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Dates, times, artists, and programs subject to change.

## YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF CENTRAL JERSEY SPRING CONCERTS



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# NOTEWORTHY SUPPORT

YOCJ relies upon parent volunteers to make our excellent orchestral training available at a reasonable cost to all qualified students. Board members are parents of current or past student musicians. YOCJ is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Donations are gratefully accepted. All financial contributions are tax-deductible, and can easily be made via PayPal on our website:

<http://yocj.org/how-to-donate/>

Donations can also be mailed to:

**YOCJ 19 Ginnie Lane, West Windsor NJ 08550**

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## GIVING PLATFORMS

Virtuoso Level \$2500+	Symphonic Level \$200-499
Maestro Level \$1000-\$2499	Orchestra Level \$50-\$199
Conductor Level \$500-\$999	Chamber Level \$20-\$49

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### Conductor Level

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Cathy Appert  
Saima & Shabab  
Hussain  
Ramu Manjukumar  
Kristin Palombit  
Gyanesh Ranjan  
Morgan Stanley

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey is to provide opportunities for talented young musicians in Central New Jersey to participate in musical performances at a level beyond that which is traditionally offered by school bands and orchestras.

## Conductors

**Phillip Pugh** • String Preparatory & Pro Arte Orchestra

**Dr. Jordan Smith** • Saxophone Ensemble & Saxophone Choir

**Scott Collins** • Wind Symphony & Woodwind Choir

**Sandy Olson** • Flute Choir

**Chris Colaneri** • Percussion Ensemble

**Barbara Witmer** • Symphonic Woodwinds

**Shannon Ferrara** • Brass Choir & Brass Ensemble

**Kenneth Bean** • Symphonic Orchestra



## Board of Trustees & Staff

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## YOCJ Conductors

**Phillip Pugh**, YOCJ Artistic Director and Conductor of the Pro Arte and String Preparatory Orchestras, holds a Master's degree in music theory and a Bachelor's degree in music education from Temple University. In addition to extensive study in violin performance, Mr. Pugh is a registered Suzuki teacher and has also studied string instrument repair and set up under the tutelage of leading luthiers. As a violinist and violist, he performs with the Boheme Opera Company and the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic Orchestra. Additionally, he teaches strings at the West Windsor-Plainsboro's Millstone River School, has served on the faculty of the Csehy Summer School of Music, and maintains an active private studio, teaching violin and viola. Mr. Pugh has been with the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey since 1988.

**Dr. Jordan Smith**, Conductor of the Saxophone Choir and Saxophone Ensemble, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University, a Master of Music in saxophone performance from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in music education degree from The College of New Jersey. He has concertized throughout the U.S., Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, and Greece as a soloist, conductor, chamber and orchestral musician, and has recently performed with the New World Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Sifodec Orchestra in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and more. As a Chamber musician in NYC and a strong advocate for new music, he has premiered over 30 works for saxophone. His article on Jules Massenet appeared in a 2015 edition of The Saxophone Symposium and a recent article on Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite* was published in a 2011 issue of Saxophone Journal. In addition to YOCJ, Dr. Smith teaches music history at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City. He maintains a large private studio in Princeton, NJ. Dr. Smith joined YOCJ in 2010. [Jordanpsmith.com](http://Jordanpsmith.com)

**Scott Collins**, Conductor of the Wind Symphony and Woodwind Choir, holds a Master's Degree in Clarinet Performance, a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, both from Temple University, as well as an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from Valley Forge Military College. Mr. Collins has been teaching in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District since 2004, where he has directed a variety of ensembles including concert band, jazz band, marching band, and string orchestra. Currently, he teaches concert band at the Community Middle School. In July 2011, he was named a "Conducting Fellow" for the Conducting Workshop for Music Educators at the Juilliard School. Mr. Collins has performed as a clarinetist with the Haddonfield Symphony, the Opera Festival of New Jersey, the Princeton Festival, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Arts at St. John's, with whom he performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major back in 2014. Mr. Scott Collins joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2015.

**Sandy Olson**, Conductor of the Flute Choir holds a Master of Music in flute performance from Western Illinois University, a Bachelors degree in music education from Arkansas State University, and completed her DMA coursework in flute performance at the University of Illinois. Ms. Olson has been a flute teacher and director of the summer flute camp at Westminster Conservatory as well as a middle school music teacher in South Brunswick, New Jersey for the past twenty years. For the National Flute Association, Ms. Olson is the past chairman of both the High School Soloist Competition and the High School Flute Choir Competition. Her love of nurturing young students started with her Suzuki Flute Teacher Training with Tatsumi Shiojima. Ms. Olson has also performed at both the National Flute Association as well as the British Flute Association flute conventions. Ms. Sandy Olson is happy to have joined the YOCJ staff in 2016.

**Chris Colaneri**, Conductor of the Percussion Prep and Percussion Ensemble, holds a Master's in music education from New Jersey City University and a Bachelor's degree in classical performance from Rowan University. Mr. Colaneri has been teaching in the New York and New Jersey Public schools since 1996. His current position is with the Berkeley Heights Public School



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## Congratulations 2022-2023 Region & All State members!

**Abhiram Chemudu**, Trombone, Region Intermediate Band  
**Abner Brijesh**, Saxophone, Region High School Band  
**Aiden Ni**, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band  
**Akshath Sarukai**, Baritone Horn, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Amithi Munagala**, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra  
**Andrew Yuan**, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Ankit Sarukai**, Clarinet, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Arnav Maheshwari**, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra  
**Arya Phirke**, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band  
**Aryan Avadhanam**, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Ashley Xu**, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra  
**Ceilidh Manigrasso**, Cello, Region High School Orchestra  
**Connor Mark**, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Dhriti Dinesh**, Flute, Region High School Band  
**Dylan Adamo**, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Elizabeth Kim**, Oboe Region Intermediate Band, All State Intermediate Band  
**Gian Michael Diaz**, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra  
**Ian Lee**, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band  
**Jane Lee**, Violin, Region High School Orchestra  
**Justin Morgan**, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Leland Quaynor**, Clarinet, Region High School Band  
**Lina Lin**, Flute, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Miles Birnbaum**, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Natalie Cheng**, Violin, Region High School Orchestra  
**Pranav Yogeswaran**, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band  
**Prisha Bagchi**, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra  
**Rachel Wang**, Oboe, Region High School Orchestra  
**Rhea Cadambi**, Cello, Region High School Orchestra  
**Rohan Belahal**, Percussion, Region Intermediate Band  
**Sachi Nagabhairava**, Clarinet, Region High School Band  
**Sanjay Kaushik**, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra  
**Sara Srinivasan**, Flute, Region High School Band, All State High School Band  
**Sohan Kondru**, Double Bass, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra  
**Somya Mittal**, Percussion, Region Intermediate Percussion Ensemble  
**Sounish Ghosh**, Percussion, Region Intermediate Band  
**Svara Venkatesan**, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band  
**Tanav Gowda**, Viola, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra  
**Victoria Mungai**, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra  
**Yafei Lei**, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra



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System. He recently co-founded and is currently the President of the Percussion Educator's Association of New Jersey. Mr. Colaneri's orchestral endeavors have taken him to Spain, France, Israel and Jordan. He performs yearly with Josh Groban as his Radio City Music Hall timpanist and has also shared the stage with Cindi Lauper, Itzhak Perlman, Breland, Warren Haynes, Hanson, Rita Wilson and Il Volo. Locally, he has performed with the Plainfield Symphony, South Orange Symphony, Haddonfield Symphony, and Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey. As a vibist, marimba and Latin percussion performer, Mr. Colaneri has led his own jazz quartet CCQ for the past eighteen years. This ensemble has given featured performances at NJPAC, various jazz clubs, private corporate and political functions and jazz festivals throughout NJ. Mr. Colaneri has given lectures at Rowan University, Temple, Mason Gross, the New Jersey Music Educator's State Convention and All Eastern. As an author for Oxford University Press, his recent method book *The Total Percussionists*, can be found in classrooms throughout the USA and abroad. In addition to his musical endeavors, Mr. Colaneri can be found on the small screen as a background actor for such shows as *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime), *The Time Traveler's Wife* (HBO Max) and *Just Like That...* (HBO Max). Mr. Colaneri joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2017.

**Barbara Witmer**, Coach of the Woodwind Chamber Players, as well as the Symphonic Orchestra woodwind section, holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from Ithaca College and a Bachelor's from Lebanon Valley College, also in Music Education. Ms. Witmer is a member of the faculty at Millstone River School in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District where she teaches elementary band. Barbara Witmer plays oboe in the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic Orchestra and performs as a free lance musician in the area. In addition, she maintains a studio of private oboe students. She served on the Alumni Committee of the Board of Trustees for two years. Ms. Witmer joined the staff of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2018.

**Shannon Ferrara**, the conductor of the Brass Choir and Symphonic Orchestra Brass Coach, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from The College of New Jersey. Mrs. Ferrara has been teaching band in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District for 21 years, first at Millstone River School (formerly Upper Elementary School), then moving to Village School for many years, and then finally "graduating" to middle school where she is now in her 8th year. In addition to public school teaching, she also maintains a private horn studio and continues to perform with such groups as The Eastern Wind Symphony, Garden State Symphonic Band, Plainfield Symphony, Nassau Brass, Quintessential Brass, and other orchestras, bands, and pit orchestras around New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Ferrara has also been involved in community theater for twenty years, mostly with musical direction, but has performed other roles both on and off the stage. At home, she spends her free time with her three cats, her two kids, and her husband. Mrs. Ferrara joined the staff of The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2021.

**Kenneth Bean** is the conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra. He is an instructor and conductor in the Philadelphia area, as well as an active freelance trumpeter. He earned a Bachelor of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music Education from Jackson State University. He has taught at many festivals and schools, including The School District of Philadelphia, Settlement Music School, The Premier Orchestral Institute of the Mississippi Symphony, and Play On Philly. Although he enjoys teaching and performing, Kenneth's passion is on the podium. He has appeared as a guest conductor for the Marywood String Festival, Berks County Orchestra Festival and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. His past Music Director/Conductor appointments include the Junior String Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley, the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley and Luzerne Music Center. Kenneth currently serves as Assistant Conductor of Symphony in C, Conductor of the Symphony in C Youth Orchestra in Collingswood, NJ, and Director/Conductor of the Young Musicians Debut Orchestra, the newest full orchestra within the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Music Institute. In the summers, Maestro Bean serves as Co-Director of the Symphony in C Summer Camp and Conductor at Kinhaven Music School Junior Session in Weston, VT. Maestro Bean has served as the Assistant Conductor of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and the Symphonic Conductor of the YOCJ since 2021.



# 2023 Upcoming Events

## Tuesday June 6th

New Student Auditions | Register at [yocj.org/auditions](http://yocj.org/auditions)

## Friday June 23 — Sunday June 25

Washington D.C. Tour

## 3rd Annual Summer Chamber Camps

### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Register at [yocj.org/yocj-summer-camps/](http://yocj.org/yocj-summer-camps/)

**Week #1:** Monday July 10 - Friday July 14

Friday, July 14, 11am Final Recital, POP Sanctuary

**Week #2:** Monday July 17 - Friday July 21

Friday, July 21, 11am Final Recital, POP Sanctuary



# YOCJ MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

YOCJ would like to recognize the students who have been members for 3 or more years. With a multitude of activities clamoring for the attention of all of our talented students, longevity speaks volumes about the loyalty, dedication, and sense of commitment of the following members.

### Since 2015

Chern Yang

### Since 2016

Aryan Avadhanam

### Since 2017

Leel Dias  
Sanjay Kaushik  
Emma La Duke  
Allen Lee  
Katherine Monroe  
Kabir Nankani  
Sidharth Rao  
Sara Srinivasan  
Kyson Zhou

### Since 2018

Prisha Bagchi  
Joanne Bennet  
Miles Birnbaum  
Julie Cai  
Aditya Kapoor  
Nandini Miryala  
Justin Morgan  
Akash Nayak  
Aarav Patel  
Sanskriti Ramji  
Jayden Shah  
Savir Singh  
Vyshakh Thejaswi

### Since 2019

Aaryan Ajith  
Ci-Ning Ang  
Brendan Appert  
Vikram Balaguru  
Rhea Cadambi  
Ishan Chikka  
Sol Chung  
Sara Deshmukh  
Sagar Deshpande  
Dhriti Dinesh  
Gordon Fan  
Harry Fan  
Sounish Ghosh  
Lucas Horowitz  
Vedaswini Kabra  
Lina Lin  
Janhavi Palkar  
Richa Palle  
Anyela Patel  
Jessica Poprik  
Leland Quaynor  
Abhirami Rajesh  
Akshath Sarukkai  
Shreyansh Sen  
William Sun  
Sloka Vendra  
Eshan Yalla  
Lina Yang

# AUDITIONS

## Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey






YOCJ provides nurturing & challenging musical experiences to some of the finest young musicians in our region!

- String Preparatory Orchestra
- Pro Arte Orchestra
- Symphonic Orchestra
- Wind Symphony
- Brass Ensemble
- Brass Choir
- Flute Choir
- Percussion Ensemble
- Saxophone Ensemble
- Saxophone Choir
- Symphonic Woodwinds
- Woodwind Choir, and more!

Perform under the baton of our YOCJ Conductors, the finest local professional musicians! Work with Princeton Symphony Orchestra clinicians & Assistant Conductor, **Kenneth Beal**

# Tuesday June 6



Register at [yocj.org/auditions](http://yocj.org/auditions)







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**TWO LOCATIONS: WEST WINDSOR & PRINCETON**

Today's performance is being videotaped by  
**Briann Dixon Videography, LLC**  
<https://www.bcdixon.com/>

Footage will be available to YOCJ families for  
viewing as well as for free download soon.  
Watch for an email with instructions and links.

Please consider making a donation to YOCJ to help  
us continue to give our musicians exceptional  
learning experiences. Visit us at...

**[www.yocj.org/how-to-donate](http://www.yocj.org/how-to-donate)**

More information can be found at the  
end of this concert program booklet.

Please turn off all phones and electronic devices,  
and be mindful of those seated around you.  
Photography & videography are not permitted during the  
performance. Thank you for your cooperation!

# *Bravo Class of 2023!*

YOCJ wishes you the best! Check out the  
impressive Senior bios in this program booklet.





# 3pm Concert

## Wind Symphony

*Scott Collins, Conductor*

### **Suite from Symphonie Fantastique**

**Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)**

- I. A Ball
- II. March to the Scaffold
- III. A Witches' Sabbath

arr. Michael Story

### **At Morning's First Light**

**David R. Gillingham (b. 1947)**

### **Bravura March**

**Charles E. Doble (1884-1960)**

arr. John Edmondson

#### **Flute**

Sneha Anand  
Naina Bhardwaj  
Gordon Fan  
Yashvi Oza  
Anyia Patel  
Sanskriti Ramji  
Shreyansh Sen  
Mahd Shabab  
Paavni Suyal

#### **Clarinet**

Anika Khedekar  
Silvano Massa  
Sachi Nagabhairava  
Maya Shue  
Sanskriti Singh  
Svara Venkatesan  
Gloria Wang\*\*  
Pranav Yogeswaran

#### **Bass Clarinet**

Leland Quaynor  
Florisel Velez

#### **Oboe**

Esha Desai  
Mihika Srivastava

#### **Bassoon**

Sam Chung  
Zach Feingold

#### **Alto Saxophone**

Aidan Ni  
Sanjana Bellur  
Ivan Rupasinghe

#### **Tenor Saxophone**

Ian Kim

#### **Baritone Saxophone**

Maximus Chua

#### **Trumpet**

Siddharth Gourabathuni  
Maia Hicks  
Naren Maharana

#### **French Horn**

Ethan De La Garza  
Audree Oh  
Zachary Phelan

#### **Trombone**

Suhreeth Ayitha  
Abhiram Chemudu  
Margaret Collins  
Richa Joshi

#### **Baritone**

Maya Singh

#### **Tuba**

Noah Chen

#### **Percussion**

Nandish Anadkat  
Rohan Belahal  
Christian Epps  
Clay Jang  
Somya Mittal

\*\* = Concertmaster

## Boosters

*Ceilidh, We are so proud of how hard you worked this year!*

*We can't wait to hear you play.*

*Love, Mom, Dad, Quincy & Sadie*

**Congratulations Kabir! We are so proud of your musical journey.**

**Keep making music wherever you go. With lots of love,  
from Mamma, Daddy, Roshan, and Naani**

*Congratulations Prisha! We cannot wait to see you on stage  
as the concertmaster. We are so proud of you!*

*Keep shining bright—Nyra, Mom, & Dad*

*Dear Danyal, Your Mom, Dad, and big bro are super  
proud of you, always keep shining the way you do.  
We love you loads, many hugs your way!*

*Congrats on your First Performance with YOCJ, Amy & Max!*

**Congratulations Lucas and all of the YOCJ performers!**

**We're so proud of you!**

**Love, Mom, Dad, Jillian, Ev, & Abou, Grandma & Grandpa**

**Dear Adam, Congratulations on your orchestra concert!**

**We are so proud of you and wish you  
the best of luck in your music learning.**

**Love, Mom, Dad & Patrick**

**Esha Desai ~ We are so proud to see you perform at the YOCJ.**

**I hope with music, you discover and experience new things with love.**

*Christian ~ Our Drummer Boy!*

*We are all so proud of you. Bravo on a great year of music!  
God Bless, Mom, Dad, Nathanael, Catherine, Nicholas, & Milo*



**Aryaman Tomar** is a current senior at WW-P High School North. He has been playing double bass since 4th grade, and started with YOCJ in 5th grade, almost 8 years ago! He has since also played in his middle and high school chamber orchestras, as well as in the regional and NJ All-State Intermediate and High School orchestras. He has had two different private teachers, Mr. Robert Peterson, current orchestra director of WW-P High School South, as well as Geoffery Fleming, former teacher at WW-P Millstone River Upper Elementary School. He is an Eagle Scout and an active lover of the outdoors. Aryaman is also an avid Pokémon fan, playing competitive matches online as well as collecting cards. He wants to give a special thanks to Mr. Peterson for not only being a constantly supportive teacher, but also the one who showed Aryaman the wonders of the bass, and why it was worth it to continue. He will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in the fall and will be studying Computer Science and Astrobiology. He will continue his musical pursuits in the Rensselaer Orchestra.

**Rachel Wang** joined YOCJ as a freshman in 2019. She started playing the oboe in 4th grade and took private lessons from Melisa Bohl since 5th grade. She was inspired to play the oboe by Eugene Izotov, a Russian oboist, and was encouraged to continue music by her band directors, TJ Brungard and Sergio Fossa. Her favorite YOCJ memory is playing the Danse Bacchanale by Camille Saint-Saens in Spring 2019 with the Pro Arte Orchestra and Wind Symphony. Rachel's accomplishments include her music awards, international art awards, participation in regional and all-state bands, and a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Her hobbies include music, writing, and volunteering. Rachel currently attends South Brunswick High School. After high school, she plans to attend Haverford College in PA and is interested in pursuing a degree in English or pre-law.

**Chern Yang** is a senior at West-Windsor Plainsboro High School North. He has been playing the violin since 2nd grade, studying with Dr. Mia Wu and Mr. Pugh, and joined YOCJ in 4th grade. His favorite memory from YOCJ is the Germany trip back in 2017, where he was able to experience Germany's rich culture and history, and perform in amazing venues. Aside from violin, he has also been playing French Horn in school ensembles since 5th grade, including the high school marching band, where he proudly served as Drum Major this past season. He sings as well, participating in a cappella groups and performing in the school musical, having featured as Prince Eric in this year's production of the Little Mermaid. He has also studied piano with Dr. Kyu Rhee since 5th grade. When he has time, he likes to arrange and compose music, having written for string quartet, wind sextet, a cappella, and full concert band. He recently had the honor of conducting the school Wind Ensemble in a performance of an arrangement he wrote, a medley of Studio Ghibli soundtracks featuring music from Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle, My Neighbor Totoro, and more. He is grateful for the experiences he's had and the guidance and support his teachers have given him over the years. In the fall, he will be attending Princeton University to study physics, where he will be attempting to earn a minor in music composition and continue to participate in musical ensembles around campus.

**Thank you for attending our performance!**  
For more information, go to **[www.yocj.org](http://www.yocj.org)**



# **String Preparatory Orchestra**

## ***Phillip Pugh, Conductor***

### ***Sinfonia in G Major***

**Johann Stamitz (1717-1757)**

Allegro  
Larghetto  
Presto

### ***Concerto in G Minor***

**Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)**

Allegro  
Adagio  
Allegro

### ***Sailing***

**Yukiko Nishimura (b. 1967)**

#### **Violin I**

Gian Michael Diaz  
Naina Enock  
Hana Fang  
Joshua Fermo  
Advait Ghantasala  
Vedika Kamal  
Arnav Maheshwari \*  
Ellie Tseng

#### **Violin II**

Laasya Guntamukkala  
Jennie Han  
Letty Lopez  
Evana Mallapuram  
Tanvi Mukka \*  
Victoria Mungai  
Danyal Rizavi  
Mayu Saito

#### **Viola**

Kaushal Chikka  
Arnav Nair \*

#### **Cello**

Aarav Gupta \*  
Abigail Knowles  
Sai Mistry  
Rishi Palagummi  
Adam Powichrowski  
Mahika Thakur  
Swathi Venkatesh

#### **Bass**

Chris Clark +

\* = Principal  
+ = Educator



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# Pro Arte Orchestra

## *Phillip Pugh, Conductor*

### **Symphony No. 36 "Linz"      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**

Adagio - Allegro Spiritoso

Menuetto

Presto

### **Serenade in G Major      Carl Reinecke (1824-1910)**

Allegretto

#### **Violin I**

Ci-Ning Ang  
Brendan Appert  
Prisha Bagchi \*  
Aiden Cheng  
Natalie Cheng  
Caris Co  
Konnor Lee  
Jane Lee  
Jessica Poprik  
Angad Singh

#### **Violin II**

Grace Chang  
Caden Co  
Preeta Cyrus  
Pragnya Eranki  
Anna Kang  
Neil Katkuri  
Yafei Lei  
Roshan Nankani  
Navya Somula  
Sloka Vendra \*  
Kiera Wynn

#### **Viola**

Sahaj Jasani  
Arsh Mehan  
Amithi Munagala  
Tiffany Tian  
Michael Wang  
Eshan Yalla \*

#### **Cello**

Ananya Chandra  
Sai Nithil Chintagunta  
Riya Gupta  
Akshaj Jindal  
Nathan Kang  
Morgan Li  
Ceilidh Manigrasso  
Abhirami Rajesh  
Philip Schidlovsky  
Sunayna Shah  
Chloe Wang  
Ashley Xu  
Lina Yang \*

#### **Double Bass**

Wallace Snow \*  
Chris Clark +

#### **Oboe**

Barbara Witmer &  
Rachel Wang

#### **Bassoon**

Zach Feingold +

#### **French Horn**

Elizabeth Ferrara +  
Shannon Ferrara &

#### **Trumpet**

Kenny Bean &

#### **Timpani**

Scott Collins &

\* = Principal

& = YOCJ Staff

+ = Educator

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**Sidharth Rao** is from Montgomery High School and has been a part of YOCJ for six years. Sid began playing the Alto-Saxophone in the fourth grade and immediately fell in love with the instrument. After realizing he wanted to deepen his interest and excel in playing the Saxophone, he took private lessons with Mr. Ketterer. With the help of his private teacher, Sid improved tremendously and wanted to challenge himself with complex music. As a result, Sid auditioned and joined YOCJ in the 7th grade. Sid loved YOCJ and was grateful for its opportunities: solos, master classes, and, ultimately, playing with a saxophone ensemble. In fact, Sid was given a chance to switch from Alto Saxophone and play the Soprano Saxophone, allowing him to learn another challenging yet beautiful instrument. Outside of YOCJ, Sid serves as an EMT for Montgomery Squad 47, participates in Monty Aerospace Club, and plays an Indian classical instrument called the Tabla. His favorite moment in YOCJ includes being a part of the Wind Symphony and playing with the orchestra. Sid would like to thank all the YOCJ staff/musical educators, especially his instructor Dr. Smith, for these last informative and enriching six years. Sid hopes to continue his love for music as a hobby at Case Western Reserve University, where he will be pursuing BioMedical Engineering.

**Ayush Saran** is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School South and will be studying economics at Dartmouth College this fall. He started playing the viola in ninth grade with his private teacher Mrs. Youngbin Jo and has continued to play under her. He joined YOCJ the fall of his junior year and has loved the experience of playing in a high-level orchestra with like-minded musicians who appreciate the beauty of music. In his free time, he likes to run and hang out with his friends. He would like to thank his family, his private teacher Mrs. Jo, his high school orchestra teacher Mr. Peterson, and his YOCJ conductor Mr. Bean for inspiring him to keep pursuing the viola. Ayush's favorite YOCJ memory is playing the extremely fast paced Russian and Ludmilla at his first ever YOCJ concert.

**Alison Sharpe** will be attending The Wells School of Music at West Chester University for Music Education. She is currently a senior at Hightstown High School, and has been playing clarinet in the East Windsor Regional School District for 8 years. Alison has been taking private lessons since her Sophomore year with Elizabeth Scardino, and began YOCJ in the Symphonic Orchestra and Symphonic Woodwinds her Junior year. She has been a featured soloist in the Hightstown High School Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, and Jazz Ensemble since her Sophomore year of high school, and has had various solos during the 2022 winter and 2023 spring season in the Symphonic Orchestra at YOCJ. Alison would like to thank her high school band director, Mr. Halat, for pushing her to join more ensembles, Ms. Witmer and Mr. Collins for being huge supporters in YOCJ, and Mr. Bean for teaching her to love orchestral music both in and out of the classroom.

**Sara Srinivasan** is a senior at South Brunswick High School. She is planning to study the Biological Sciences at Rutgers University to later contribute to research in the field of medicine. Sara started playing the flute in fourth grade. Her current private teacher is Sandy Olson, who she has been studying with since 2017. Sara joined YOCJ in 2017 as a part of the Flute Choir, and later became part of the Symphonic Orchestra in 2019. She is the first chair flute in her high school's Wind Ensemble, and has been a student leader in the school's Flute Ensemble Club. This past year, Sara auditioned and got accepted into the CJMEA Region Band and the NJMEA All-State Band. Additionally, she auditioned for and got accepted to the 2023 National Flute Association High School Flute Choir. Aside from music, she loves sketching, painting, and various types of craft making. Sara would like to thank her teacher Sandy Olson, as well as her family for guiding and supporting her on her musical journey.

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**Justin Morgan** is an IB student at Freehold Township High School. In the Fall, he plans to begin a double major in mechanical engineering and saxophone performance at Gettysburg College! Justin began playing saxophone in the fourth grade, taking private lessons from Sam Tobias, Elliot Stern, and Erika Friedman. After joining YOCJ in seventh grade, Justin achieved major accomplishments! He is an All-National 3rd tenor saxophone, 2x All-state soprano saxophone, All-State tenor saxophone, 3x Regions saxophonist, 4x All-shore symphonic Saxophonist, and a 2x All-shore jazz saxophonist. Alongside his instrumental musical pursuits, Justin is also his high school chess champion, and dabbles in poetry and choir. He credits his high school Band Director, Edward Gattsek, with providing the greatest guidance and encouragement. His favorite memory from YOCJ is being introduced to the saxophone ensemble for the first time.

**Anton Misirpashayev** is a graduating trumpet player from WWP High School South, and he is planning to pursue a major in neuroscience at Rutgers University. He started playing in fifth grade, the school district's earliest chance for a student to pick up a band instrument. Private lessons began in eighth grade with former Grover band teacher Glenn Koffman, and YOCJ participation in 11th grade. Listening to music is always a fun way to pass the time for him, along with accordion practice and chess puzzles. Junior year small ensemble held some of his fondest memories.

**Kabir Nankani** is a Senior at WWP High School North who has played the violin in YOCJ since 2017. After graduating this June, he plans to study Chemistry at University of California Santa Barbara and plans to continue to pursue music as a non-major in college. Kabir has been playing the violin for 15 years with Ms Chika Mimura and has had the opportunity to play with the Edison Philharmonic and Princeton Symphony Orchestras. On top of playing the violin, Kabir also plays the bassoon in school with Mr Mark Bencivengo. Outside of playing the violin, Kabir loves baking and learning languages. This year he passed the Deutsches Sprachdiplom Stufe II at the highest level and was the recipient of the American Association of Teachers of German National German Exam Post-Graduate Scholarship. Kabir would like to thank his teachers and conductors, Ms Mimura, Mr Bencivengo, Mr. Pugh, and Mr Bean for guiding him on his musical journey, as well as Ms. Eppe for all of her hard work bringing together an amazing experience at YOCJ. He will fondly remember his time in YOCJ, especially the opportunity to play with virtuoso Midori under Ms Flanders.

**Akash Nayak** is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. He has played the tenor saxophone since fifth grade and joined YOCJ in seventh grade. His favorite memory from YOCJ has been playing at his first concert, and realizing the amazing things that can be created when people put in sustained effort. Akash has also played in his high school's Marching Band as woodwind captain. In addition to music, he enjoys playing chess, watching comedy, and reading realistic fiction and fantasy. Akash will attend The College of William and Mary in the fall to major in economics and political science. He would like to thank his sister, parents, Mr. Verblaauw (his marching band director), Mr. Kochersberger (his private teacher), and Mr. Bencivengo (his band teacher) for all their support.

**Janhavi Palkar** attends Lawrence High School. She will attend Purdue University as a Data Science major with a minor in Economics. She started playing the viola in fourth grade with her private teacher is Ray Demski and joined YOCJ in the spring of ninth grade. Janhavi also plays volleyball in her free time and is Student Council President. She would like to thank her school music teachers Mrs. Clark and Mr. Drobish for encouraging her to explore new areas of music and supporting her throughout her high school career. Her favorite YOCJ memory was playing in a small ensemble for the first time during the YOCJ summer camp.

# Pro Arte Orchestra & Wind Symphony

*Scott Collins & Phillip Pugh, Conductors*

**Marche Militaire Francaise**

**Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)**

**In the Steppes of Central Asia**

**Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)**

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**Vedaswini Kabra** has been playing the oboe for eight years and has been a member of YOCJ since ninth grade. One of her fondest memories was learning the piece Mt. Everest, which is still one of her favorites even now. Outside of music, Vedaswini has spent her time in mock trial, debate clubs, and ultimate frisbee. Vedaswini would like to thank Ms. Witmer (who was also her fifth grade band teacher and helped her choose the oboe years ago!) for her warm welcome every Tuesday, constant encouragement and oboe related advice! She would also like to thank her parents for their constant support throughout her musical journey. This year Vedaswini will be graduating from High School North and will be exploring fields of business at Indiana University - Kelley School of Business in the fall along with pursuing a minor in environmental science. She plans to continue studying the oboe by joining ensembles at college!

**Brendan Kelso** began playing alto saxophone as a fifth grader at Princeton Academy. He has continued with the jazz band at the Hun School of Princeton through his senior year. Along the way he has also picked up guitar, keyboard, bass and vocals. Special thanks to Dr. Smith for rounding out his musical knowledge in the classical department. And very special thanks to Dan Kochersberger, his private saxophone teacher for the last eight years. Brendan will be attending Wesleyan University in the fall.

**Stephen Kim** is graduating from Hopewell Valley Central High School where he has been very involved in the music community as a member of the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, the award-winning a cappella group Con Brio, and the Marching Black and Gold, where he was a featured soloist for two shows. His favorite YOCJ memory is playing with his sister in the Summer Chamber Music Camp, which inspired him to join the YOCJ Symphonic Orchestra, where he has played flute for 2 years. Stephen would like to thank his flute teacher of seven years, Mary Schmidt, for inspiring his passion for music. In his free time, Stephen enjoys reading books about film and losing at online chess. He will be attending Ithaca College as a music and film major.

**Allen Lee** is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and is passionate about studying environmental and earth science, as well as other areas of science at Stevens Institute of Technology. He started playing the cello in fourth grade under the guidance of Ms. Palombit and joined YOCJ in seventh grade. In addition to his academic pursuits, Allen is also an avid fan of Pokémon. He credits his parents for introducing him to the world of music, and his favorite memory is when he taped post-its to his friends' backs during break time.

**Katherine Monroe** is finishing up her senior year at Princeton High School. Next year, she will be attending Princeton University, where she intends to pursue her interests in biology and environmental science. Katherine began playing violin at age 4. In third grade, she made a brief foray into trumpet-playing before realizing that it was decisively not the instrument for her. She currently studies violin with Margaret Banks and has previously studied with Colin Oettle. Katherine first joined YOCJ in sixth grade (7 years ago!) and has enjoyed being part of the Symphonic and Pro Arte orchestras, as well as playing chamber music. She hopes to continue playing in college and beyond. Outside the musical realm, Katherine is a captain and sprinter-hurdler on her school's track team. In her free time (rare!) she enjoys reading, watching TV miniseries, and spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her parents, violin teacher Mrs. Banks, school orchestra director Mr. Loughran, YOCJ faculty (shoutout to Mr. Bean), and all of the friends she has met through orchestra and chamber music.

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# SENIOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Aryan Avadhanam** attended West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and will be attending Northwestern University to study Computer Science and Saxophone Performance. He started playing the saxophone in the fifth grade, and has studied under Dr. Jordan Smith since the sixth grade. Aryan joined YOCJ in the sixth grade as part of the saxophone ensemble, where he was exposed to different saxophones. Aryan was a part of the CJMEA region bands through middle school and high school, and was 1st soprano saxophone in the 11th grade and 1st alto saxophone in the 12th grade in the NJMEA All State Band. In his junior year, he was placed as an alternate for the NAFME All National Concert Band. Outside of YOCJ, Aryan loves playing volleyball and is an avid keyboard enthusiast. He would like to acknowledge Dr. Smith and his parents for supporting him throughout his musical journey, and he says he couldn't have accomplished what he has without them. Aryan's favorite YOCJ memory is the Germany trip, where he got to enjoy traveling with his friends while playing at amazing venues.

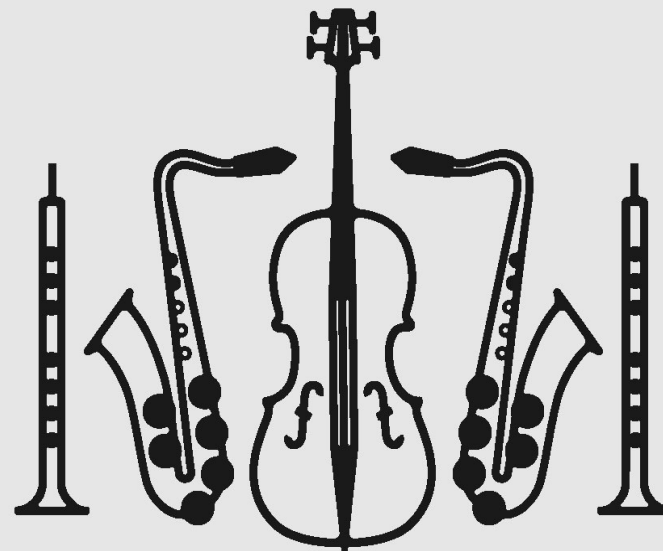
**Advait Bragadeesh** is a senior at West-Windsor Plainsboro High School South. He is enrolled at Purdue for the Fall of 2023 and is intending to major in Chemistry. He started playing violin in 4th grade, but did not take private lessons until three years ago. He is currently receiving private lessons from Ms. Grace Kuan. Advait joined YOCJ in the Winter Semester of last year. In his free time he loves listening to classical music and playing video games with friends. Advait thanks his parents for their support of his oftentimes tenuous musical journey and Maestro Bean for the countless days of instructing, conducting, and singing parts (when we don't play them) all in aims to improve our music-making.

**Evan Chen** is currently a senior at South Brunswick High School. He is attending the Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy under the 6-year Doctorate of Pharmacy program. He started playing the violin in second grade, at the age of seven years old. His current and only private teacher is Colin Jao, who currently resides in Taiwan. Evan joined YOCJ in the winter session of his seventh grade. He has achieved the ARSM performance degree for violin, and has played in multiple regional competitions in Taiwan. He likes to play games, create custom keyboards, and also play the piano. He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him in his musical career and listening to him practice and play. His favorite YOCJ memory is his first winter concert for YOCJ as a first violin of the Pro Arte orchestra.

Cello allows **Leel Dias** to express himself and relieve stress after long days of school. Leel has been playing cello since he was nine, studying under Suzanne Dicker, John Enz, and most recently, David Szepessy. Leel has been a member of YOCJ since seventh grade and plays in his school's (Solebury School) orchestral group, where he soloed the Elgar Cello Concerto. Leel would like to thank his parents for their constant support. Leel will attend Columbia University next year and hopes to major in environmental science.

**Jonathan Huang** is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. He plans on attending Georgetown University, studying International Political Economy at the School of Foreign Service. He started playing viola in fourth grade and has been learning for eight years. Mr. Christopher Jones has been his private teacher since seventh grade. Jonathan Huang joined the YOCJ Symphonic in 2021, during his sophomore year. Outside of the orchestra, he rows crew, enjoys editing and filming videos, and is a huge Nintendo and Marvel fan. He'd like to thank his teacher Mr. Jones and all of the YOCJ staff who have helped him on his musical journey!

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# 7:30pm Concert

## Saxophone Quartet

*Dr. Jordan Smith, Coach*

### *Historie du Tango*

II. Café 1930  
I. Bordel 1900

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Soprano Saxophone, Aryan Avadhanam  
Alto Saxophone, Justin Morgan  
Tenor Saxophone, Dylan Adamo  
Baritone Saxophone, Ishan Chikka

## Saxophone Choir

*Dr. Jordan Smith, Conductor*

### *Jubilate!*

Ronald Caravan (b. 1946)

### *When Jesus Wept*

William Schuman (1910-1992)  
arr. Paul Cohen

Vir Mehrotra, Field Drum

### *St. Paul's Suite*

I. Jig  
II. Ostinato  
III. Intermezzo  
IV. Finale (The Dargason)

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)  
arr. Bricault

#### **Soprano Saxophone**

Sidharth Rao  
Jayden Shah

#### **Alto Saxophone**

Vikram Balaguru  
Abner Brijesh  
Brendan Kelso  
Nandini Miryala  
Evan Reese Pagtalunan  
Nicholas Scarpa  
Savir Singh  
William Sun  
Christopher Velez  
Giselle Velez

#### **Sopranino/Soprano/Tenor Saxophone**

Aryan Avadhanam

#### **Tenor Saxophone**

Dylan Adamo  
Aaryan Ajith  
Miles Birnbaum  
Akash Nayak  
Reya Varun

#### **Baritone Saxophone**

Ishan Chikka  
Harini Ravindranathan

#### **Bass Saxophone**

Justin Morgan

# Symphonic Orchestra

*Kenneth Bean, Conductor*

### *Danzón No. 2*

Arturo Márquez (b. 1950)

### *Classical Concerto for Tenor Saxophone & Orchestra*

I. Allegro

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

*Aryan Avadhanam, Tenor Saxophone*  
*Senior Solo Competition Winner*

### *Symphony No. 2, Op. 43*

I. Allegretto  
IV. Finale - Allegro Moderato

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

#### **Violin I**

Evan Chen  
Sanjay Kaushik  
Katherine Monroe \*\*  
Kabir Nankani  
Chelsea Wang  
Chern Yang

#### **Violin II**

Advait Bragadeesh  
Julie Cai  
Franklin Wang  
Kyson Zhou \*

#### **Viola**

Joanne Bennet  
Tanav Gowda \*  
Jonathan Huang  
Naima Kamikura  
Romit Kundu  
Janhavi Palkar  
Ayush Saran  
Vyshakh Thejaswi

#### **Piano**

Julie Markavitch-Caudle +

\*\* = Concertmaster  
\* = Principal  
& = YOCJ Staff  
# = PSO Musician  
+ = Educator

#### **Cello**

Siddharth Belahal  
Rhea Cadambi \*  
Sagar Deshpande  
Leel Dias  
Lucas Horowitz  
Aditya Kapoor  
Allen Lee  
Richa Palle  
Aarav Patel  
Vikram Rajput  
Ronak Shah  
Parker Woo

#### **Double Bass**

Aryaman Tomar \*  
Chris Clark +

#### **Flute**

Dhriti Dinesh  
Stephen Kim \*  
Emma LaDuke  
Sara Srinivasan \*  
Coco Zhou

#### **Piccolo**

Emma LaDuke

#### **Oboe**

Vedaswini Kabra  
Elizabeth Kim \*  
Rachel Wang \*

#### **Clarinet**

Rithwik Aggarwal  
Maddox Kraft  
Ankit Sarukkai  
Alison Sharpe \*

#### **Basoon**

Sol Chung \*  
Connor Mark  
Andrew Yuan

#### **French Horn**

Elizabeth Ferrara +  
Shannon Ferrara &  
Jon Clark #  
Leah Swanger #

#### **Trumpet**

Prarthana Harikrishnan  
Anton Misirpashayev \*  
Brayden Woodward

#### **Trombone**

Jason Stein #  
Akshath Sarukkai \*  
Lars Wendt #

#### **Tuba**

Arturo Bu Sha \*  
Ben Vokits #

#### **Percussion**

Harry Fan  
Sounish Ghosh  
Megha Kumar  
Vir Mehrotra