acting *début* co-starring in the feature film *On a String*, written and directed by his sister, Isabel Hagen. The film won best screenplay at the 2025 Tribeca Festival.

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## YOUTH ORCHESTRA COACHES

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Crispian Fordham, *Winds*  
Dan Choi, *Clarinet*  
Bob Wagner, *Bassoon*  
Vernon Post, *Trombone & Brass*  
Joe Bergen, *Percussion*

Sarah Ng, *Violin*  
Leslie Parker Johannessen, *Violin*  
Dr. Arvin Gopal, *Viola*  
Ben Tsai, *Cello*  
Domenic Croce, *Bass*

**NJYS YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**DR. OLIVER HAGEN, CONDUCTOR**

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**Violin I**

Isabella Gopal, *Woodrow Wilson MS, concertmaster*  
Joseph Jeong, *Millburn MS, assistant concertmaster*  
Anya Czarnota, *Mother Seaton Regional HS*  
Christopher Hock, *Chatham HS*  
Jaslene Jen, *Governor Livingston HS*  
Vani Kaushal, *Briarcliff MS*  
Ahmad Khan, *Westfield HS*  
Megan Kuo, *New Providence HS*  
Jocelyn Mi, *Ridge HS*  
Sebastian Morgera, *Black River MS*  
Lyla Toporowski, *Franklin HS*  
Carolyn Weng, *Kent Place School*  
Lillian Yu, *Union County Magnet HS*  
Allison Zhang, *Livingston HS*  
Elsa Zu, *Chatham MS*

**Violin II**

Xavier LeBlanc, *principal*  
Annabelle Zhao, *Newark Academy, assistant principal*  
Haley Berger, *Westfield HS* 🎓  
Maya Czarnota, *St. John the Apostle*  
Yeva Daniyel, *Livingston HS* 🎓  
Nikhil Das, *Mount Pleasant MS*  
Chloe Deng, *Ridge HS*  
Arianna Desai, *Union County Academy for Allied Health Sciences*  
Garv Goyal, *Livingston HS*  
Katie Huang, *Magnet HS* 🎓  
Daniel Kisu Kim, *Delbarton School*  
Ryan Ng, *Academy for Information Technology*  
Jaden Park, *Millburn HS*  
Anika Pendri, *William Annin MS*  
Surya Raghavan, *Newark Academy*  
Owen Steed-Bordner, *Union County Magnet HS*  
Alex Svetlanov, *Malcolm E. Nettingham MS*  
Tanvi Telang, *Millburn HS*  
Levi Zhou, *Chatham HS*

**Viola**

Livia Yu, *Livingston HS, principal*  
Landon Shen, *Morristown Beard School, assistant principal*  
Adrija Adhikary, *Union County Magnet HS*  
Jeffery Hsieh, *John Adams MS*  
Crystal Li, *Millburn HS*  
Jack Sunderland, *Hopewell Valley Central HS*  
Emma Xu, *Kent Place School*

**Cello**

Alexander Gigliotti, *New Providence HS, principal*  
Eric Zhang, *Princeton MS, assistant principal*  
Angela Chen, *New Providence MS*  
Kai Gao, *Montclair Kimberly Academy*  
Brian Hsieh, *John P. Stevens HS* 🎓  
Charlotte Huang, *Madison HS*  
Lydia Kahng, *Villa Walsh Academy*  
Kristian Kowalewski, *Ridge HS*  
Tyler Lee, *Academy of Information Technology*  
Julia Li, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*  
Richard Ping, *Saint Joseph HS*  
Saanvi Saxena, *Millburn HS*  
Anshita Tatavarty, *Ridge HS*  
Jackson Wang, *Chatham HS*  
Sean Wu, *Millburn MS*

**Bass**

Hugo Daniel Alves Infante, *New Providence HS, principal*  
Mina Alborzi, *Clifton HS, assistant principal*  
Shakthi Prasanth, *Chatham HS*  
Ansh Seth, *John P. Stevens HS* 🎓

### **Flute**

Audrey Lee, *Academy for Information*

*Technology, principal* 🎓

Evie Ma, *William Annie MS*

Cora Smerillo, *North Hunterdon HS*

### **Oboe**

Anya Ausiello, *Westfield HS, principal* 🎓

Carissa Gulati, *Millburn HS*

Kaya Masucci, *Columbia HS*

Dillon Wang, *Holmdel HS*

### **English Horn**

Carissa Gulati, *Millburn HS*

### **Clarinet**

Jaime DeRosa, *Millburn HS, principal*

Ben Campbell, *William Annin MS*

Ethan Chun, *Seton Hall Preparatory*

Luke Jarman, *James Caldwell HS*

Dylan Kim, *Millburn HS*

### **Bassoon**

Meghan Reilly, *Cranford HS, principal*

Sam Martos, *Morristown Beard School*

### **French Horn**

Jason Yu, *Millburn HS, principal*

Julian Misiewicz, *Summit HS*

Emily Hauck, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Konrad Kazimierski, *Saint Joseph HS*

### **Trumpet**

Michael Brown, *Hunterdon Central Regional HS, principal*

Daniel Chang, *Biotechnology HS*

Alasdair Eck, *Delbarton School* 🎓

Connor Li, *Livingston HS*

### **Trombone**

Benjamin Qin, *Millburn HS, principal*

Anthony Schuck, *Chatham HS*

Jake Valladares, *Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies*

### **Tuba**

Deandre Desir, *guest*

### **Timpani**

Aakash Sengupta, *John Adams MS*

Mira Mayer-Kuckuk, *Gill St. Bernards School*

🎓 Graduating Senior

*The students are listed alphabetically following the principals.*

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# Thank You

## **Youth Orchestra Volunteers**

**Auditions:** Myung Kim, Beth Toporowski

Library: Rosemary Martos

Special thanks to all our Parents On Duty!

We couldn't do this without you.

# NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

## ARAM KHACHATURIAN *MASQUERADE SUITE*

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Armenian-Soviet composer and conductor, Aram Khachaturian was born in Tbilisi, the county of Georgia and later moved to Moscow, where he studied at the Moscow Conservatory. Khachaturian's musical contributions include three symphonies, ballet music to Spartacus and Gayane (later of which includes the famous "Sabre Dance"), film scores, and numerous concertos, including the widely-performed 1940 violin concerto. The composer is perhaps best known for his use of folk music and sensuous melodies, the inspiration for which he drew from his childhood, life events, people, and Armenian and Georgian songs and dances. In early 1950s he taught at the Moscow Conservatory and the Gnessin Institute, and later, in 1957, became the Secretary of the Union of Soviet Composers.

In 1948, The Central Committee of the Communist Party accused Khachaturian, along with other Soviet composers including Prokofiev and Shostakovich, of writing "formalist music"—music that went against the Soviet ideal. Khachaturian responded to the charges, stating "I want to warn those comrades who, like myself, hoped that their music, which is not understood by the people today, will be understood by future generations tomorrow. . . What can be higher and nobler than writing music understandable to our people and to give joy by creative art to millions?"

Khachaturian composed incidental music for a 1941 production entitled Masquerade. A few years later, in 1944, the composer formed a stand-alone symphonic suite containing five movements from the original production. The movements are based on romances and dances and include a hauntingly-dark Waltz in a minor key, a nostalgic and mournful Nocturne featuring a solo violin, a stately and upbeat Mazurka, a film noir-like Romance with a legato and sustained melody heard in a solo trumpet, and a final fast and quirky Galop.

-Program notes from Laurier Orchestra

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK  
*SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN G MAJOR, OP. 88*

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Dvořák's eighth symphony is "a pastoral work filled with elements of national dances, songs, and scenes ... despite the academic purposes for which it came to be used." Musicologist A. Peter Brown provides here two aspects of this symphony and of the composer worth knowing about. Even though a few of Dvořák's earlier symphonies would be very welcomed by audiences, the last three symphonies are by far his most commonly performed works in this form. They are each of a very different character. Number seven in D minor is firmly entrenched in the learned, harmonically and formally sophisticated Viennese symphonic tradition, while number nine, "The New World Symphony," written and first performed here in our own country and employing what were then called "negro melodies" looks to the future.

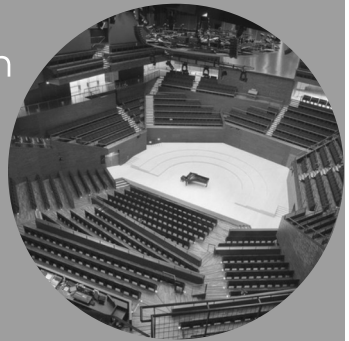
Sandwiched in between these two, Dvořák's eighth symphony is his homage to the music of his own Bohemian homeland. Although also sophisticated in technique, he cast aside some traditions of the classical symphony and decided to do things his own way. He bases the first movement on a plethora of melodies rather than just the usual two contrasting themes. The traditional fast movement scherzo is replaced with a Czech dance, the furiant. Although there a few dark moments, the pastoral description is totally apt and generally the landscapes are sunny.

Dvořák was selected in 1890 by the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, Franz Joseph, for a chair in the Czech Academy for Sciences, Literature and the Arts, and in 1891 received an honorary doctoral degree from Cambridge University. This symphony was performed on both of these occasions. In spite of his origins in an obscure corner of the Empire, he had become a very important composer known all over Europe and in America. Like Tchaikovsky, he had from the start been pigeonholed as a "nationalist" composer, a term never applied to Beethoven, Schubert, or Brahms who employed folk elements as well, but then they were of Austro-German origin, the dominant musical culture in the nineteenth century. Dvořák could choose this pastoral symphony with elements of national songs and dances to celebrate his international notoriety because he had achieved international success.

-Program notes from Tucson Symphony Orchestra

# 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 30, 2026**

Dzintari Open-Air Concert Hall  
Jūrmala, Latvia

**June 29, 2026**

Estonian Academy of Music  
and Theatre Tallinn, Estonia

**July 3, 2026**

Vilnius Congress Concert Hall  
Vilnius, Lithuania



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Shakespeare's

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

June 12, 13 & 20 at 8:00 p.m.  
June 14 & 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Wharton Black Box Theater | 60 Locust Avenue, Berkeley Heights  
\$25/Adults, \$20/Students & Seniors

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.



Scan for  
Tickets

More information at [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org)

# WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director



*Discover the*

# MAGIC *of the* HARP

Free Introductory Lessons with  
Faculty Member **Diane Michaels**

## Saturday, May 30

10:30–11:00 AM & 11:15–11:45 AM

Wharton Performing Arts School  
60 Locust Avenue, Berkeley Heights

Additional session may be added

More information at [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org)

Reserve Your  
Spot Today



*40th Anniversary*  
Performing Arts School  
WhartonARTS

# New Jersey Youth Symphony SUMMER CAMPS 2026

WhartonARTS

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

## S Orchestral Camp Strings Session

June 21- July 2  
9:00 am- 1:00 pm



## W Orchestral Camp Winds/Brass/Percussion

June 21- July 2  
12:00-4:00 pm



## D Double Reed Camp June 22- June 26 All Levels Welcome!



## C Chamber Music Camp June 21- July 1 All Levels Welcome!



Final Chance to Save on NJYS Summer Camps!

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Save \$50!

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NJYS.org

We've extended Early Bird pricing through May 15 so you can still save 5% on tuition. Plus, new this year, bring a buddy to Orchestral Camp and you'll both receive \$50 off!

Attend with your school stand partner, section mate, or friend and make the experience even more rewarding from day one. 🎵

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REGISTER



## WHARTON ARTS ACCESSIBILITY

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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](mailto:susan.peterson@WhartonArts.org).

Visit our patron services page at:

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



# WhartonARTS

## Upcoming Events

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

June 21– July 2

### **NJYS Summer Camps**

NJYS, New Providence

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## Follow us on Social Media!

New Jersey Youth Symphony:



@newjerseyyouthsymphony

NJYS Jazz:



@NJYSJAZZ





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

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**

New Jersey Youth Chorus

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director

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Welcoming at the door  
Extraordinary in song

# Auditions

Open to singers entering grades 3 - 12  
Auditions in June



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Learn more at  
**NJYC.org**

Auditions are held in  
a relaxed and  
supportive setting.



Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is a non-profit 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  
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Help NJYS meet the  
Playathon Goal of  
\$100,000!

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

# Playathon



## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE:

- Playathon donations fill the gap between tuition and total expenses
- Playathon donations support scholarships so that more students can pursue their passion—no matter their background
- Many employers match your donation and gifts of stock are also welcome — an easy way to increase your impact

SUPPORT NJYS TODAY



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

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**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



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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.

**Wharton Arts**

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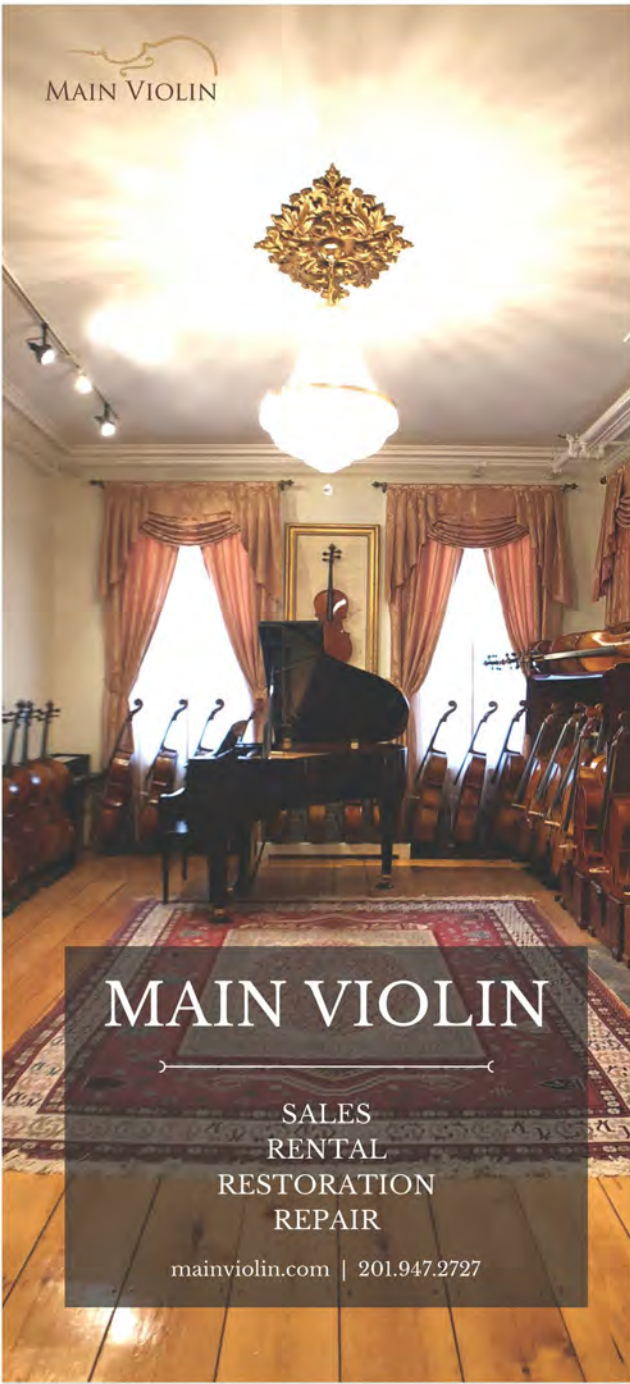


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