New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Music Director and Conductor

America 250: Harmony Across Cultures

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Union County Performing Arts Center
Rahway

3:00 p.m.

NJYS Youth Symphony, Helen Cha-Pyo, *Conductor*
The Inner City Dance Ensemble
Korean Traditional Music and
Dance Center of New York
Edmar Castañeda, *Llanera Harp*
Mir Naqibul Islam, *Tabla*
Ema Mitrović, *Mezzo-soprano*

7:00 p.m.

NJYS Youth Orchestra, Dr. Oliver Hagen, *Conductor*
Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, Charles Prince, *Conductor*

Practice HOPE

Season 2026-27


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New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Welcome to the 48th Season of New Jersey Youth Symphony!

What a joy to welcome you to our 48th season! Across NJYS, our young musicians are learning, growing, and creating hope together through our theme, Practice HOPE. Hope is more than optimism. Hope requires action. We RECEIVE and learn from those before us, PRACTICE through listening, courage, and collaboration, and PASS IT ON through music and care for others.

There is much to celebrate, from five FREE concerts with fabulous guest artists supported by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, to our thriving Chamber Music and Jazz Programs for all levels, and 15 ensembles growing together with their dedicated conductors. In February, parents, alumni, and staff will come together in the NJYS Community Orchestra, reminding us how music and hope are passed from one generation to the next. March brings our beloved Playathon Pops Concert.

I'm deeply grateful to my conducting colleagues, program staff, music teachers, parents, and our entire Wharton Arts community for creating a village where every student can find a musical home.
Thank you for being part of our village. Enjoy today's concert and let us Practice HOPE every day!



Helen H. Cha-Pyo
NJYS Music Director & Conductor

We're delighted that you've joined us, to take part in some fine music-making from our students and to celebrate the work of our professional teaching artists. 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. As our lives are increasingly enriched by technology, here in this live performance space we have access to something precious and different: spontaneous, dedicated skill, and expressive collaboration – live analog. Not to mention beauty! The performance you experience today will speak for itself, and for the wisdom and heart behind the compositions. I hope that you will enjoy it!

With appreciation,

Carol Chickering Burden
Wharton Arts President & CEO




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New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

NJYS Youth Symphony
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, *Conductor*

RAUL ABBAD HUAMAN (b. 1985) — ***La Frontera*** Stories of Migration in Movements

I. *La niña de las alturas – Yaravi & Huayno*
II. *Zamacueca / Marinera*
III. *Cumbia*
IV. *Aereoplanos*

The Inner City Ensemble
Ema Mitrović, *Mezzo-soprano*
Raul Abbad Huaman, *Guitar*
Maura Vilcatoma, *Narrator*

TRADITIONAL KOREAN DANCE — ***Gyobang Salpuri Chum***

Yu Sun Kang, *Director of KTMDC*

JOHN BARNES CHANCE (1932-1972) — **Variations on a Korean Folk Song**

Dancers of the Korean Traditional Music and Dance Center of New York

CHARLES IVES (1874-1954) arr. William Schuman — **Variations on *America***

EDMAR CASTAÑEDA (b. 1978) — ***Bordones for String Orchestra*** **and Lever Llanera Harp**

Edmar Castañeda, *Llanera Harp*

REENA ESMAIL (b. 1983) — **Testament from *Vishwas***

Mir Naqibul Islam, *Tabla*

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990) — **Overture to *Candide***

This program is supported by funding through the NJEDA's A.R.T.- Phase II Grant Program

NJEDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ARTISTS

HELEN H. CHA-PYO



An award-winning conductor and arts leader, **Helen H. Cha-Pyo** is passionate about inspiring musicians to pursue artistic excellence while discovering music's power to connect people, cultures, and communities. Cha-Pyo is the Music Director & Conductor of the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, now in her ninth season.

At the heart of Cha-Pyo's work is the belief that artistic excellence and social purpose can strengthen one another. A committed champion of living and underrepresented composers, she creates innovative programs connecting music with history, culture, and contemporary social issues. Her initiatives have received support from New Music USA, American Composers Forum, and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), and her adventurous programming has been recognized with ASCAP awards.

Under her leadership, NJYS has performed at Carnegie Hall's Juneteenth Celebration concerts toured internationally to Italy, France and, most recently, Finland and the Baltic States, and released its first professional recording, *Microvids*, featuring music by Stefania de Kenessey with pianist Donna Weng Friedman (Navona Records, 2025).

From 2018 to 2026, Cha-Pyo served for eight years as Artistic Director of Wharton Arts, helping lead significant growth in both reach and breadth of programming while shaping a more cohesive, inclusive, and accessible artistic vision. Under her leadership, Wharton Arts expanded its jazz programs, launched lifelong learning for 55+ participants, and community theater opportunities for adults and increased free educational and community performances through Wharton Arts in the Community, and presented impactful projects including Violins of Hope at NJPAC. She also championed new music, culturally responsive programming, and cross-community partnerships.

Since 2023, Cha-Pyo has also served as Artistic Director of the Bella Music Foundation (BMF), empowering blind and visually impaired musicians through education and performance opportunities. In September 2025, she conducted the BMF Symphony Orchestra at the International Music Festival for the Blind at UNESCO House in Paris, advancing BMF's mission of inclusion and accessibility through music.

Previously, Cha-Pyo served for 16 years as Music Director and Conductor of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO), leading international tours to Europe and Asia and helping launch ESYO CHIME, an El Sistema inspired free music education program for underserved youth. In recognition of her legacy, ESYO established the Helen Cha-Pyo Golden Baton Award and Scholarships, honoring students who demonstrate a commitment to

using music to uplift their communities.

A sought-after guest conductor and clinician, Cha-Pyo conducts professional, All-State, regional, and festival orchestras throughout the United States and has led workshops and performances internationally. In July 2027, she will return to conduct the Sewanee Summer Music Festival Symphony Orchestra. She has taught at Montclair State University and Rutgers University and serves on the board of the Youth Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras.

Her honors include the Dove Leadership Award, Angelos Artist Award, and Eastman Centennial Award. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Cha-Pyo studied at The Juilliard School's Pre-College Program and holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music.

Discover more about her work as an arts leader at helenchapyo.com.

EDMAR CASTAÑEDA



Edmar Castañeda is a Colombian harpist, composer and bandleader known for his work in jazz and for expanding the role of the Colombian llanera harp in contemporary music. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Castañeda moved to the United States in 1994 and became active in the New York jazz scene, developing a distinctive approach to the harp that combines bass lines, harmony, melody and rhythmic elements.

Castañeda has performed and collaborated with musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera, Béla Fleck, John Scofield, Marcus Miller, Hiromi, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Ivan Lins, Pedrito Martinez, Paco de Lucía and The Yellowjackets. Paquito D'Rivera was an early supporter of Castañeda and helped introduce him to the jazz community.

As a bandleader, Castañeda has released recordings including *Cuarto de Colores, Entre Cuerdas, Double Portion, Live at the Jazz Standard, Live in Montreal, Harp vs. Harp, Family,* and *Viento Sur*. His album *Family* was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Castañeda is also a member of BEATrio, with Béla Fleck and Antonio Sánchez. The trio's self-titled album, BEATrio, received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards in 2026.

In addition to performing, Castañeda has composed for orchestral and large-ensemble settings. Carnegie Hall co-commissioned his composition Bordones, written for EC Llanera Harp and string orchestra and premiered at Carnegie Hall. He was also commissioned by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to compose Tres Cordilleras, a work for harp and big band, which he performed with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra under the direction of Wynton Marsalis.

Castañeda collaborated with the French harp manufacturer Camac Harps in the development of the EC Llanera Harp, an instrument designed to expand the technical and musical possibilities of the traditional llanera harp for contemporary performance.

His orchestral and large-ensemble work has included performances and collaborations with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Orquestra Clássica de Espinho, São Paulo Jazz Symphony Orchestra, Israel Camerata Jerusalem and Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia.

In 2021, Castañeda contributed to Walt Disney Animation Studios' film Encanto, which features songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda. He performed on the film's soundtrack and served as a musical consultant.

Castañeda's playing has received international critical attention. NPR's Fresh Air highlighted his ability to perform lead, rhythm and bass lines simultaneously, while The New York Times has written about his combination of modern jazz with his Colombian musical roots. His work has also been featured by publications including Billboard and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Castañeda's album Global Heartbeat is scheduled for release in 2026. The project continues his exploration of jazz, Colombian musical traditions and contemporary composition and includes his quartet featuring harp, voice, tenor saxophone and drums.

MIR NAQIBUL ISLAM



Mir Naqibul Islam is a North America based Bangladeshi tabla artist from Farrukhabad gharana (musical lineage). He is a senior disciple of the legendary grand master of tabla Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. His foundational tabla training was with Pandit Ashoke Paul, a disciple of the great tabla guru Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh.

Mir presents tabla solo recitals and regularly accompanies vocalists, instrumentalists, and dancers from the Indian tradition. He is also a highly sought-after accompanist and featured solo artist, performing in experimental jazz, maqam, chamber music, world music, new music, and other contemporary contexts.

Mir has shared the stage and collaborated with renowned musicians including Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Pandit Krishna Mohan Bhatt, Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya, Pandit Anirban Dasgupta, Pandit Steve Gorn, Vidushi Bharati Pratap, Ustad Hidayat Hussain Khan, Gyan Riley, Ben Monder, Michael Harrison, Premik Russel, Brajeshwar Mukherjee, Abhik Mukherjee, Jay Gandhi and Eyvind Kang to name a few.

He has participated in prestigious musical residencies and collaborative projects in the U.S. and internationally. He was a visiting teacher and ensemble leader at the University of Chicago, where he worked with a South Asian music ensemble and led its performance. He regularly conducts tabla workshops and masterclasses at various universities and

educational institutions, including William Paterson University, Hofstra University, and Brown College. He also regularly participates in chamber music performances and has recently been invited to perform at various experimental music festivals.

Mir also performs with his trio and his Global Groove Project, a multidisciplinary project that brings together percussion traditions from different parts of the world with tap dance and contemporary interpretations of tabla. He has been an active member of the Brooklyn Raga Massive collective since 2016, contributing to its experimental and genre-crossing projects.

He is continuing his talim under the tabla maestro Pandit Anindo Chatterjee and Pandit Ashoke Paul. His style has also been enriched by training with Pandit Gopal Mishra and Pandit Suresh Talwalkar in the past. Alongside his performance and teaching career, he continues to foster tabla studies through his tabla school, NYC Tabla, serving students across the New York City tri-state area and broader North American region.

EMA MITROVIĆ



Mezzo-soprano **Ema Mitrović** was recently described in *Opera News* as, "The seamless fusion of vocal excellence and comedic acrobatics of the Stepmother, Ema Mitrovic, and stepsisters...added balanced levity to the exquisite romantic yearning of Cendrillon and the Prince." Recent credits include Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon*), Madame Rossini in the world premiere of David Winkler's *Rossini Perduto*, La Frugola (*Il Tabarro*), Annabella in the world premiere of Jason Overall's *The Doctor & the Devils*, Madame de Croissy (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), and Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*). Ema is on the voice faculty at The Wharton Institute of the Performing Arts, an ongoing member of Bard Festival Chorale, The American Spiritual Ensemble, and she is honored to join in this evening's performance!

www.emamitrovic.com

NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ



The Inner City Ensemble Executive Director, **Nicholas Rodriguez**, is a Juilliard graduate and Fulbright Scholar who began training with Ralph Gomez at the Inner City Ensemble in his hometown of Paterson, NJ. Rodriguez has received four Choreography Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and he has also created countless original dances, including works for the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, American Repertory Ballet, and others. His works have also been presented at Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Paterson Great Falls, and in South America, where he has taught extensively.

THE INNER CITY ENSEMBLE



The Inner City Ensemble provides free training and performing opportunities to under-resourced children in Paterson NJ, and also compensates its pre-professional teenage company members, who perform alongside alumni and guest artists.

New works are created by Executive Artistic Director, Nicholas Rodriguez and company members, as well as guest choreographers. The Company repertory explores identity and belonging, immigration, and social justice and reform themes.

Our training integrates social-emotional support, research and education, and classes in multidisciplinary techniques. Company members also teach novice dancers, and the troupe performs locally and regionally. Featured dancers in todays performance: Liliana Amador-Marty, Maya Davila, Silver Gonzalez, Robert J. Hooks, Noa Kamiya, Edgar de las Nueces; Alternates , Kisharah McMillan, Khiella Cleghorn. Choreographers - Nicholas Rodrigues and Dancers.

YU SUN KANG



Korean Traditional Music and Dance Center of Ner York Executive Director **Yu Sun Kang** is a graduate of Queens College in Theater and Dance and has studied at the Manhattan School of Music. She has also studied under Yi Jo Lim, the leading dance figure in Korea today. Under him, she has mastered Seung Mu and Sal Puri, which represent the highest level of traditional Korean dance and have both been designated intangible cultural assets. Ms. Kang has performed and competed all over the world. She won 1st place at the 2002 Korean Traditional Music and Dance Competition in New York and the 2003 Namwon Chunhyang Competition in Korea, and won an award at the 2003 Junju Dae Sa Seup Nori National Competition in Korea. She has also won several beauty pageants including the New York Korea Times pageant in 2001.

KOREAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE CENTER OF NEW YORK



Founded in 1987, the Korean Traditional Music and Dance Center of New York (KTMDC) is the oldest established Korean performing arts organization in New York City.

KTMDC specializes in teaching and performing Korean traditional music and dance. By doing so, we strive to play the role of an unofficial diplomat, and share and preserve Korea's rich and vibrant culture with Korean-Americans as well as the surrounding community. Featured dancers in today's performance: Yu Sun Kang, David Cho, Susan Cho, Emily Yu, Claire Shin, Chloe Kim, Bennett Kim, and Casey Kim.

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Saturday
December 12, 2026
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Main Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center • Rahway, NJ

NJYS Youth Symphony
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Music Director & Conductor
Elevation Dr. Arreon A. Harley-Emerson, Artistic Director
Cicely Tyson High School for the Arts Chorus Kyle Goyen, Director
J.P. Stevens High School Chorus Matthew Chi Lee & Regina McElroy, Directors
Rosa Parks High School for the Arts Chorus Lauren Sander-Wells, Director
Somerville High School Chorus Daniel Malloy, Director

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New Jersey Youth Symphony
WhartonARTS
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Music Director and Conductor

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

UC PAC UNION COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NJYS YOUTH SYMPHONY

HELEN H. CHA-PYO, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Mason Chu, *Delbarton School, Concertmaster*
Leilani Gopal, *John P. Stevens HS, Assistant Concertmaster*
Natalie Chong, *Ridge HS*
Ethan Co, *Westfield Senior HS*
Lilia Duval, *Westfield Senior HS*
Olivia Hoang, *Academy For Information Technology*
Audrey Kim, *The Pingry School*
Elliot Kahng, *Regis HS*
Xavier LeBlanc, *The Pingry School*
Alexis Lee, *Newark Academy*
Ethan Li, *Millburn HS*
Kinsey Liu, *Newark Academy*
Sarah Mayfield, *Millburn HS*
Shota Ozaki, *Millburn HS*
An-Ru Song, *The Pingry School*
Michael Tan, *Union County Magnet HS*
Jonathan Vizcarra, *Livingston HS*
Naomi Wu, *Mount Saint Mary Academy*
George Yang, *Newark Academy*

Violin II

Daniella Portelli, *West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South, Co-principal*
Ella Vuong, *Montville Township HS, Co-Principal*
Henry Clyan, *Delbarton School*
Anya Czarnota, *Mother Seton Regional HS*
Isabella Gopal, *Woodrow Wilson MS*
Allison Guo, *Summit HS*
Christopher Hock, *Chatham HS*
Gerrard Hsu, *Livingston HS*
Jaslene Jen, *Governor Livingston HS*
Vani Kaushal, *Mountain Lakes HS*
Ahmad Khan, *Westfield Senior HS*
Calyne Paek, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS*
Lyla Toporowski, *Franklin HS*
Lillian Yu, *Union County Magnet HS*
Allison Zhang, *Livingston HS*
Elsa Zu, *Chatham HS*

Viola

Laurily Merzatta, *Morris County School of Technology, Academy for Biotechnology, Principal*
Katelyn Sun, *Watchung Hills Regional HS, Assistant Principal*
Aahana Hegde, *John P Stevens High School*
Avanti Hegde, *The Pingry School*
Jason Ko, *Millburn HS*
Crystal Li, *Millburn HS*
Abigail Loeser, *Union County Magnet HS*
Landon Shen, *Morristown Beard School*
Andrew Song, *Westfield Senior HS*
Livia Yu, *Livingston HS*
Ethan Zhou, *Newark Academy*

Cello

Kenneth Wu, *Avenues The World School, Principal*
Elijah Shemesh, *Livingston HS, Assistant Principal*
Eva Cha, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*
Bradley Chen, *Ridge HS*
Dylan Jiang, *Ridge HS*
Maya Kimmel, *Cranford HS*
Kristian Kowalewski, *Ridge HS*
Luen-Yo Lawrence Guo, *Academy For Information Technology*
Tyler Lee, *Academy For Information Technology*
Jeffrey Li, *Morris Knolls HS*
Katelyn Moy, *Chatham HS*
Chloe Wang, *Union County Magnet HS*
Yilan Wu, *Millburn HS*
Yuchen Yang, *Academy For Information Technology*
Eric Zhang, *Princeton MS*

Bass

Hugo Daniel Alves Infante, *New Providence HS, Principal*
Sophie Bohner, *Summit HS, Assistant Principal*
Mina Alborzi, *Clifton HS*
Alexander Gigliotti, *New Providence HS*
JB Bernabe, *Guest*

Piccolo

Evie Ma, *Ridge HS*
Serena Shih, *Westfield Senior HS*

Flute
Renee Whittemore, *Holmdel HS, Principal*
Evie Ma, *Ridge HS*
Serena Shih, *Westfield Senior HS*

Oboe
Eamon Bermingham, *Livingston HS*
Dillon Wang, *Holmdel HS*
Bryan Xu, *Chatham HS* [2,4]
Angie Yang, Bridgewater-Raritan HS [1,3]

Clarinet
Victor Chen, *Academy For Information Technology* [1,3,4]
Daniel Choi, *Metuchen HS* [2]
Jamie DeRosa, *Millburn HS*

Eb Clarinet
Daniel Choi, *Metuchen HS*

Bass Clarinet
Dylan Kim, *Millburn HS*

Bassoon
James Di Costanzo, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS, Principal*
Priyanka Vimalkumar, *Hillsborough HS*
Raymond Wang, *Millburn HS*
Ishaan Subramanian, *Alumni Guest*

French Horn
Koji Fujita, *Millburn HS, Principal*
Fiona Jackson, *Chatham HS*
Julian Misiewicz, *Summit HS*
Caterina Oppici, *Wallington HS*
Annabelle Tao, *Mount Saint Mary Academy*

Trumpet
Thomas Cook, *Chatham HS, Principal*
Michael Brown, *Hunterdon Central Regional HS*
Connor Li, *Livingston HS*
Raymond Lu, *Watchung Hills Regional HS*

Trombone
Aidan Joyal, *Morris Knolls HS, Principal*
Benjamin Qin, *Millburn HS*
Jake Valladares, *PAAAS*
Nathaniel Rensink, *Guest*

Tuba
Lucas Meehan, *Union County Magnet HS*

Percussion
Mira Mayer-Kuckuk, *Gill St Bernards School*
Aakash Sengupta, *Edison HS*
Frank Wang, *William Annin Middle Schoo*l
Adrienne Ostrander, *guest*
Josh Conklin, *Alumni Guest*

Timpani
Devon Cupo, *Guest*

Piano
Christian Cuccaro, *Thomas Edison Intermediate School*

Denotes Principal, in order of performance

Chance [1]
Ives [2]
Esmail [3]
Bernstein [4]

THE INNER CITY ENSEMBLE

NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dancers
Liliana Amador-Marty
Maya Davila
Silver Gonzalez
Robert J. Hooks
Noa Kamiya
Edgar de las Nueces

Alternates
Kisharah McMillan
Khiella Cleghorn

Choreographers
Nicholas Rodriguez and Dancers.

KOREAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE CENTER OF NEW YORK

YU SUN KANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dancers
Yu Sun Kang
David Cho
Susan Cho
Emily Yu
Claire Shin
Chloe Kim
Bennett Kim
Casey Kim

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Raul Abbad Huaman
LA FRONTERA

Born and raised in Lima, Peru, Raúl Abbad Huaman is an eclectic guitarist and composer based in the NYC Metropolitan Area. Raul's original music is a reflection of his heritage; a fusion of traditional South American Folkloric music, world music, and the modern sounds of American jazz and rock. Raul grew up listening to his mother's records of the traditional Peruvian guitarist Raul Garcia Zarate which became a source of inspiration to him. This led him to seek out Garcia Zarate as a guitar teacher and study with him. After moving to the US, Raul studied music education, classical guitar under Dennis Cinelli, jazz guitar under Stephen Benson and composition at Montclair State University under Fred Cohen.

Raul's background in Peruvian and classical guitar was a jumping off point for exploring electric guitar, extended range guitars, mandolin, charango, electric bass, and keyboards. Over his career, he has developed a specialty in Peruvian music which includes a variety of diverse styles such as Afro-Peruvian, Coastal Creole, Andean, and Amazonian music. However, his musical lexicon expands beyond Peru to classical, jazz, rock, and other South American traditions. Raul's unique gift is navigating and mixing these diverse musical styles with ease and authenticity. Raul interprets and presents these styles in a progressive light, always leaving his own unique mark on the music.
Raul has worked on a variety of projects, including commissions for the New Jersey Youth Symphony, New Jersey Guitar and Music Society, and the Colonial Symphony. He is the songwriter and producer for a variety of artists, including LaFolie Austral, an indie-rock-en-Español project. He is the guitarist and composer for Bajopontino, a South American and Afro Peruvian jazz quartet. Raul has also performed regularly with Iraida Valdivia, acclaimed traditional Peruvian singer, including several broadcasts on Peruvian television with her. He also performs regularly with bassist Justin Lee in the NJ/NY metropolitan area. Raul served as the musical director for the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra for two seasons. When Raul is not composing and performing, you can find him teaching guitar and music technology at JP Stevens High School and the Paterson Music Project.

Program Notes: This piece is about my family's journey from Peru to the United States, a journey over both distance and time. Although this work was inspired by my specific story, it reflects the stories of so many immigrants coming to the United States, just like me. Using rhythms and styles from across Latin America and the Peruvian soundscape to reflect the tapestry of traditions that influenced my journey, countries and cultures as distant as Argentina and Mexico are witnessed as a common musical language. Like the language of music, we share a common humanity, despite real and imagined borders. This piece sends the message that ultimately we are all immigrants and people in motion.

Each of the four movements has a distinct style and foundational rhythm with the four corners of the stage representing North, South, East, and West. Much of the choreography for the four dancers represents the comings and goings we all experience throughout life. As the dancers emerge, the work opens with ancient poetry in Quechua, an essentially spoken indigenous language of the Peruvian Andes.

The first movement is split into two sections. The first section is called a Yaraví. a type of slow melodic chant that typically serves as the introduction to a traditional Andean song. The Yaravi chant is continued by mezzo soprano. The second section takes the same Yaraví theme and turns it into a faster rhythmic dance known as Huayno, from the central Andes of Peru.
The second movement is based on the zamacueca rhythm from Peru. Other Latin American countries use similar rhythms in their own traditional music,but with various respective names. The rhythm is driven by the bass part.

The third movement is based on the cumbia rhythm from the Amazon rainforest, which can be found throughout Latin American music. The melody and groove create a sultry soundscape that sets the tone for the dancers and later for the instrumentalists to improvise over. Each dancer, paired with an instrumentalist, takes turns improvising, a display of both resolute individuality and a shared sense of purpose.

The final movement, entitled Aeroplanos, takes inspiration from the idea that the airplane is the main mode of transportation for migration and travel. The lyrics describe the search for a place to belong and conclude that the sky has no boundaries. It is a shared space. The ballad takes inspiration from the music of Argentinian Rock en Espanol composer, Charly Garcia and features an ostinato figure imitating the sound of an airplane.

The 20-minute piece in four movements features string orchestra, percussion quartet, guitar, piano, mezzo-soprano and dancers.

KIYO KIYO ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Girl of the highlands
Angelic face
Fanlike wings

Why have you come to these low lands?
Living in the very highlands
Playing on the prairies
Dancing in your little snow hut
Singing kiyo kio, kiyo kio

Girl from the highlands
Little singer of snow
Why did you come here?
Why did you come down here?
With your little hands full of snow
With you frozen sandals
And your ice covered hat
Whistling kiyito kio, kiyito kio.

Girl from the mountains
Little singer of the highlands
Why did you come here?
Why did you come down here?
Having to feed your little sheep
Having to repair your little hut

Singer of the rain
Little girl of the snow
What winds brought you here from the highlands?
Knowing that there will be rain
Knowing that the wind will roll
Ay kiyo kio, kiyo kio.

Then girl from the highlands
Little singer from the mountains,
Let's dance another farewell round
Let's do the dance of the kiyito kio
Towards the left kiyo kio
Towards the right kiyo kio
Giving turns
Kiyo kio, kiyo kio.

TRADITIONAL

GYOBANG SALPURI CHUM

Gyobang Salpuri Chum is an elegant and deeply expressive traditional Korean dance that reveals the refined beauty, restraint, and emotional depth of Korean movement. Through flowing sleeves, delicate footwork, controlled gestures, and subtle changes in breath, the dancer transforms profound inner emotion into quiet and dignified beauty.

This particular style of Gyobang Salpuri Chum is a treasured work of the late Master Lim Yi-jo, one of Korea's highly respected traditional dance masters, and has been widely preserved and passed down through generations of dancers.

Yusun Kang studied under Master Lim, Yi-Jo and has continued to preserve and promote his artistic legacy in New York. She currently serves as the President of the New York Branch of the Korean Traditional Dance Research Association and the Lim, Yi-Jo Dance Preservation Society in South Korea, carrying forward his distinctive dance tradition through performance, education, and cultural outreach.

-Program notes by Yu Sun Kang

John Barnes Chance

VARIATIONS ON A KOREAN FOLK SONG

Variations on a Korean Folk Song is based upon a folk tune that the composer learned while serving the U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea. The tune is known as Arrirang, a song of love and heartbreak that can be found in many variations, with an origin that may date back 1000 years. In autumn 1966, for the Journal of Band Research, Chance said: "I became acquainted with the folk song while serving in Seoul, Korea, as a member of the Eighth U.S. Army Band in 1958-59. The tune is not as simple as it sounds, and my fascination with it during the intervening years led to its eventual use as the theme for this set of variations."

-Program notes from University of Texas Wind Symphony

Charles Ives

VARIATIONS ON "AMERICA"

Variations on "America" was originally a composition for organ. Composed in 1891 when Ives was seventeen, it is an arrangement of a traditional tune, known as My Country, 'Tis of Thee, and was at the time the de facto anthem of the United States. The tune is also widely recognized in Thomas Arne's orchestration as the British National Anthem, God Save the Queen, and in the former anthems of Russia, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as being the current national anthem of Liechtenstein and royal anthem of Norway.

The variations are a witty, irreverent piece for organ, probably typical of a "silly" teenage phenom like Ives. According to his biographers, the piece was played by Ives in organ recitals in Danbury and Brewster, New York, during the same year. At the Brewster concert, his father would not let him play the pages which included canons in two or three keys at once, because they were "unsuitable for church performance – They upset the elderly ladies and made the little boys laugh and get noisy!"

-Program notes by William Rhoades

Edmar Castañeda

BORDONES

Bordones is a work that innovatively fuses the llanera harp with a string orchestra, celebrating the rhythmic and harmonic richness of traditional Llanos music, a genre originating from the Llanos regions of Colombia and Venezuela. The piece pays tribute to the traditions of joropo and other characteristic styles from this region, while introducing a contemporary vision that emphasizes the fundamental role of rhythm, a central pillar of Llanos musical identity. The llanera harp, in its leading role, employs the technique of bordones-repeated low-register chords on the harp's bass strings which not only provide a solid harmonic foundation but also become an element of rhythm and percussion, evoking the pulse of the Llanos dance. These bordones, transformed into an orchestral language, intertwine with the string orchestra, generating a vibrant rhythmic energy that creates a sense of continuous movement, as if the work itself were a dance unfolding throughout its execution. By incorporating this complex bordones technique, the piece highlights the technical skills of the harpist, who must use great dexterity and control to produce a resonant sound full of nuances, characteristic of Llanos music. "Bordones" is, ultimately, a tribute to the traditions of the Colombian and Venezuelan Llanos, taken into the orchestral realm to explore new dimensions of rhythm, texture, and expression.

Bordones was co-commissioned by American Composers Orchestra and Carnegie Hall with the support of Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting and developed through the American Composers Orchestra's EarShot CoLABoratory program.

-Program notes from American Composers Orchestra

Reena Esmail
TESTAMENT FROM "VISHWAS"

Reena Esmail's music weaves together the traditions of Hindustani and Western classical music, drawing musicians from many perspectives into shared creative spaces.

Esmail divides her attention evenly between orchestral, chamber and choral work. She has written commissions for ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Seattle Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony and her music has featured on multiple Grammy-nominated albums, including *The Singing Guitar* by Conspirare, BRUITS by Imani Winds, and *Healing Modes* by Brooklyn Rider.

Many of her choral works are published by Oxford University Press, and her piece TaReKiTa has sold over 100,000 copies worldwide.

Her life and music was profiled on Season 3 of PBS *Great Performances* series *Now Hear This*, as well as Frame of Mind, a podcast from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Esmail was the Los Angeles Master Chorale`s 2020-2025 Swan Family Artist in Residence, and was Seattle Symphony's 2020-21 Composer-in-Residence. She has been in residence with Tanglewood Music Center (co-Curator – 2023), Spoleto Festival (Chamber Music Composer-in-Residence – 2024) and Marlboro Music Festival (2025 Composer in Residence)

Esmail holds degrees in composition from The Juilliard School (BM'05) and the Yale School of Music (MM'11, MMA'14, DMA'18). Her primary teachers have included Susan Botti, Aaron Jay Kernis, Christopher Theofanidis, Christopher Rouse and Samuel Adler. She received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to study Hindustani music in India. Her Hindustani music teachers include Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Gaurav Mazumdar, and she currently studies and collaborates with Saili Oak. Her doctoral thesis, entitled Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers.

Esmail resides in her hometown of Los Angeles, CA.

Program Notes: The word vishwas (विशवास) expresses the concept of fervent belief, or faith, in Hindi. Meera Bai, a celebrated saint-poet from 15th century India, is the quintessential embodiment of vishwas. Though she is forced into a traditional marriage to unite two kingdoms, she believes she is married to the Lord Krishna, a Hindu deity, and the events of her life are shaped around her fervent devotion to this intangible but omnipresent figure.

Leonard Bernstein
OVERTURE TO "CANDIDE"

Despite its distinguished roster of collaborators, including Lillian Hellman and Richard Wilbur, among others, Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* has always posed a conundrum for those seeking to produce it. *Candide*, based on Voltaire's picaresque 1759 novella, contains an embarrassment of riches that do not quite coalesce into a show. Hellman, who was an expert at concocting "well made" plays such as *The Children's Hour*, was not experienced at writing comedy; Wilbur's elegant verse is excessively clever at times; and Bernstein's tuneful, touching, and varied music can often seem overwhelming.

In May of 1956, Bernstein, Hellman, and Wilbur, along with director Tyrone Guthrie, met on Martha's Vineyard to work on *Candide*. By August, Bernstein had completed a score that consisted of some two hours of music and over thirty numbers. *Candide* opened in Boston for

three weeks of tryouts, but garnered only modest success: the dress rehearsal ran far too long and the audience grew restive. A critic for Variety warned, "A major hurdle to acceptance is the somewhat esoteric nature of the satire . . . The musical needs severe cutting, especially in the second act." Boston critics lauded the music, but found the book heavy-handed.

Despite pruning, the New York premiere on December 1, 1956 was far from an unmitigated hit. Walter Kerr, the powerful drama critic of the *Herald Tribune*, wrote that *Candide* was a "really spectacular disaster." Audiences of the time were puzzled by the ways in which *Candide* flouted the conventions of musical theater, especially its lack of a standard romantic plot. The show ran for only seventy-three performances, but the scintillating original cast recording, conducted by Samuel Krachmalnick, was much praised and became a collector's item. The overture to *Candide,* a cleverly designed potpourri of some of the show's best tunes that Bernstein rescored for full orchestra, quickly became its composer's most popular orchestral work. It was performed over two hundred times in the first two years after its publication and remains a concert favorite.

-Program notes from American Symphony Orchestra

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Kathleen Nester, *Flute*
Lynne Cohen, *Oboe*
Bob Wagner, *Bassoon*
Juan Esteban Martinez, *Clarinet*
Amy Emelianoff, *Horn*
Vernon Post, *Trombone*
Wesley Krygsman, *Tuba*
Leslie Johannessen, *Violin*
Sasha Neglia, *Violin*
Frank Foerster, *Viola*
Jane Yeong Eun Lee, *Cello*
Zach Marzulli, *Bass*

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Youth Symphony: Madison & Ed Chu, Danielle Li

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UC PAC UNION COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

PROGRAM, 7:00 p.m.

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR (1875-1912) — **The Bamboula**

EDWIN FRANKO GOLDMAN (1878-1956) arr. Mayhew Lake — **On the Mall**

NJYS Youth Orchestra
Dr. Oliver Hagen, *Conductor*

MORTON GOULD (1913 – 1996) — **American Salute**

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770 – 1827) — **Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op 92**

I. Poco sostenuto – Vivace
IV. Allegro con brio

JOHN WILLIAMS (b. 1932) — **Raiders March from *Raiders of the Lost Ark***

CHARLES IVES (1874-1954) — **Symphony No. 4, S. 4**

III. Fugue: Andante moderato

AARON COPLAND (1900-1990) — **Hoe-Down from *Rodeo***

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (1854–1932) — **The Stars and Stripes Forever**

Plainfield Symphony Orchestra
Charles Prince, *Conductor*

This program is supported by funding through the NJEDA's A.R.T.- Phase II Grant Program

NJEDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ARTISTS

DR. OLIVER HAGEN



NJYS Youth Orchestra 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 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,and is being released at the Quad Cinema in NYC on September 11.

CHARLES PRINCE



American Conductor Charles Prince studied with Leonard Bernstein, Seija Ozawa, Gustav Meier and Kurt Sanderling through the Tanglewood Conducting Seminar (1988 and 1989) after earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in music history and theory from Oberlin College. Mr. Prince began his conductor training with Robert Page of The Cleveland Orchestra. He also worked extensively with one of Europe's most eminent conductors, Jorma Panula, in Helsinki.

Mr. Prince was Associate Conductor of the New York Pops from 1996 to 2003. He has been a frequent guest conductor with the WDR Orchestra,

the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, the Munich Symphony Orchestra and the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. He was Music Director of the Tony award-winning production of "James Joyce's The Dead" on Broadway and in Los Angeles and Washington DC in 2000. As conductor of Stephen Sondheim's music, Prince led the Brooklyn Philharmonic in a 1999 gala concert weekend at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and for the London Philharmonic's "Sondheim Tonight' tribute at the Barbican, which was later issued as a recording. In 2004 Mr. Prince made his debut with the Seattle Symphony and in 2006 he conducted the New Year's gala of the Fort Worth Symphony and appeared with The Canadian Brass for the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra in Texas.

His 2006 season also included a Leonard Bernstein gala in Gettysburg Pennsylvania's Majestic Theatre hosted by Jamie Bernstein. Mr. Prince has conducted the Gettysburg Festival Inaugural Concert at the Gettysburg Majestic Theater in June 2008. He also participated in Leroy Anderson birthday tribute concerts, WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne and the Klagenfurt Stadttheater New Year's Eve Gala in Klagenfurt, Austria. In 2009 he was named the Music Director of the Wiener Operettensommer in Vienna. In January 2017 Mr. Prince conducted the New York City Opera Orchestra in a new, limited-run production of "Candide" at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater. In 2018 Mr. Prince conducted the Boston Symphony in a semi-staged production of Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti" at Tanglewood as part of the Bernstein Centennial celebrations.

Mr. Prince first guest conducted with the Plainfield Symphony in 2005 and then made a return appearance in October 2008. In May 2009, Mr. Prince was formally announced as the new Music Director. This will be his 18th full season as Conductor and Music Director of the Plainfield Symphony.

PLAINFIELD SYMPHONY



In 1919, a group of Plainfield residents established a community-based orchestra under the baton of Christiaan Kriens. The group held private concerts until 1921 when it began performing concerts at the former Plainfield High School. In June 1921, the orchestra became the Plainfield Symphony Society, Inc. and today is the oldest continuing community orchestra in New Jersey and third oldest in the country.

Over the past 106 years the symphony has been under the baton of only five conductors: Louis Bostelmann, Jose Serebrier, George Marriner Maull, Conductor Emeritus Sabin Pautza, and current Music Director/Conductor Charles Prince, appointed in 2009.

The Plainfield Symphony performance venue moved to its current location, Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, in the mid 1980's.

Many memorable concerts have taken place over the years. There was a guest performance by pianist Percy Grainger. Poet Laureate Rita Dove read her poetry to Sabin's Pautza's composition "Rita Dove Triptych" in

1993. In 2007, Venezuelan guest Conductor Cesar Ivan Lara conducted "Music of the America's and Spain". We sold out for "Bernstein on Broadway", narrated by Jamie Bernstein and conducted by Mr. Prince in 2015. We will never forget Mr. Prince conducting Mahler's 9th Symphony in 2018 and Mahler's 7th Symphony in 2024. Our Pops concerts with Broadway, Jazz, Big Band and Souza are audience favorites.

At our 2024 Free Family Concert, the orchestra featured the compositions of our own board President, Mark Miller, including "Draw the Circle Wide" and "Let Justice Roll". Esteemed Union County resident Frank Bolden narrated "Let Justice Roll", reading excerpts from Martin Luther King's letter written from the Birmingham jail.

Today, Plainfield Symphony Society, Inc. continues as a New Jersey nonprofit corporation with 501(c)(3) status. We are joyfully embarking on our 107th season of operations in Fall 2026 with more memories to be made.

THE PLAINFIELD SYMPHONY
EST. 1919

Our 107th Season

Charles Prince
Music Director

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026 | 7PM



Celebrating America's Songbook
Pops Concert featuring music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hammerstein/Hart, George and Ira Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein
Brian Cheney - Guest Artist

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2027 | 3PM



Annual Free Family Concert
Music that the whole family will love!
Crescent Avenue Church
(Snow Date: January 23)

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2027 | 7PM



Clarinet Dreams
Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: Sinfonietta No. 1 for Strings
Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K.622
Kevin Dayton - soloist (PSO Principal Clarinet)
Haydn: Symphony No. 103 "Paukenwirbel"

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2027 | 7PM



Spotlight on the Orchestra
Carl Maria von Weber: Euryanthe Overture
Richard Strauss: Don Juan
Dvorak: Symphony No. 7

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2027 | 7PM



Fiesta Latina
Silvestre Revueltas: Sensemayá
Manuel de Falla: Noches en los Jardines de España
Enriqueta Somarriba - Piano Soloist
Evencio Castellanos: El Río de las Siete Estrellas
Alberto Ginastera: Estancia Suite

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 | 7PM

Plainfield Symphony Orchestra & the New Jersey Youth Symphony
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Please note: PSO concerts take place at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church and begin at 7 PM unless otherwise stated. To purchase tickets, please visit www.plainfieldsymphony.org.

NJYS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DR. OLIVER HAGEN, CONDUCTOR

Violin I

Jessica Chen, *Chatham MS, Concertmaster*
Nolan Wang, *Thomas Edison Intermediate School, Assistant Concertmaster*
Arushi Bindal, *Millburn MS*
Christian Camposagrado, *Seton Hall Prep*
Maya Czarnota, *Mother Seton Regional H S*
Arianna Desai, *Academy For Allied Health Sciences*
Daniel Kisu Kim, *Delbarton School*
Sebastian Morgera, *Black River MS*
Ryan Ng, *Academy For Information Technology*
Surya Raghavan, *Newark Academy*
Owen Steed-Bordner, *Union County Magnet HS*
Alex Svetlanov, *Union County Magnet HS*
Adam Webb, *Delbarton School*
Leo Xu, *The Pingry School*
Emily Yang, *Millburn MS*
Edward Zhu, *Millburn MS*

Violin II

Allison Cheng, *Millburn MS, Principal*
Ryka Jain, *Edison Academy Magnet School Assistant Principal*
Lucy Burgoon, *Westfield Senior HS*
Nikhil Das, *Heritage MS*
Aeyden Farah, *Robert R Lazar MS*
Artus Ip, *Ridge HS*
Chenrui Jia, *Delbarton School*
Nicholas Kao, *Seton Hall Prep*
Aashritha Kolli, *The Pingry School*
Sophia Li, *Chatham MS*
Amelia Sabel, *Millburn MS*
Fion Shi, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*
Keegan Soares, *Newark Academy*
EunChae Song, *Hunterdon County Academies*
Maura Steed-Bordner, *Union County Magnet HS*
Natalie Walker, T*homas Edison Intermediate School*
Alicia Xu, *New Providence MS*
Kaden Xu, *Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering*
Qing Yu, *Chatham HS*
Charlotte Zhuang, Columbia MS

Viola

Ian Warme, *New Providence HS, Principal*
Bela Sinkar, *William Annin MS, Assistant Principal*
Kara Housel, *New Providence HS*
Jacob Mathew, *Millburn HS*
Noah Noble, *Homeschool*
Sophia Shieh, *Millburn MS*
Kevin Zhang, *William Annin MS*

Cello

Christian Cuccaro, *Thomas Edison Intermediate School, Principal*
Julia Li, *Bridgewater-Raritan HS, Assistant Principal*
Kai Gao, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*
Charlotte Huang, *Madison HS*
Lydia Kahng, *Villa Walsh Academy*
Jaxon Lai, *Newark Academy*
Morgan Leung, *Chatham HS*
Lucas Li, *William Annin MS*
Richard Ping, *Saint Joseph HS*
Saanvi Saxena, *Millburn HS*
Anshita Tatavarty, *Ridge HS*
Timothy Wei, *Parsippany Hills HS*
Bryan Yuan, *Ridge HS*
Isaac Zheng, *Montclair Kimberley Academy*

Bass

Julian Bolisay, *Watchung Hills Regional HS, Principal*
Adrian Bolisay, *Watchung Hills Regional HS Assistant Principal*
Vihaan Mikkilineni, *Millburn HS*

Piccolo
Cora Smerillo, *North Hunterdon Regional HS*

Flute
Charlotte Gao, *Millburn MS, Principal*
Cora Smerillo, *North Hunterdon Regional HS*
Emma Zhu, *Kent Place School*

Oboe
Carissa Gulati, *Millburn HS, Principal*
Kaya Masucci, *Columbia HS*
Yuho Song, *Heritage MS*

Clarinet
Ben Campbell, *Ridge HS, Principal*
Ethan Chun, *Seton Hall Prep*
Luke Jarman, *James Caldwell HS*
Ayden Tang, *Academy For Information Technology*

Bassoon
Sam Martos, *Morristown Beard School*
Ishaan Subramanian, *Alumni Guest*

French Horn
Emily Hauck, *Watchung Hills Regional HS* [2]
Konrad Kazimierski, *Saint Joseph HS* [1]
Jason Yu, *Millburn HS*
Koji Fujita, *YS Guest*

Trumpet
Daniel Chang, *Biotechnology HS* [2]
Rebecca Finkel, *Kent Place School* [1]
Krish Sharma, *Piscataway HS*

Trombone
Anthony Schuck, *Chatham HS, Principal*
Grant Dillon, *Guest*
Nathaniel Rensink, *Guest*

Tuba
Alec Cholewicki, *Delbarton School*

Percussion
Richard Beck, *Terrill Middle School*
Dominic Delice, *Central Regional MS*
Charlie Ettinger, *Salt Brook School*
Isabella Frasch, *Glen Meadow MS*

Denotes Principal
Coleridge-Taylor [1]
Goldman [2]

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Schuyler Thornton, *Flute*
Owen G. Davitt, *Oboe*
Juan Esteban Martinez, *Clarinet*
Bob Wagner, *Bassoon*
Amy Larkey-Emelianoff, *Horn and Brass*
Ming Wang, *Violin*
Sarah Ng, *Violin*
Victoria Witmer, *Viola*
Jane Yeong Eun Lee, *Cello*
Carlos Barriento, *Bass*

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CHARLES PRINCE, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

VIOLIN
Evelyn Estava, *Concertmaster*
Rebecca Harris Lee, *Assistant Concertmaster*
Michael Avagliano. *Principal Second*
Claire Caponigro
Heather Fitzpatrick
Jenise Grice
Shirley Li
Katherine Dorosh-Walther
Hilary Selby Polk
Steven Ridge
Michael Schneider
Kamila Inga Ivashka
Suzanne Weinberg
Elizabeth Wright

VIOLA
Gabriela Rengel, *Principal*
Pauline Bradshaw
Karen Kamp
Effie Yuen

CELLO
Arthur Cook, *Principal*
Jennifer Baxmeyer
James Celestino
Douglas Hardin
Marty Steinberg

DOUBLE BASS
Roosevelt Porter, *Principal*
Maria Ogorek
George Osipian
James Potter

FLUTE
Jenny Cline, *Principal*
Norann Hein
Leslie Pruess

OBOE
Nicholas Gatto, *Principal*
Leonardo Aponte

ENGLISH HORN
Melissa Bohl

CLARINET
Kevin Dayton, *Principal*
Jennifer Branch

BASS CLARINET
Robert Romano

BASSOON
Lee Doswell, *Principal*
Wendy Romano

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Andrew Filippone, *Principal*
Raymond Nettleship
Ivan Miller

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Lisa Nettleship, *Principal*
James Robinson
Emalina Thompson
Craig Smith

TROMBONE
Tom Kamp, *Principal*
Jim Felter
Joshua Woolard

TUBA
David Grego, *Principal*

TYMPANI
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Home for the Holidays



December 6
at 4:00 p.m.

Morristown United Methodist Church, Morristown
$20/Adults, $15/Students & Seniors

NJYC Sola Voce: Joanna Scarangello, 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.

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35th Anniversary
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Harmony Across Cultures Education Concert
Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway
FREE, Registration required

Friday, October 30, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
Performing Arts School Fall Fest
Wharton Performing Arts School, Berkeley Heights
FREE
Stay for the Suzuki Halloween Playdown immediately following the Fall Fest

November 20 & 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m.; November 22, 2:00 p.m.
Performing Arts School Wharton Players present *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical, JR.*
Wharton Black Box Theater, Berkeley Heights
$20/Adults; $15/Students & Seniors

Sunday, November 22, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Chamber Music Concert
Burgdorff Hall at New Jersey Youth Symphony, New Providence
FREE

Saturday, December 5, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony: Concertino Winds, Primo Strings, Flute Choir, Flute Forum
Morristown United Methodist Church, Morristown
$20/Adults; $15/Students & Seniors

Saturday, December 5, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony: Concertino Strings, Sinfonia, Fortissimo Flutes, Clarinet Ensemble, CL4tet
Morristown United Methodist Church, Morristown
$20/Adults; $15/Students & Seniors

Sunday, December 6, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Jazz Concert
Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge
$20/Adults; $15/Students & Seniors

Sunday, December 6, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Chorus 35th Anniversary: Home for the Holidays
Morristown United Methodist Church, Morristown
$20/Adults; $15/Students & Seniors

Saturday, December 12, 2026 5:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Gospel Music Festival
Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway
FREE

Sunday, December 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Two Nutcrackers
Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway
FREE

Sunday, December 13, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Seasons of Joy!: New Jersey Youth Symphony Philharmonia with Plainfield Symphony Orchestra
Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway
FREE

Saturday, January 23, 2027, 1:00 p.m.
New Jersey Youth Symphony Percussion Ensembles
Burgdorff Hall at the New Jersey Youth Symphony, New Providence
FREE

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WhartonARTS

Transforming lives through music education.

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

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.

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