

WhartonARTS

Transforming lives through music education.



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.

WhartonArts.org



2026
2027
SEASON
FALL/WINTER

Introducing our new President and CEO

It's a delight to be joining the team here at Wharton Arts, and a privilege to raise the curtain on this year's exciting season offerings!

I am the grateful alumna not only of a renowned conservatory, but more importantly of a public school system that valued the arts and surrounded its students with great learning every day; of one of this country's great summer music institutes; and then a fine liberal arts college, where as part of my education I continued to sing and play. My life's work in community music and creative youth development has been buoyed up by the water where I was fortunate to swim as a young person.

And now to lead Wharton Arts, this region's premiere source of comprehensive community music and creative youth development! Our youth orchestras, youth choruses, jazz musicians, theater performers, emerging studio artists, and dedicated solo and chamber musicians have so much to share with the world, and I can speak for everyone here at Wharton that it is our joy to amplify their work.

Especially now at the dawn of artificial intelligence, our schools are asking themselves meaningful questions about the ways to measure education. For us it's about the nature of education itself: **we are not here to promote the knowledge that our students gain, but rather the people they are becoming.** Making music together cultivates empathy, creative solutions, discipline, and collaboration.

Not to mention beauty. I'll leave it to our programs to introduce themselves here, and share what exciting things they, and all of you, have to look forward to this year.

My warmest appreciation for them, and for you as part of the circle of music making and participation,

Carol Chickering Burden
President & CEO



WhartonARTS

*Annual
Gala*

Wednesday

April

7

2027

CRYSTAL PLAZA

WhartonARTS

Transforming lives through music education.

Fall Fest

October 30, 2026 at 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Wharton Performing Arts School,
Berkeley Heights

FREE Event

Stay for the **Suzuki Halloween Playdown**
immediately following the Wharton Arts Fall Fest.

Calling all goblins and ghouls! Wear your Halloween costume and join us for an instrument petting zoo, student performances, treats, and spooky festivities.



35th Anniversary
New Jersey Youth Chorus
WhartonARTS

Coming
Home:
Honoring
Our Roots,
Celebrating
Our Future

The **New Jersey Youth Chorus** is marking its **35th Anniversary** with special celebrations throughout the season, including opportunities to reconnect with alumni, celebrate our young musicians, and honor founder Trish Joyce as she prepares for retirement.

35th Anniversary: Welcome Fest
The Grove at Connell Park,
Berkeley Heights

We're kicking off the season with a big welcome back bash for NJYC families! There's no better way to start the year than with fun activities, food, friends, and of course, singing!



35th Anniversary: Home for the Holidays

December 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Morristown United Methodist Church,
Morristown

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

NJYC Sola Voce: Joanna Scarangelo,
Director

NJYC Coriste: Trish Joyce, Director

Accompanist: Phillip Steffani

NJYC's **Sola Voce** and **Coriste** ensembles will be joined by alumni performers for a special **Readings & Carols** event celebrating the familiar warmth of coming home for the holidays.



A Legacy of Song: Honoring Trish Joyce

May 22, 2027

Join us for a heartfelt celebration of **Trish Joyce** as she prepares to take her final bow with NJYC. Through music, memories, and special performances, we'll celebrate an extraordinary career and the lasting impact she has made on NJYC and the countless musicians who have found their voices under her direction.

Coming Home: A Special NJYC Spring Concert

May 23, 2027

The voices of NJYC take center stage in this special 35th anniversary spring concert! Featuring all of our ensembles and a special alumni chorus, **Coming Home** celebrates the joy, artistry, and community that have defined NJYC throughout its history, and offers a glimpse of the exciting future ahead.

More information at [NJYC.org](https://www.njyc.org)

35th Anniversary Reunion Tour: Spain, Morocco & Portugal

June 25-July 4, 2027

Alumni and family are invited to travel alongside **Coriste** and **Camerata** for a once-in-a-lifetime reunion tour! Reconnect with the NJYC community while sharing new adventures, unforgettable experiences, and the joy of coming home through song.



Winter Concert



January 31, 2027 at 4:00 p.m.
Ridge Performing Arts Center,
Basking Ridge

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

NJYC Primo Coro	Melissa Hughes, Director
NJYC Cor Amici, Camerata:	Dan Malloy, Director
NJYC Sola Voce:	Joanna Scarangelo, Director
NJYC Coriste:	Trish Joyce, Director
Accompanists:	Christopher D'Amato, Andrew Macirowski & Phillip Steffani

Join the New Jersey Youth Chorus for our annual **Winter Concert**, featuring all five NJYC ensembles. Choristers from across our program come together for an inspiring afternoon of music that showcases the artistry, energy, and joy of our vibrant choral community.



Join the New Jersey Youth Chorus!
January 2027

Mid-year auditions are held in January. Registration is open from December 1, 2026-January 1, 2027. Audition requirements and application are available at NJYC.org.

New Jersey Youth Chorus

NJYC in the Community

**Coriste: Performance with the
University of Delaware**
October 23, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Vincent's Martyr Catholic Church,
Madison

**Coriste: Performance with
Canadian Brass**
December 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
NJPAC, Newark

Primo Coro: Senior Center Caroling
December 19, 2026
Juniper Village, Chatham

**Cor Amici & Camerata: Imperial Brass
Holiday Concert**
December 19, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Morristown Presbyterian Church,
Morristown

Camerata: Tenor Bass Festival
February 13, 2027
TCNJ, Ewing

Primo Coro: Elementary Choral Festival
February 20, 2027
Far Brook School, Short Hills

**Coriste: #Inspire! Workshop with
Jake Runestad**
February 27, 2027
Montclair State University, Montclair

New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS

America250

Harmony Across Cultures

October 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

FREE Event

Free tickets must be reserved at UCPAC.org.

NJYS Youth Symphony: Helen H. Cha-Pyo,
Music Director &
Conductor

Inner City Dance Ensemble: Nicholas Rodriguez,
Artistic & Executive
Director

Korean Traditional Music and Dance Center: Yusun Kang,
Artistic Director

Edmar Castañeda, EC Llanera harp

Mir Naqibul Islam, Tabla

Emma Mitrovič, Mezzo-Soprano

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with an inspiring musical journey that honors the many cultures that have shaped our nation. Works by Raúl Abbad, John Barnes Chance, Leonard Bernstein, Edmar Castañeda, Reena Esmail, and Charles Ives.



Meet & Greet in the UCPAC lobby immediately following the performance. Audience members are invited to meet our guest artists, including the dancers and soloists.

America250

Harmony Across Cultures

October 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

FREE Event

Free tickets must be reserved at UCPAC.org.

NJYS Youth Orchestra: Dr. Oliver Hagen,
Conductor

Plainfield Symphony Orchestra: Charles Prince,
Music Director &
Conductor



Supported by funding
through the NJEDA's
A.R.T. – Phase II Grant Program.

Wharton Arts is pleased to present the **NJYS Youth Orchestra** and **Plainfield Symphony Orchestra** for a festive celebration of America250, featuring beloved American classics. Works by Morton Gould, John Philip Sousa, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Edwin Franko Goldman, and more.



America250

Harmony Across Cultures Education Concert

October 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
**Main Stage at Union County Performing
Arts Center, Rahway**

NJYS Youth Symphony: Helen Cha-Pyo,
Music Director &
Conductor

Presented in Partnership with the Union County
Performing Arts Center.

Nearly 1,000 Union County students will join the **New Jersey Youth Symphony** for a special America250 education concert celebrating the diverse musical traditions that have shaped our nation. Works by Raúl Abbad, John Barnes Chance, Leonard Bernstein, Edmar Castañeda, Reena Esmail, and Charles Ives.



Gospel Music Festival

December 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

FREE Event

Free tickets must be reserved at UCPAC.org.

NJYS Youth Symphony: Helen Cha-Pyo,
Music Director &
Conductor

Elevation: Dr. Arreon A. Harley-
Emerson, Artistic Director

Participating High School Choruses:

Cicely Tyson High School for the Arts	Kyle Goyen, Director
J.P. Stevens High School	Matthew Chi Lee & Regina McElroy, Directors
Rosa Parks High School for the Arts	Lauren Sander-Wells, Director
Somerville High School	Daniel Malloy, Director

Join us for an unforgettable evening of inspiration, hope, and celebration at the **Gospel Music Festival** featuring André Thomas' Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy.



NJEDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Supported by funding
through the NJEDA's
A.R.T. – Phase II Grant Program.

Two Nutcrackers

December 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

FREE Event

Free tickets must be reserved at UCPAC.org.

NJYS Youth Symphony: Helen Cha-Pyo,
Music Director &
Conductor

NJYS Jazz Orchestra: Shamie Royston,
Director

NJYS Youth Orchestra: Dr. Oliver Hagen,
Conductor

Two Nutcrackers brings together two unforgettable interpretations of the beloved classic, featuring the timeless elegance of **Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite** alongside the vibrant jazz reimagining of **Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's The Nutcracker Suite**. The **NJYS Youth Orchestra** will open the concert with works by Coleridge-Taylor, Humperdinck, and Leroy Anderson.



Season of Joy!

December 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway

FREE Event

Free tickets must be reserved at UCPAC.org.

NJYS Philharmonia: Mark Gunderman,
Conductor

Plainfield Symphony Orchestra: Charles Prince,
Music Director &
Conductor



Supported by funding
through the NJEDA's
A.R.T. – Phase II Grant Program.

Featuring the **NJYS Philharmonia** and the **Plainfield Symphony Orchestra**, this heartwarming concert brings together musicians of all ages for an uplifting program filled with beloved seasonal classics, joyful traditions, and holiday cheer. Works by Leroy Anderson, Charlie Harmon (world premiere), Schubert, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and more.



Chamber Music Concert

November 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Burgdorff Hall at **New Jersey Youth Symphony**, New Providence

FREE Event



NJYS in the Community

November 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Lantern Hill, New Providence

FREE Event

NJYS chamber musicians bring the joy of live music to Lantern Hill with an engaging evening performance for residents and guests.



December 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Morristown United Methodist Church,
 Morristown

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

Concertino Strings: Cooper Ford, Conductor
Sinfonia: Nevena Bojovic, Conductor
Fortissimo Flutes: Jenny Cline, Conductor
Clarinet Ensemble: Tanner Age, Coach
CL4tet: Bryan Rudderow, Coach

December 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Morristown United Methodist Church,
 Morristown

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

Concertino Winds: Aly Berkowitz, Conductor
Primo Strings: Etlea Vatoci, Conductor
Flute Choir, Flute Forum: Jenny Cline, Conductor





January 23, 2027 at 1:00 p.m.
 Burgdorff Hall at **New Jersey Youth
 Symphony**, New Providence

FREE Event

Percussion

Ensembles I, II & III: Joe Bergen, Conductor

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

December 6, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge

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

Jazz Orchestra: Shamie Royston, Director

Big Band: Gregory Williams, Director

Jazz Workshop: Dave Schumacher, Director



Open Rehearsals Week

February 7-11, 2027

New Jersey Youth Symphony,
New Providence

FREE Event

Experience the **New Jersey Youth Symphony** in action during a week of open rehearsals, offering a behind-the-scenes look at our young musicians as they prepare for performance.

2026 New Jersey Flute Fair

November 15, 2026 at 10 AM - 7 PM

New Jersey Youth Symphony,
New Providence

Join us at the NJ Flute Society Fair as NJYS flute ensembles take the stage for an exciting performance!



Alumni Night

January 5, 2027 at 6:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony,
New Providence

FREE Event

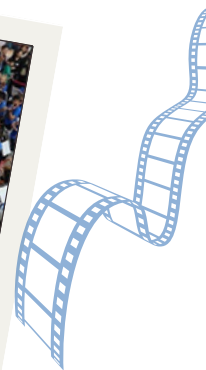
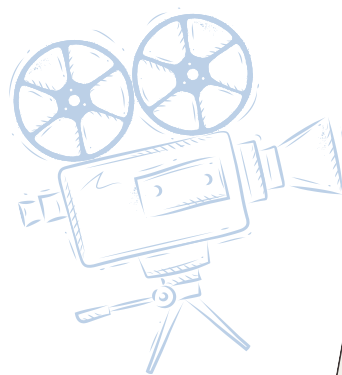
Join fellow NJYS alumni for an evening of music, memories, and reconnecting with old friends.

SAVE THE DATE

NJYS PLAYATHON

March 7, 2027

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Elizabeth



Music Across Generations

February 21, 2027 at 5:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University,
New Brunswick

NJYS Youth Symphony: Helen Cha-Pyo,
Music Director &
Conductor

The concert also brings the extended NJYS family together on one stage with the **NJYS Community Orchestra**, featuring parents, alumni, staff, and students making music side by side. It's a celebration of what we receive, what we share, and what we pass on to the next generation.

Music connects us across time, across generations, and across the many chapters of our lives. In this joyful celebration of our Season of Hope, mother-son piano duo, **Two Piano Journey: Michelle Chen Kuo & Christopher Kuo**, joins the **NJYS Youth Symphony** for Poulenc's brilliant and playful Concerto for Two Pianos.



Paterson Music Project

WhartonARTS

Play for Paterson

December 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Paterson School 16, Paterson

FREE Event

More information at
PatersonMusicProject.org

Featuring the Paterson Music Project's small ensembles. Donations collected during this event will support the **Paterson Healing Collective**, an organization that works with St. Joseph's hospital to provide support and intervention for survivors of violence.



Day of Strings

January 23, 2027 at 1:00 p.m.
Dr. Hani Awadallah School, Paterson

FREE Event

Come see all PMP string players join together for a string extravaganza at **Dr. Hani Awadallah School!** Featuring students from Prelude 1 up to Silk City level.

Empower Creativity

Your support keeps our community creative, vibrant, and connected.

Donate at WhartonArtsDonate.org.





Day of Bands

January 30, 2027 at 1:00 p.m.
Paterson School 16, Paterson

FREE Event

Join us for the first PMP Day of Bands at **School 16!** All PMP band students from School 16, School 6, and NRC will play together featuring all band ensembles and a wide range of musical styles.



Day of Jazz

February 27, 2027 at 3:00 p.m.
John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson

FREE Event

PMP's 4th annual Day of Jazz will feature music by the legendary Louis Armstrong in addition to other jazz greats. This event is supported by the **Louis Armstrong Education Foundation.**

Performing Arts School

WhartonARTS

Faculty Recital

October 4, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Plainfield Performing Arts Center,
Plainfield

FREE Event

Ryan Bridge, Piano
Cornelia Lotito, Mezzo-Soprano
Paige Porter, Soprano



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Experience the artistry of Wharton Arts' talented Performing Arts School faculty in concert. Join us for an inspiring performance showcasing the exceptional musicianship of the educators who inspire our students every day.

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.



Suzuki Halloween Playdown

October 30, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Wharton Performing Arts School,
Berkeley Heights

FREE Event

Led by **Elzbieta Winnicki**, Violin
Andrzej Winnicki, Piano

Spend Halloween Eve with Performing Arts School violin students of all ages as they perform favorite selections from the Suzuki repertoire. Immediately following the **Wharton Arts Fall Fest**.

4:30-6:30 p.m. Fall Fest

7:00 p.m. Suzuki Violin Playdown



CAFÉ Choir Concert

November 18, 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.

Enjoy an entertaining program from our **Creative Aging for Everyone** Choir, featuring beloved hits, classic choral works, and favorite show tunes. Come celebrate the joy of singing and music-making together!



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

Wharton Players

November 20 & 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

November 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

**Wharton Black Box Theater,
Berkeley Heights**

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

Alena Rose: Co-Director, Music Director
Nia Jackson: Co-Director, Choreographer

Get ready for a delightfully rebellious adventure with **Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR.!** Featuring clever kids, unforgettable characters, and a heartwarming message about courage, friendship, and standing up for what's right, this lively musical celebrates the extraordinary power of imagination and believing in yourself.

Matilda JR is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

ROALD DAHL'S **Matilda** THE MUSICAL JR.