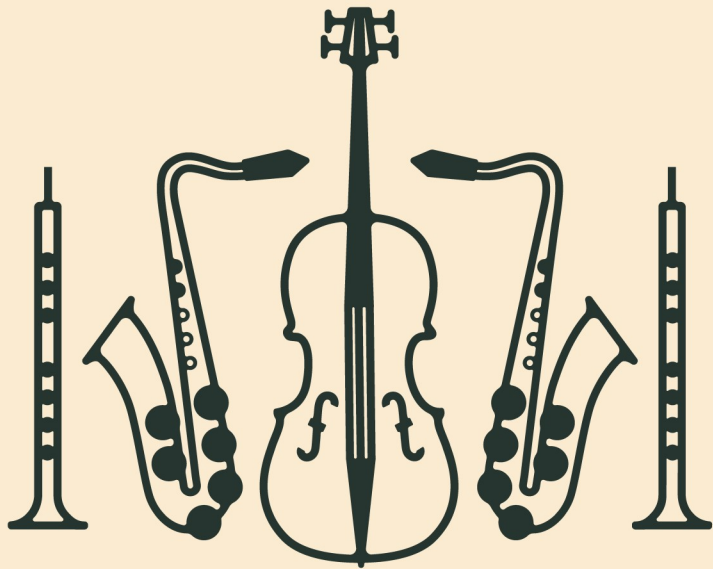


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Anitha Kovelamudi

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 T. Bean • Symphonic Orchestra



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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 35 works for saxophone. Dr. Smith's research has been published in the Saxophone Symposium, Saxophone Journal, and TEMPO Magazine. In addition to YOCJ, Dr. Smith currently teaches music history at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, with past teaching positions at William Paterson University and Georgian Court University. He maintains a large private studio in Hightstown, NJ. Dr. Smith joined YOCJ in 2010. 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 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 System. He recently co-founded and is currently the President of the Percussion Educator's Association of New



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Please share with your neighbors, friends, family and coworkers – anyone can submit their receipts to the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey. This is an ongoing fundraiser, so there are no deadlines. However, we request that receipts are submitted **monthly** to rehearsals, since receipts expire.

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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 CQC 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 Symphonic Orchestra woodwind section, holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from Ithaca College and a Bachelor's Degree from Lebanon Valley College, also in Music Education. Ms. Witmer is a member of the music faculty at Millstone River School in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District where she teaches elementary band. She plays oboe in the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic Orchestra and performs as a freelance musician in the area. In addition, she maintains a studio of private oboe students. Ms. Witmer served on the Alumni Committee of the YOCJ Board of Trustees for two years and 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 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 T. 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.

2024 Upcoming Events

Tuesday June 4

New Student Auditions: Register at yocj.org/auditions

Friday June 21

Bon Voyage Concert at Community Middle School for YOCJ Austria Tour (June 22-30)

Summer Chamber Music Camp at POP Church

Monday July 8—Friday July 12: Week #1 - Strings & Woodwinds
Monday July 15 —Friday July 19: Week #2 - Strings & Saxophones



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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 2017

Sanjay Kaushik
Emma La Duke
Kyson Zhou

Since 2018


Richard Aerath
Prisha Bagchi
Joanne Bennet
Miles Birnbaum
Julie Cai
Nandini Miryala
Aarav Patel
Sanskriti Ramji
Jayden Shah
Vyshakh Thejaswi

Since 2019

Aaryan Ajith
Ci-Ning Ang
Brendan Appert
Vikram Balaguru
Rhea Cadambi
Ishan Chikka
Sara Deshmukh
Sagar Deshpande
Gordon Fan
Lucas Horowitz
Lina Lin
Richa Palle
Anya Patel
Jessica Poprik
Leland Quaynor
Akshath Sarukkai
William Sun
Sloka Vendra
Eshan Yalla
Lina Yang

Since 2020

Naina Enock
Naima Kamikura
Roshan Nankani
Aidan Ni
Parker Woo
Matthew Kartavov
Amithi Munagala
Ankit Sarukkai





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Dates, times, artists,
and programs subject to change



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

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Photography & videography are not permitted during the
performance. Thank you for your cooperation!



3pm Concert

Wind Symphony *Scott Collins, Conductor*

Second Suite in F for Military Band

Gustav Holst (1874-1924)

I. March

II. Song Without Words "I'll Love My Love"

III. Song of the Blacksmith

IV. Fantasia on the Dargason

Sleep

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

The Dragon Prince

Rick Kirby (b. 1945)

Flute

Sneha Anand
Amogh Basker
Amy Chua
Amira Das
Sara Deshmukh
Gordon Fan
Catelyn Hu
Hamsini Mettu
Krish Patel
Sanskiriti Ramji
Risha Rao
Shaswat Senthilkumar
Mahd Shabab
Mukund Venkatesan

Clarinet

Sidhant Damarapati
Silvano Massa
Sachi Nagabhairava
Leland Quaynor
Leon Sato
Maya Shue
Florisel Velez
Svara Venkatesan

Oboe

Diya Chowdhury
Esha Desai
Sritan Gottipati
Lipi Kothavade

Bassoon

Sam Chung
Yena Moon
Moinak Pal
Ashvik Pious

Alto Saxophone

Reagan Alphonso
Aarav Patel
Ivan Rupasinghe
Anagha Vinod

Tenor Saxophone

Ian Kim

Baritone Saxophone

Maximus Chua

Trumpet

Rayan Das
Artharva Desai
Naren Maharana
James Yin

French Horn

Neel Kamath
Audree Oh
Zachary Phelan

Trombone

Suhreeth Ayitha
Sharvil Srinivasan
Avyaya Srivastava
Alvin Valdez

Tuba

Ben Vokits #

Percussion

Anbini Adhimoolam
Juliana Collins
Christian Epps
Arha Jadhav
Clay Jang
Somya Mittal
Kiaan Vaishnav

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looks forward to continuing all of these passions when he attends the Stern School of Business at New York University. Ronak would like to thank his parents, teachers, and conductors for their continued encouragement, guidance, and enthusiasm throughout his musical journey.

Florisel Velez is a homeschool student who is a part of a Classical Conversations Co-op. She will be attending Ramapo College of New Jersey as an honors student. Florisel has a passion for public policy and other sectors of American law. Her musical journey started in the fourth grade, when she first picked up the Bb Soprano Clarinet. She began playing the Bass Clarinet more recently. In her early years of musicianship, she studied under Mrs. Barbara Santoro, and now takes lessons with Mr. Daniel Kochersberger. Florisel has been a member of YOCJ for the past four years. She enjoys reading, writing, photography, traveling, and listening to music. One of her favorite YOCJ memories is her performance at TCNJ's Kendall Hall. Florisel would like to thank her parents, her instructors, and Mr. Collins for supporting her in her musical journey!

Congratulations 2023-2024 Region & All State members!

Abner Brijesh, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Advik Vermani, Viola, Region High School Orchestra
Akshath Sarrukai, Baritone Horn, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Anbini Adhimoolam, Percussion, Region Intermediate Percussion Ensemble & NJAJE Jazz Band
Andrew Yuan, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Ankit Sarrukai, Clarinet, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Arnab Nair, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Arnab Nagireddy, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Ceilidh Manigrasso, Cello, Region High School Orchestra
Christian Epps, Percussion, Region Intermediate Percussion Ensemble
Connor Mark, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Diya Chowdhury, Oboe, Region Intermediate Band
Elizabeth Kim, Oboe, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Ethan De La Garza, French Horn, Region Intermediate Band
Ian Kim, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Ivan Rupasinghe, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band
Jane Lee, Violin, Region High School Orchestra
Joshua Fermo, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Juliana Collins, Percussion, Region Intermediate Band
Kaushal Chikka, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Leon Sato, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band
Maximus Chua, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band
Maya Shue, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band
Moksh Rajpal, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Mukund Venkatesan, Flute, Region Intermediate Band
Natalie Cheng, Violin, Region High School Orchestra
Parker Woo, Cello, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Prisha Bagchi, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Rayansh Phirke, Flute, Region Intermediate Band
Riley Talerico-Dovel, Bass Clarinet, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Sam Chung, Bassoon, Region Intermediate Band
Sanjay Kaushik, Violin, Region High School Orchestra
Sharvil Srinivasan, Trombone, Region Intermediate Band, Region Intermediate Jazz Band
Sohan Kondru, Double Bass, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Wallace Snow, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Zachary Phelan, French Horn, Region Intermediate Band

Jessica Poprik is a senior at The Pingry School. She has been playing violin since kindergarten and joined YOCJ in 2019. Jessica will be attending Northeastern, pursuing a major in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. Her favorite YOCJ memory is the unforgettable Washington DC trip last June. Jessica extends heartfelt gratitude to her family, friends, and private teacher, Mrs. Epps, for their unwavering support and inspiration throughout her musical journey.

Leland Quaynor is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. He intends to major in Computer Science in college and continue his passion for music through extracurriculars. Leland started playing the clarinet in fifth grade, and later that year picked up the bass clarinet. He has been studying under his one and only private teacher and uncle, Sam Yenn-Batah. Leland joined YOCJ in seventh grade and has enjoyed every second of the past five years! Throughout high school, Leland has been a part of numerous school and community ensembles, such as High School North's Pit Orchestra and the CJMEA High School Honors Band. Outside of music, Leland enjoys playing video games, listening to music, and volunteering. Leland would like to thank his school band teachers, Ms. Witmer, Mr. Collins, and Mr. Bencivengo all of whom sparked and contributed to his passion for band and his instrument the bass clarinet. Additional thanks to his mother for her endless support and encouragement in his musical journey.

Sanskriti Ramji is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and intends to major in public policy at Rutgers University. She began playing the flute when she was in first grade, joined her school band in fifth grade, and YOCJ in 2018. Outside of playing the flute, Sanskriti has been a Carnatic vocal student for thirteen years and has participated in musical productions at her middle and high school. She is extremely grateful to her teachers, Ms. Barbara Williams and Mr. Kevin Willois, her middle and high school band directors, as well as her YOCJ directors. She is excited to explore more music-related activities and communities in college!

Jayden Shah attends West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and will be double majoring in computer science and economics within the honors program at Rutgers University. In fifth grade, Jayden picked up the saxophone and a year later, studied with Mr. Collins and then Dr. Smith. He joined YOCJ in seventh grade as an alto saxophone player and later became a soprano sax player. He has been a soloist multiple times in his school's marching band and in the YOCJ Saxophone Choir. Jayden really enjoys swimming, spending time with his friends, and going out to eat. Jayden would like to thank his parents, teachers, and all of his friends for supporting his musical interests. His favorite YOCJ memory was going out to get Taco Bell with his friends post concert!

Picking up the cello for the first time at age nine, **Ronak Shah**, a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North, found passion in its colorful sound. He continued the instrument throughout his elementary, middle and high school years, and is now part of High School North's Philharmonic Orchestra. Eager to expand his repertoire, Ronak joined YOCJ in his sophomore year while studying under the tutelage of Mimi Morris-Kim. He has been a part of the orchestra ever since, performing concerts filled with beautiful music and even getting the opportunity to perform alongside The Princeton Symphony Orchestra. When he's not practicing his cello, you can be sure to find him on the tennis court or playing the piano. He

String Preparatory Orchestra

Phillip Pugh, Conductor

Symphony No. 1

I. Presto

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

arr. Phillip Pugh

St. Paul Suite

I. Jig

II. Ostinato

III. Intermezzo

IV. Finale, The Dargason

Gustav Holst (1874-1924)

Violin I

Ellery Badros
Neil Benjamin
Joshua Fermo *
Saanvi Mathur
Tanvi Mukka
Victoria Mungai
Hikari Pugh
Ananya Saraogi
Sohan Vendra

Violin II

Aarya Gupta
Isiah Jean-Jacques
Kenneth Liao
Anvi Mahendrakar
Evana Mallapuram *
Tianmu Sha
Parth Sharma
Sahana Srinivasan

Viola

Sravya Mandapati *
Mu Ning +
Marka Stepper +

Double Bass

Eli Enders *
Ishaan Kumar

Cello


Jayadeep Atte
Nithya Balaguru *
Tamoghna Banerjee
Niyati Chintagunta
Ileene Dedhia
Anushka Gogineni
Aditi Karthik
Abigail Knowles
Benjamin Lu
Brian MacMillan
Sai Mistry
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Rishi Palagummi
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Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)

- I. Italiana*
 - II. Arie Di Corle*
 - III. Siciliana*
 - IV. Passacaglia*
-

Violin I

Grace Chang
Caden Co
Preeti Cyrus
Pragnya Eranki
Advait Ghantasala
Anna Kang
Aarush Latti
Jamie Lee
Yafei Lei
Roshan Nankani
Navya Somula
Nishant Vasanth
Sloka Vendra *

Violin II

Gian Michael Diaz
Naina Enock
Vedika Kamal
Yashanth Logaraj
Rohan Revuru
Ananya Samavedam
Sairah Tareen
Jacob Toledo
Karan Vijayakumar *

* = Section Leader
+ = Educator

Viola

Priscilla Ha
Amithi Munagala *
Mu Ning +
Marka Stepper +

Cello

Sai Nithil Reddy Chintagunta *
Raghav Gnanasabapathy Kiruthika
Riya Gupta
Larry Hu
Akshaj Jindal
Hayden Lam
Ceilidh Manigrasso
Adam Powichrowski
Philip Schidlovsky
Sunayna Shah
Swathi Venkatesh

Double Bass

Alma Bahk
Olivia Swarup *
Daniel Wegner

Harp

Chloe Liu
Neya Srinivasan

the Baltimore Ravens. Sanjay would like to thank all his teachers for their patience, and nurturing in him a love for the violin; his entire family for their constant encouragement and support and his fellow musicians for making this journey incredibly fun and memorable. He is looking forward to making more memories with YOJC in Austria this summer!

Maddox Kraft, a senior at East Brunswick High School, will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, majoring in mechanical engineering this fall. Maddox has been playing the clarinet since the fifth grade and joined YOJC in fall 2020. YOJC has provided him the opportunity to explore other types of clarinets and music that he would not have played in his school. Maddox would like to express his gratitude to his parents for their support in his music education and thank his uncle Matthew Strauss of the Houston Symphony, for inspiring him to pursue music. Maddox plans to continue playing the clarinet in college and hopes to join the symphonic orchestra to grow his musical ability through his college years. Maddox enjoyed his time at YOJC and will always remember how it helped him to experience new types of music while also honing his skills as a musician.

Emma LaDuke attends Monroe Township High School, and has been with YOJC for seven years. Since childhood, she's been interested in science and the arts, and can't wait to continue her studies in college. She intends to do research in astrobiology and contribute to the growing search for life outside of Earth. Emma would like to thank her parents for their unconditional love and support for her music and career goals, and wants to express her fond appreciation for their kindness and caring.

Nandini Miryala is a senior at Monroe Township High School who has been with YOJC for six years and has played the saxophone for nine years. Dr. Jordan Smith was her private teacher for many years, helping her pursue her passion for music. As she heads off to college, she plans to major in Psychology and Computer Engineering. A fun little fact about Nandini is that she actually was a violinist from the age of six until she switched to the saxophone. For all her years as a musician she would like to give a special thanks to her parents and Dr. Smith for being by her side throughout her musical journey.

A senior at West-Windsor Plainsboro High School North, **Aarav Patel** has been playing the cello since fourth grade, participating in his school orchestras through middle and high school as well as the high school Chamber Orchestra and Nonet. A member of YOJC since sixth grade, Aarav's favorite memories include playing with violin virtuoso Midori and performing Dvorak's New World Symphony with the Symphonic orchestra. Some of his most rewarding and fun musical experiences have been performances with his string quartet at prestigious venues like Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Aarav has also coached young cellists as they embarked on their musical journeys. Outside of music, Aarav is an avid skier and certified scuba diver and enjoys watching soccer and football. He plans to pursue a major in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Honors program at Rutgers University and looks forward to continuing his involvement in music at college through participation in the orchestra and small ensembles. Aarav is grateful to his family for their continued support and especially to his private teachers Mrs. Kristin Palombit and Mr. David Szeppesy as well as his school orchestra teachers who have guided and inspired him through the years.

Gaurav Kakarla is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North, intending to pursue mechanical engineering in college, and keep his musical passion alive through a minor in double bass performance. Gaurav began playing the bass at the age of nine under the tutelage of school teacher and jazz musician Arthur Stephano. Since summer 2023, he has been learning under Michael Franz of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Gaurav joined YOCJ as a sixth grader and has achieved many significant musical accomplishments including being a member of the NJ All State Orchestra throughout middle and high school and principal chair of the double bass section. Additionally, he was a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra for three seasons, two of which were as principal chair of the double bass section. Outside of school, Gaurav ran track for nearly seven years and is very interested in cinema and other art forms past the realm of music. He would like to thank his parents for their support and reassurance to pursue his musical interests and his first private teacher, Arthur Stephano who introduced Gaurav to the world of classical music and bass playing, sparking his passion and appreciation for the arts from a young age. Gaurav's favorite YOCJ memory is the jazz improvisation masterclass by Ranaan Meyer.

Montgomery High School senior, **Naima Kamikura**, plans to major in Animal Science (Equine and Pre-Vet) at Texas A&M University. Naima will be joining the Corp of Cadets and is hoping to join the Equestrian team. She briefly played the trumpet then switched to the viola when she was 12 years old, taking lessons with Emily Muller. Since then, she has studied under Urska Haule Fegus and Princeton Symphony Musician, Peg Banks. She joined the YOCJ Symphonic Orchestra in her sophomore year. Outside of music, Naima spends many hours caring for and loving her rescue pony, Skye. More recently, her passion for horses has extended into a love for competing and training them. Naima would like to express her gratitude to her father, a lifetime bassist, for showing her the joy of music and practicing at home with her when she had just started. She wishes he knew how much that meant to her younger self.

Sanjay Kaushik, a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, began learning to play the violin at age five with Ms. Barbara Greenberg and later with Ms. Patricia Licetti. He was fortunate to be part of an amazing orchestra community at WW-P with wonderful teachers - Mr. Pugh, Ms. Zhang, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Oettle. He joined YOCJ in Grade 6 and has enjoyed many opportunities to play with leading artists including Midori and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra musicians. Studying privately with Mr. Dezheng Ping since 2016, Sanjay has successfully auditioned for masterclasses with David Kim, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Basia Daniłow, concertmaster of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. Sanjay's favorite YOCJ memory is his first masterclass with Mr. David Kim in seventh grade where he was inspired by Mr. Kim's anecdotes of perseverance, as well as his kindness and humility. In middle and high school, Sanjay participated in the CJMEA Regional and NJ All-State Orchestras and this year he was selected by NJMEA for the NJ Governor's award in Arts Education. Along with his string quartet, he was selected to play at Lincoln Center as part of the Chamber Music Society's Young Musicians Program in May 2022. Sanjay will be attending the University of Pennsylvania's College of Arts and Sciences, where he plans to stay engaged in the orchestra community as part of the Penn Symphony Orchestra and Penn Chamber Ensembles. His hobbies include long distance running and watching sports, his favorite teams are Liverpool and

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Brendan Appert is a senior at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville. Starting the violin in second grade, Brendan has played under the direction of Mr. Manulik of the Princeton String Academy and currently Mrs. Epps of the Violin Studio of Larisa Epps where he has achieved level 9 of 10 in the ASTACAP program. Since joining YOCJ in 2019, Brendan has played in eight concerts and his favorite memory is meeting and playing with Grammy award winning artist Ranaan Meyer at the last concert. Aside from violin, Brendan is a very talented singer and actor and has performed in many of the plays at Notre Dame. He is also a varsity cross country runner and swimmer and was the captain of the swim team this past season. Brendan will be attending Boston College where he will be studying biochemistry. He would like to thank his parents and his brother for supporting him throughout his musical journey and he would like to thank all his music teachers and directors for pushing him to be the best musician he can be.

Joanne Bennet currently attends West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. Although she hasn't fully committed yet, her top choice is Northeastern University, and she plans to major in Bioengineering and Biochemistry. Joanne started playing the viola in fourth grade, and joined YOCJ's string ensemble the year after. In addition to YOCJ, she plays the viola in church and in her school's chamber orchestra. Other than viola, her passions include singing, painting, working out, and being outdoors. She would like to thank all of the people who have supported her throughout her musical journey, including her parents, Ms. Larisa Epps, and Ms. Beth Meyers. Her favorite YOCJ memory would be playing a small but memorable viola solo during her time with the Pro Arte orchestra.

Gordon Fan is a senior at High Technology High School, and plans to major in physics at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He started playing the flute in fifth grade under the tutelage of Ms. Michelle Gergich. Since joining YOCJ in 2019, Gordon has played in both the Woodwind Choir and Wind Symphony. Along with the flute, he enjoys playing the piano, problem solving, and reading books in his free time. He would like to thank his elementary and middle school teachers along with his parents for encouraging him to play music, particularly the flute.

A senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North, **Sahaj Jasani** began his musical journey in fourth grade and has been playing the viola for the past nine years. He has studied under the guidance of Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Pugh and has enjoyed playing pieces such as the Seitz Concerto in D minor, Bach's Suite 2 Courante and the Stamitz Viola Concerto. Sahaj has also been studying music at Westminster Conservatory for six years and has been a member of YOCJ for three years. He fondly remembers the YOCJ Summer Chamber Music camp where he and fellow musicians played a beautiful Mozart quartet. Sahaj credits his friends and parents for supporting and encouraging him to stick with the viola through the years. Outside music, his hobbies include playing basketball and football as well as getting involved in youth activities at his religious center and mentoring younger students. Sahaj plans to study biology at college in pursuit of medical school.

SENIOR BIOGRAPHIES

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South senior **Richard Aerath**, embarked on his musical journey as a violinist in third grade and has studied under the guidance of esteemed mentors such as Mrs. Marianna Vasiliu and Mr. Christopher Jones. Since seventh grade, he has been an active member of YOCJ, cherishing fond memories of the student socials. In addition to YOCJ, Richard's musical endeavors have included being part of the CJMEA Regionals Orchestra for multiple years. He has found particular joy in performing as a violinist with the Sparks String Quartet, alongside fellow YOCJ members Sanjay Kaushik and Aarav Patel. Apart from the violin, Richard has also had vocal training under Mrs. Danielle Sinclair at the Westminster Conservatory. He attributes much of his success and drive in music to his supportive mentors and peers, whose encouragement has been invaluable. Looking ahead, Richard plans to pursue his academic and musical interests at William and Mary University in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he intends to major in Neuroscience.

Rithwik Aggarwal attends Woodbridge Academy Magnet School and intends to study biochemistry on the pre-med track at college. He started playing the clarinet in fourth grade and has been learning from Ms. Dianne. He joined YOCJ in 10th grade in 2021. He has successfully passed ABRSM grades 5, 6, and 7 and is working towards passing grade 8 by the end of the year. Outside music, Rithwik loves playing chess. He would like to thank his parents and teachers for their continued support. His favorite YOCJ memory is getting together every week to rehearse incredible pieces that have made him a better player.

Ci-Ning Ang is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and plans to major in animal science at Rutgers University-New Brunswick in pursuit of a career as a veterinarian. She plays the violin, at first studying under the tutelage of Mr. Christopher Jones and now with Ms. Chika Mimura. In addition to being a member of YOCJ since eighth grade, she has participated in her school's orchestra program since fourth grade, and also plays in the high school Chamber Orchestra and Nonet. In addition to the violin, Ci-Ning has been playing piano since the age of five. Her musical journey began with Ms. Brenda Lee Conroy in Peoria, Illinois, and continued with Dr. Kyu-Jung Rhee in New Jersey. She now studies with Ms. Jessica Rey-de-Castro at the Westminster Conservatory. Thanks to their guidance, she has won both regional and national accolades such as the Ena Bronstein Barton Scholarship Award, the Grand Prix for the Music-Fest Rising Talents Festival where she performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall for six consecutive years, the NJMTA High Honors Award, and most recently a distinction for ABRSM Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance. At college, Ci-Ning intends to continue her music studies, both in violin and piano. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with animals and young children, doing arts and crafts, being in nature, and playing volleyball. Ci-Ning would like to thank her parents and older brother for introducing her to music at a very early age and later supporting her in all her musical endeavors. She is grateful to her teachers for guiding her and challenging her to more advanced techniques, and all the members of YOCJ for making the unique experience an enjoyable one in all the best ways.

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Student Conductor and Arranger, Nandini Miryala

Soprano Saxophone

Jayden Shah

Soprano/Alto Saxophone

Abner Brijesh
Ishan Chikka

Alto Saxophone

Vikram Balaguru
Sanjana Bellur
Zachary Cruz
Dylan Dell Beni
Aaditya Kaushik
Nandini Miryala
Evan Reese Pagtalunan
Arya Phirke
Zachary Rubin
Nicholas Scarpa
William Sun
Akshita Vashisht

Tenor Saxophone

Aaryan Ajith
Miles Birnbaum
Sia Satish
Reya Varun

Baritone Saxophone

Harini Ravindranathan
Riley Talerico-Dovel

Bass Saxophone

Aidan Ni

Symphonic Orchestra

Kenneth T. Bean, Conductor

La Forza Del Destino Overture

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

I. Allegro Molto Appassionato

Sanjay Kaushik, Senior Concerto Competition Winner

Symphony No. 4

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

IV. Finale

Violin I

Richard Aerath
Prisha Bagchi
Julie Cai
Megan Hsu
Sanjay Kaushik **
Alexander Wang
Franklin Wang
Kyson Zhou

Violin II

Ci-Ning Ang
Brendan Appert
Natalie Cheng *
Caris Co
Jane Lee
Konnor Lee
Jessica Poprik

Viola

Joanne Bennet
Sahaj Jasani
Naima Kamikura
Romit Kundu
Arsh Mehan
Advik Vermani
Eshan Yalla *

Cello

Rhea Cadambi *
Sagar Deshpande
Lucas Horowitz
David Hsu
Aditya Kapoor
Morgan Li
Aarav Patel
Vikram Rajput
Ronak Shah
Parker Woo
Ashley Xu

Double Bass

Gaurav Kakarla
Wallace Snow *

Flute

Anna Citron
Emma LaDuke
Lina Lin *
Anya Patel
Paavni Suyal

Piccolo

Anna Citron

Oboe

Elizabeth Kim *
Mihika Srivastava
Barbara Witmer &

Clarinet

Rithwik Aggarwal
Maddox Kraft
Ankit Sarukkai *
Sanskriti Singh
Pranav Yogeswaran

Bassoon

Connor Mark *
Andrew Yuan

French Horn

Ethan De La Garza *
Elizabeth Ferrara +
Shannon Ferrara &
Leah Swanger #

Trumpet

Tom Boulton #
Prarthana Harikrishnan
Maia Hicks
Max Whittle *

Trombone

Margaret Collins
Akshath Sarukkai *
Maya Singh

Tuba

Arturo Bu Sha *
Noah Chen

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