



For high achievement in violin, viola and cello performance

"You are to be complimented for fostering a warm, supportive community, where your students are well taught in every respect."

Jonathan Beiler First Violinist, Philadelphia Orchestra

Call NOW to join our award winning string program:

- Private lessons for violin, viola and cello
- Group lessons/ performance
- String quartet coaching/ performance
- Competition coaching
- Music Theory

For more information call **609.751.7664**
or visit our website **www.stringacademy.net**

TWO LOCATIONS: WEST WINDSOR & PRINCETON

Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey



Spring Large Ensemble Concerts



May 18, 2025 3pm & 7pm



Secure Your Access!

LISA
BATIASHVILI
Violin
April 29, 30
2026
▼

2025/26
Season Now
On Sale!

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET

JOYCE DIDONATO, Mezzo-Soprano
with TIME FOR THREE ENSEMBLE

PAUL LEWIS, Piano

TABEA ZIMMERMAN, Viola
with JAVIER PERIANES, Piano

AND MORE!

609.258.2800
puc.princeton.edu



MONKCELLO CELLO STUDIO



**Kristin
Palombit**
Cellist

*The art of expression
through ease of playing*

- Artistic development and coaching from age 5 to cellists of all ages
- 45 years of teaching
- Students in YOCJ, Regions, All State, other local youth orchestras, university cello majors, Music-Fest, PIMF, ASTACAP, Golden Key Competitions,

29 Groendyke Lane, Plainsboro NJ | 609.571.7404

monkcello@comcast.net
monkcellostudio.net

NOTEWORTHY SUPPORT

YOCJ is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Donations are gratefully accepted. All financial contributions are tax-deductible, and can be made by check, via Zelle, or PayPal on our website:

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

Donations can also be mailed to:
YOCJ 19 Ginnie Lane, West Windsor NJ 08550

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

Bravo to our Donors!

Virtuoso Level

New Jersey State
Council on The Arts

The Presser Foundation

Maestro Level

Associated Chamber
Music Players

TD Securities Underwriting
Hope Fund

Kazu & Yuko Sato

Conductor Level

Meenakshi Viswanathan

Symphonic Level

Kurinchi Arumugam

Orchestra Level

Aloka & Barun Bagchi
Yun Bai

Dr. Bing Bing Chang
Pradnya Chaudhari
Kameswararao Chikka
Saurav Das

Radha Mahakali
Sheetal Matai
Munich Re America Services
Premal Patel
Gyanesh Ranjan
Saima Shabab
Caroline Sia
Fang Su
Lianmin Zhou

Chamber Level

Barbara Lawrence
Balaguru Nallathambi
Chaitanya Ramineni

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 • Sinfonietta String Orchestra & 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

Kenneth T. Bean • Symphonic Orchestra

Michael Anzuini • Brass Ensemble

Kyle Ritenauer • Symphonic Orchestra Guest Conductor



Board of Trustees & Staff

Meghna Patel • President

Aloka Bagchi • Vice President

Kamesh Chikka • Treasurer

Pradnya Chaudhari • Secretary

Larisa Epps • Executive Director

Phillip Pugh • Artistic Director

Dr. Bing-Bing Chang • Fundraising & Grant Committee

Radha Mahakali • Volunteer Committee

Saima Shabab • Fundraising & Grant Committee

Caroline Sia • Hospitality Committee & Vimeo Videos

Advisory Board

John Enz • Melanie Clarke • Dr. Richard Hodges • Michael Meduski

YOCJ Conductors

Phillip Pugh, YOCJ Artistic Director and Conductor of the Pro Arte and Sinfonietta String 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. 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 has taught at Rowan University, William Paterson University, Saint Peter's University and Georgian Court University. He maintains a large private studio in Princeton, 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 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*



The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey is part of the **McCaffrey's Receipt Program** that supports local nonprofit organizations by generously donating 1% of every receipt collected. Being part of this fundraiser is very simple! Here is how:

1. Shop at McCaffrey's Food Markets.
2. Save your receipts!
3. Send them in with your child to any YOCJ rehearsal in an envelope marked "McCaffrey's Receipts"
4. YOCJ earns 1% of the total of each receipt (minus sales tax, cigarettes, alcohol, milk and sushi items).

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.



Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey

Tuesday June 3rd Auditions



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 T. Bean!**



YOCJ Register at yocj.org/auditions



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. Chris 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 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. Barbara Witmer plays oboe in the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic Orchestra and performs as a free lance musician in the local 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. Ms. Barbara 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 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, he 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.

Michael Anzuini, the coach and conductor of the Brass Ensemble, holds a Master's Degree in Music Performance (Instrumental Wind Conducting) from Rowan University and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from James Madison University. Mr. Anzuini is an instrumental music teacher in the Hamilton Township School District. He began his teaching career in 2001 and is currently the Band Director at Emily C. Reynolds Middle School. Prior to teaching at RMS, Mr. Anzuini spent 16 years as a High School Band Director in the Willingboro and Hamilton School Districts. Ensembles under his direction have received Local, State and Regional recognition. He has also been a guest lecturer at The College of New Jersey and Rowan College at Burlington County. Mr. Anzuini has been a Trumpet/Cornet performer with the Princeton Brass Band, Wind Symphony of Southern New Jersey, Atlantic Brass Band, and many local theaters and churches. More recently, Mr. Anzuini served as the Director of the Princeton Youth Brass Band. Mr. Anzuini has conducted the All South Jersey Junior High Jazz Band (2007), the CJMEA High School Symphonic Band (2018), the SJBODA Intermediate Band (2019) and the CJMEA Middle School Honors Band (2023). In 2009, Mr. Anzuini was selected as a national finalist for a Band Officer/ Conductor position with the USAF Band Program, a Symphony level audition. Mr. Anzuini is proud to have served on the Boards of Directors for both the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education (President, 2015-2019) and the New Jersey Music Educators Association. Mr. Anzuini joined the staff of The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2024.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday June 3

New Student Auditions: Register at yocj.org/auditions

5th Annual Summer Chamber Music Camp

Monday July 7 - Friday July 11: Week #1

Monday July 14 - Friday July 18: Week #2

Register today: www.yocj.org/yocj-summer-camp

Deadline: June 15



Monday July 7 - Friday July 11, 9am-Noon

Monday July 14 - Friday July 18, 9am-Noon

Both weeks include Friday 11am Final Recitals

Join us at **Prince of Peace Church** for one or two weeks

Staff: Mr. Phil Pugh, Mr. John Enz, Dr. Jordan Smith, Mr. Scott Collins,
& Princeton Symphony Orchestra musicians

Week #1 features String Division & Woodwind Division

Week #2: String Division, Saxophone Division & **NEW:** Percussion Division
Camp features masterclasses, coaching, & professional concerts!

Go to www.yocj.org/yocj-summer-camp to register



YOCJ yocj.org • contactyocj@gmail.com  

YOCJ MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

YOCJ would like to recognize the students who have been members for 4 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

Kyson Zhou

Since 2018

Prisha Bagchi
Miles Birnbaum
Julie Cai

Since 2019


Aaryan Ajith
Vikram Balaguru
Ishan Chikka
Lucas Horowitz
Lina Lin
Anyia Patel
Akshath Sarukkai
William Sun
Sloka Vendra
Eshan Yalla
Lina Yang

Since 2020


Naina Enock
Roshan Nankani
Aidan Ni
Ankit Sarukkai

Since 2021

Grace Chang
Natalie Cheng
Sai Nithil Reddy Chintagunta
Advait Ghantasala
Riya Gupta
Prarthana Hari Krishnan
Abigail Knowles
Morgan Li
Arsh Mehan
Somya Mittal
Evan Reese Pagtalunan
Zachary Phelan
Mihika Srivastava
Mahika Thakur




It's a little like Goldilocks,
there's always one that's just right.



DAVID MICHIE VIOLINS

davidmichieviolins.com • 215-545-5006 • 1714 Locust Street
Violins, Violas, Cellos • Expert Repairs & Restorations



LEARNING THE NOTES

Sign up to **TEACH** or **LEARN** a musical instrument!

Learning The Notes is a student led organization that aims to make **FREE** music education more accessible!

If you are an **elementary** or **middle school** student, sign up to learn with us!

If you are a **high school** student or older, volunteer to teach!

SIGN UP AT
www.learningthenotes.wordpress.com

THE PRINCETON FESTIVAL

June 6-21, 2025

at Morven Museum & Garden

Puccini's
TOSCA

June 13, 15 & 17

Opening Weekend

**ICON: The Voices that
Changed Music**

Prince, Whitney, Gladys, Elvis, & More

June 6

Renée Fleming

with the

Princeton Symphony Orchestra

June 7 - Limited Availability

Sondheim in the City

with

Melissa Errico

June 8

GET TICKETS

princetonsymphony.org/festival (609) 497-0020



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



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

Today's performance is being videotaped by

Brianne 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.

www.yocj.org/how-to-donate

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

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

Congratulations 2024-2025 Region & All State members!

Abner Brijesh, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band, & All Eastern Band

Adam Powichrowski, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra

Akshath Sarukkai, Trombone: Region High School Band, All State High School Band; Euphonium: All Eastern Band

Anbini Adhimoolam, Percussion, Region Intermediate Percussion Ensemble

Ankit Sarukkai, Clarinet, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Anna Kang, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

Arnav Nagireddy, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

Ceilidh Manigrasso, Cello, Region High School Orchestra

Chloe Jeon, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

Christian Epps, Percussion, Region Intermediate Percussion Ensemble

Connor Mark, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Daniel Jeon, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra

Dylan Dell Beni, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Eshaan Hebbar, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra

Ethan De La Garza, French Horn, Region High School Band

Gabrielle O'Neill, Percussion, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Ishan Chikka, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Jason Shi, Percussion, Region Intermediate Band

Lina Lin, Flute, Region High School Band & Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

Max Whittle, Trumpet, Region High School Band

Mihika Srivastava, Oboe, Region High School Band, Region High School Orchestra

Moinak Pal, Bassoon, Region Intermediate Band

Mukund Venkatesan, Flute, Region Intermediate Band

Natalie Cheng, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

Neel Kamath, French Horn, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Neil Benjamin, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra

Nithya Balaguru, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra

Prisha Patra, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra

Rayansh Phirke, Flute, Region Intermediate Band

Riley Talerico-Dovel, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band

Sameer Jahangir, Double Bass, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra

Samuel Adigun, Trombone, Region Intermediate Band

Sebastian Grassi, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band

Silvano Massa, Clarinet, Region High School Band

Sophie Wang, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra

Walker Pella-Woo, Clarinet, Region High School Band

Wallace Snow, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra

3pm Concert

Wind Symphony

Scott Collins, Conductor

Variations on a Korean Folk Song John B. Chance (1932-1972)

Amazing Grace Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Amparito Roca Jaime Texidor (1884-1957)
Arr. Aubrey Winter

Flute

Esther Adigun
Amay Agarwal
Sneha Anand **
Aayush Arni
Kasey Gu
Krish Patel
Rayansh Phirke
Akshay Ramesh
Shaswat Senthilkumar
Joline Su
Diya Sundar
Mukund Venkatesan
Pradyumn Yeturi

Piccolo

Shaswat Senthilkumar

Oboe

Sritan Gottipati *
Lipi Kothavade *

Bassoon

Yena Moon *
Moinak Pal *

Alto Saxophone

Kiran Patibanda
Shaiv Vardhan
Arpan Vijay
Anagha Vinod

Clarinet

Lakshya Sadwal
Leon Sato
Katie Seo
Maya Shue
Anyu Telang
Shaarav Vardhan
Svara Venkatesan **

Tenor Saxophone

Abhiram Palamner

Baritone Saxophone

Sebastian Grassi

Trumpet

Michael Anzuini &
Joseph Cridge
Rayan Das
Kate McNamara +

French Horn

Johan Mekunnel
Eshaan Pathak
Eliza Ferrara +
Shannon Ferrara &

Trombone

Samuel Adigun
Regina Ciampoli +
Sharvil Srinivasan

Baritone

Gyan Chande

Tuba

Aanya Sabharwal
Jon Seidel +

Percussion

Anbini Adhimoolam
Juliana Collins
Christian Epps
Rohan Khanna
Jason Shi
Kiaan Vaishnav
Sudarshan Venkatesh
Greg Giannascoli #
substitute coach

** = Principal
* = Co-Principal
& = YOCJ Staff
+ = Educator
= PSO Musician

Riley Talerico-Dovel has been a member of the YOCJ Saxophone Choir for the past two years and attends Freehold Township High School. This fall he will be attending the University of Delaware for Music Education. He studies under Mr. Ryan Wiemkin and has been in various groups such as the ASBDA Chorus and Symphonic Band, CJMEA Region II Symphonic Band, NJMEA Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band, and the NAFME All Eastern Concert Band. His favorite YOCJ memories are attending a masterclass with saxophonist Valentin Kovalev and performing at the National American Saxophone Alliance Region 8 conference.

Priyal Tyagi is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, planning to attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the fall where she will major in biology on the pre-med track. She began as a percussionist in the fifth grade and has studied with Mr. Chris Colaneri. Although Priyal only joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey last year, it has helped her grow as a musician in many aspects. Currently, Priyal is the principal percussionist of her school's wind ensemble. Outside of music, Priyal is very passionate about serving underserved communities and her involvement in debate club. She is deeply grateful to her conductors and teachers Mr. Argenziano and Mr. Colaneri for inspiring her to continue her passion for music. Priyal's favorite YOCJ memory is playing the selection, The Gem Bay, in the Spring 2025 small ensemble concert when everyone in the audience started dancing!

Reya Varun attends Hillsborough High School and will be studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut. She began playing saxophone the summer before fifth grade and has been studying under Ms. Gabrielle Chaya. Reya joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2021 during her freshman year and had participated in the spring seasons. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her and encouraging her to try every possible opportunity. She would also like to thank her private teacher for everything she has done for Reya and for always listening to her rants! Reya cannot choose a favorite memory from the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey because they were all very lovely.

Max Whittle attends Notre Dame High School and will be attending West Chester University to major in Music Education while also being on their track and field team. He has been playing the trumpet since 4th grade, and is currently studying under Donna Burnylo-Magrann. He joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2024 and was selected for the Wind Ensemble this year at Regionals. Outside of music, Max loves to run and spend time with his friends and family. He would like to thank his parents, Donna, school band directors (Mr. G and Mr. Gib), and Mr. Bean. Max's favorite YOCJ memory is his first performance being a part of the Symphonic Orchestra.

*Bravo
Class of
2025!*



Zach Rubin currently attends Watchung Hills Regional High School and plans on majoring in finance and pursuing a minor in music performance at college. Zach started playing the saxophone in fourth grade and shortly after began working under the guidance of Mr. Bryan Ruderow. He is a member of the YOCJ Saxophone Choir and participated in the NJ All-State Band for the past three years placing 2nd on alto saxophone in his senior year. Zach is extremely appreciative of his father for helping with his musical journey and says he couldn't have done it without him. One memory that Zach holds dear with YOCJ is his trip to one of the National American Saxophone Alliance Regional conferences at Penn State.

Akshath Sarukkai is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and will be attending the University of California, Berkeley to study Chemistry. He began playing the euphonium in 5th grade and the trombone in 9th grade, studying under Mr. Rafael Pietri Davila and Mr. Brad Ward. A proud member of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey since 2019, Akshath has been selected for CJMEA Regions on both euphonium and trombone from 10th through 12th grade, Jazz Regions on trombone in 12th grade, All-State on euphonium in 11th grade, and All-Eastern on euphonium in 12th grade. Akshath would like to thank his parents, the friends who have constantly motivated him, the many music educators who have guided him, and his brother Ankit for patiently enduring countless hours of practice. Akshath's favorite YOCJ memory is the legendary 25-person Panera runs in the middle of the YOCJ concert days!

Ankit Sarukkai, a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, has been an active member of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey since 7th grade, developing his musicianship as a clarinetist under the guidance of his private teacher, Jill Gagliardi. Ankit began playing clarinet in 5th grade and, throughout his musical journey, has achieved honors such as selection to both All State and Regions ensembles. Outside of music, Ankit enjoys reading and playing video games. This upcoming fall, he will attend Rutgers University to study environmental science. Ankit is deeply grateful to his parents, Ms. Gagliardi, his brother, and friends Andrew and Lina for their unwavering support and inspiration throughout all of his musical pursuits.

Francis Story attends Doane Academy and will be at Montclair State in fall of 2025 to study Pre-Law and Music. He started playing clarinet in eighth grade and studied under Taig Elgan for a year. He joined YOCJ fall of 2024 after attending the YOCJ summer chamber music camp. His biggest musical accomplishment was being named section leader at Doane Academy in the 11th grade and getting into Cali School of Music. He would like to thank his former clarinet teacher Sherry Appgar and his current clarinet teacher Taig Elgan for his success.

William Sun, a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, will be studying Computer Science at the University of Maryland. He began playing the alto saxophone in 5th grade and has studied under Dr. Jordan Smith. William joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 7th grade and has enjoyed many memorable experiences, including exploring unique saxophones at the North American Saxophone Alliance. Outside of music, he enjoys coding, hiking, biking, and playing video games. He would like to thank Dr. Jordan Smith for his guidance and encouragement, and his parents for their unwavering support throughout his musical journey.

Paavni Suyal attends Biotechnology High School in Freehold, NJ. With aspirations to become a biomedical engineer, she plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology this fall. Her musical journey began in fourth grade when she first picked up the flute. Under the guidance of her private teacher, Mrs. Jenny Cline, Principal Flute of the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra and President of the New York Flute Club, Paavni has developed her skills significantly. She joined YOCJ during her freshman year of high school and it has become an important part of her musical development. Beyond music, Paavni plays soccer and fences competitively and gives back to the community as a youth soccer coach and art teacher for underprivileged children. In her free time, Paavni enjoys exploring new recipes in the kitchen, drawing, and hanging out with friends. She is grateful to her private teacher, her supportive parents and brother, and her school band directors for encouraging her to pursue the flute at a high level. Her favorite memory from the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey are the lasting friendships she has formed along the way.

Sinfonietta String Orchestra

Phillip Pugh, Conductor

Simple Symphony

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

- I. Boisterous Bourrée
- II. Playful Pizzicato
- III. Sentimental Sarabande
- IV. Frolicsome Finale

Violin I

Neil Benjamin *
Aarya Gupta
Ian Kang
Anvi Mahendrakar
Evana Mallapuram
Hikari Pugh
Parth Sharma
Audrey Su
Hongshu Wang

Violin II

Kaylyn Eswine
Eshaan Hebbar
Emanuel Kowalski
Nancy Kryscynski
Andrew Lee
Kenneth Liao *
Brendan MacMillan
Nithya Revuru
Tianmu Sha
Sehaj Singh
Arnav Somaghatt
Nehir Soykal
Manogna Thabety
Nicole Xia
Nikhil Yerramilli

* = Principal

Viola

Emma Anam
Apoorva Gogineni
Prisha Patra
Nozomi Pugh
Bethany Tuan *

Cello

Eliana Agoglia
Niyati Chintagunta
Aditi Karthik
Paul Lescure
Benjamin Lu
Brian MacMillan
Dhriti Malhotra
Pierre Olivier
Laura Otto
Rishi Palagummi
Shrey Patel
Omkar Raj
Aishani Singh
Jack Zhao
Callie Zheng *

Double Bass

Eli Enders *
Sameer Jahangir

Pro Arte Orchestra

Phillip Pugh, Conductor

Symphony in C Minor

Paul Wranitzky (1756-1808)

I. La Revolution; Marche des Anglois; Arche des Autrichiens et Prussiens

III. Tumulte d'une bataille

IV. Cris de joie pour paix restitué

Violin I

Grace Chang
Gian Michael Diaz
Jamie Lee *
Yafei Lee
Roshan Nankani
Namya Purani
Rohan Revuru
Ananya Samavedam
Navya Somula
Jacob Toledo
Karan Vijayakumar

Violin II

Ellery Badros
Naina Enock
Joshua Fermo *
Maliha Goel
Yashanth Logaraj
Saanvi Mathur
Tanvi Mukka
Moksh Rajpal
Ananya Saraogi
Sheryl Sheau
Sohan Vendra

Viola

Lilah Jacome
Eleonora Ruiz *
Ranvir Singh

Cello

Aditya Aras
Nithya Balaguru
Tamoghna Banerjee
Aarav Bhambhani *
Raghav Gnanasabapathy Kiruthika
Anushka Gogineni
Daniel Jeon
Abigail Knowles
Hayden Lam
Sai Mistry
Sabrina Molinari
Adam Powichrowski
Mahika Thakur
Swathi Venkatesh
Sophie Wang

Double Bass

Alma Bahk *
Daniel Wagner

* = Principal

Connor Mark attends West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and has been playing the bassoon for seven years. Connor has been working under the tutelage of Jonathan LiVolsi for over three years and joined YOCJ in 2022. Since then, Connor has also been a member of the Region II Band and Orchestra ensembles, as well as the New Jersey All-State Band and Orchestra ensembles. In addition to playing his bassoon, he enjoys trying new foods and playing basketball with his friends. In August, Connor will be attending Cornell University with plans to major in chemical engineering and may participate in the university ensembles to continue his music career. Lastly, Connor would like to thank all of his teachers and family for motivating him and for their support throughout his musical journey.

Brandon Mora is a dedicated senior at Franklin High School, set to continue his musical journey at Rutgers University–New Brunswick at the esteemed Mason Gross School of the Arts as a Music Education major. His academic and artistic excellence also earned him an invitation to the Rutgers Honors Program—an honor that reflects his talent, discipline, and commitment. Brandon's passion for percussion began in fourth grade and has been nurtured through years of study with respected instructors, including Scott Strunk, Chris Colaneri, and currently, Spencer White. Since joining YOCJ in October 2023, he has distinguished himself as a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the Percussion Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra. One of Brandon's proudest accomplishments was leading the Franklin High School Marching Band's percussion section to win Best Percussion at a major band competition during his senior season. Beyond his musical pursuits, Brandon enjoys spending time with friends and family, and he credits his mother for her unwavering support—especially in making his experience with YOCJ possible. One of his most treasured memories is traveling to Austria with YOCJ, where he had the chance to perform and experience the country's rich cultural heritage.

Reese Pagtalunan is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. In the fall, he will be attending Duke University to study neuroscience on a pre-med track, with additional interests in music, computer science, and research. Reese began playing the saxophone in fifth grade and currently studies with Mr. Verblaauw. He joined YOCJ in 2021 and has enjoyed growing as a musician in the talented Saxophone Choir community, where he made many of his closest friends. Reese served as drum major of the High School North marching band for two years, during which he led a saxophone quartet fundraiser and organized the school's first two home marching band competitions. Outside of music, he enjoys eating sushi, leading service organizations, and spending time with friends. Reese would like to thank Dr. Smith, Mr. Verblaauw, and his parents for their unwavering support throughout his musical journey. Favorite YOCJ memory: When Dr. Smith was out, watching my best friend jump in and conduct our Ghibli Medley.

Harini Ravindranathan attends JP Stevens High School and intends to study International Affairs at The George Washington University in the fall. She started playing her instrument when she was eight years old and has taken private lessons from Vito Chiavuzzo and Michael Cappabianca. She joined YOCJ in middle school and was part of the Saxophone Ensemble and then as a member of the Saxophone Choir in high school. Harini owes her biggest thanks to her band directors all throughout her school years who continued to push her to try her hardest, and to Dr. Jordan Smith for giving her so many opportunities. Her favorite YOCJ memory is the amazing experience of playing in a masterclass with Dr. Paul Cohen that she knew she could not have received anywhere else!

Julie Cai is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and has been playing the violin since fourth grade. Julie joined YOCJ in sixth grade and performed in David Kim's master class. She also served as concertmaster for her school orchestras, and in 2020, she earned the YOCJ Solo Adjudication Festival Gold Award. She was also a member of High School South's Nonet, performing at events like the 2023 New Jersey Educators Association Convention. Julie studies privately with Mr. Phillip Pugh, who introduced her to the world of classical music and has been a constant source of motivation and support over the past eight years. She's also incredibly thankful for her conductors, Mrs. Mariana Vasiliu and Mr. Robert Peterson, whose passion and energy helped shape her musical journey. One of her favorite YOCJ memories is preparing for the 2020 Chamber Concert with her friend Joyce Wu. Outside of music, Julie enjoys making videos, drinking matcha, and playing video games. This coming fall, Julie will be attending Cornell University to study Computer Science.

Ishan Chikka attends West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and will be majoring in finance at Indiana University Bloomington. He began playing alto saxophone in sixth grade and, through his time in YOCJ, expanded his skills to include soprano, soprano, and baritone saxophones. Since 6th grade, he has studied privately with Dr. Jordan Smith. Ishan joined YOCJ in 2019 and most recently earned a spot as first soprano saxophone in the New Jersey All-State Wind Ensemble. Outside of music, he loves playing basketball, and is an avid reader. He would like to thank his parents for always encouraging him to learn an instrument and supporting his musical journey, and Dr. Smith for his constant guidance and mentorship throughout the years. His favorite YOCJ memory is attending the NASA saxophone conference this past spring, where he had the chance to perform with friends and try out new instruments.

Anna Citron attends Monroe Township High School where she is on the school's swim team. She will be going to Purdue University in the Exploratory Studies program this fall. She has been playing the flute since fourth grade and began playing the piccolo the year after. Anna joined YOCJ in ninth grade with the flute choir, moving to the Symphonic Orchestra in eleventh grade.

Prarthana Harikrishnan is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School South and is majoring in Neuroscience at Nova Southeastern University as a part of their BS/DO program, with the interest of becoming a doctor in the future. She began playing the Trumpet in fifth grade and has studied with Ms. Gagliardi, Ms. Ferrara, and Mr. Argenziano who have all helped her to find her passion in music. Prarthana joined YOCJ in 2021 and has grown musically and personally through the experiences, as it allowed her to express herself musically through her trumpet. Prarthana would like to thank her teachers, friends, and family for supporting her musical journey. Her favorite YOCJ memory is performing at the spring small ensemble concert in 2025.

Lina Lin, a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South plans to pursue Bio-medical Engineering and Applied Mathematics Biology at Brown University. She began playing the flute in fifth grade and has been a dedicated musician ever since. Under the guidance of her private teacher, Amy (I-Yun) Tu, she has grown tremendously and achieved significant accolades, including being named an Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Finalist and performing with the National Flute Association High School Flute Choir. She has also performed with NJMEA All-State Band and Orchestra ensembles and was a featured soloist with the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra and High School South Orchestra. She joined YOCJ in seventh grade, where she has developed both musically and personally. One of her favorite YOCJ memories are the Panera runs before concerts! Outside of music, she enjoys sketching and expressing her creativity through art. Lina is especially grateful to Ms. Amy, Mr. Argenziano, and her friends, Ankit and Akshath, for inspiring and supporting her throughout her musical journey.

Pro Arte Orchestra & Wind Symphony

Scott Collins & Phillip Pugh, Conductors

Aspen Drive

Commissioned by YOCJ

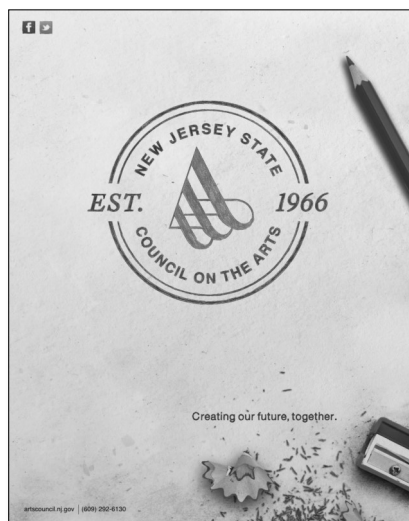
Louis Josephson (b. 2001)

Raiders March

from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

John Williams (b. 1932)

Louis Josephson is a graduate of The Juilliard School. **Theater:** *It's Never Too Late* (Kelsey Theater February 2025), *Relapse: A New Musical* (Off-Broadway fall 2023), *Butterfly Productions' Dolhiov*. **Film:** *Ravel* (Lincoln Center Film Society in May 2025), *Nobody Needs to Know* (2024), *Shanda*. **Concert Music:** The United States Air Force Band, The Juilliard Orchestra, Sylvan Winds, Sirius Quartet, The All-National Honors Concert Band, Tribeca New Music, and the National Association of Music Educators. He is a composer in the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and published by Wingert-Jones Publications, Inc., a division of J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc. www.louisjosephson.com @thelouisjosephson



**The Youth Orchestra
of Central Jersey is thrilled
to be a recipient
of a grant from the
New Jersey State
Council on the Arts
since 2016.**

**Today's performance is
made possible in part
by funds from the
New Jersey State
Council on the Arts.**

CRANE

School of Music at SUNY Potsdam



potsdam.edu/crane

OFFERING DEGREES IN

Music Education, Performance,
Composition, Music Theory,
and Music History (B.M.)
Music Business (B.M. & B. S.)
Music (B.A.)
Music Education (M.M.)

SENIOR BIOGRAPHIES

Aaryan Ajith attends West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and will be attending Rutgers University planning to double major in Math and Computer Science while also involving himself with the music ensembles in any way he can. Aaryan began playing the alto saxophone in fifth grade but switched to tenor and has been a member of YOCJ since 7th grade as a tenor saxophonist. He would like to give a special thanks to Matt Rossi and Jason Verblauw for their tutelage and Dr. Jordan Smith for providing so many opportunities in YOCJ. Outside of YOCJ, Aaryan loves spending time with friends and watching football where he's unsurprisingly disappointed by the Dallas Cowboys every year! His favorite memory with YOCJ was conducting the piece he arranged for the saxophone choir during the NASA conference at Penn State University.

Vikram Balaguru is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North. He will be attending the University of Maryland – College Park, where he plans to double major in Computer Science and Biology. Vikram started playing the Saxophone in fifth grade and has been studying with Dr. Jordan Smith ever since. He joined YOCJ in sixth grade, and it has played a huge role in his musical journey alongside his school ensemble and jazz bands. Vikram's favorite YOCJ memory is going to the North American Saxophone Alliance conference at Penn State University and getting the chance to try out different saxophones. Outside of music, he enjoys biking, hiking, video games, and caring for aquariums. Vikram would like to thank his family for their unwavering support and Dr. Smith for being an incredible mentor throughout the years.

Miles Birnbaum is a senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and will attend NYU in the fall majoring in Music Technology. He started playing the tenor sax in fifth grade under the tutelage of Dr. Jordan Smith. Miles has been a member of YOCJ since sixth grade and has since been in the CJMEA Region Band as well as third chair in the NJMEA All State Band throughout high school. Miles would love to thank Dr. Smith for his guidance since he started playing and is the reason for his many accomplishments during his musical journey. His favorite YOCJ memory is his audition, when he was told he was accepted despite thinking he didn't make it! Miles is excited to make even more memories with his saxophone throughout his musical career.

Abner Brijesh attends Montgomery High School. He plans to pursue higher studies in classical saxophone performance and finance while also studying composition to expand the solo repertoire of the saxophone. While his musical journey started early at the age of four when he started taking piano lessons, he began his saxophone journey in late 2016 when he started playing in his school band program. Since 2019, he has studied with Dr. Jordan Smith, and has been a proud member of the YOCJ Saxophone Choir since the spring 2023 season, with occasional appearances with the YOCJ Symphonic Orchestra both as an ensemble musician and soloist. His favorite memory from YOCJ was going to the 2025 North American Saxophone Alliance Region 8 Conference with the Saxophone Choir. He has amassed several accolades during his high school journey, including being the highest-ranking saxophonist in the 2023 New Jersey Music Teachers Association Senior Woodwinds Competition, winning the YOCJ Senior Concerto Competition, and twice winning the New England Saxophone Symposium Classical Competition. Additionally, he has had the honor of performing as the Associate Principal Alto Saxophonist for the CJMEA Region Wind Ensemble, Principal Alto Saxophonist for the NJMEA All-State Wind Ensemble, and Associate Principal Alto Saxophonist for the 2025 NAFME All-Eastern Band. Outside of music, Abner enjoys competitive Rubik's Cube solving (with specialization in blindfolded events), reading, watching movies, and trivia. He would like to thank Dr. Jordan Smith for the wealth of musical knowledge imparted to him, and his parents for always supporting him in his musical journey and pushing him to chase his dreams.

Symphonic Orchestra

Violin I

Prisha Bagchi **
Julie Cai
Natalie Cheng
Caris Co
Megan Hsu
Konnor Lee
Kyson Zhou

Violin II

Caden Co
Preeti Cyrus
Advait Ghantasala
Chloe Jeon
Anna Kang
Aarush Latti
Nishant Vasanth
Sloka Vendra
Harish Vijayaraghavan *

Viola

Arsh Mehan *
Arnav Nair
Eshan Yalla
Claire Yang

Cello

Sai N. R. Chintagunta
Alexander Fiszer *
Riya Gupta
Lucas Horowitz
Ryan Kim
Morgan Li
Ceilidh Manigrasso
Sunayna Shah

Double Bass

Arnav Nagireddy
Wallace Snow *

Flute

Amogh Basker
Anna Citron
Amira Das
Lina Lin *
Anyu Patel
Paavni Suyal

Piccolo

Anna Citron
Amogh Basker

Oboe

Diya Chowdhury
Mihika Srivastava *
Barbara Witmer &

English Horn

Diya Chowdhury

Clarinet

Silvano Massa
Sachi Nagabhairava
Walker Pella-Woo
Ankit Sarukkai *
Francis Story

Bass Clarinet

Francis Story

Bassoon

Sam Chung
Jason Lu
Connor Mark *

Trumpet

Tom Cook #
Prarthana Harikrishnan
Maia Hicks
Max Whittle *

French Horn

Ethan De La Garza *
Neel Kamath
Audree Oh
Zachary Phelan

Trombone

Akshath Sarukkai *
Aavya Srivastava
Alvin Valdez
Lars Wendt #

Tuba

Noah Chen *

Percussion

Nandish Anadkat
Somya Mittal
Brandon Mora
Gabrielle O'Neill
Priyal Tyagi
Greg Giannascoli #
substitute coach

Harp

Joanna Jian
Chloe Liu

** = Concertmaster

* = Principal

& = YOCJ Staff

= PSO Musician

Princeton
VIOLINS

OUR INSTRUMENTS AND SERVICES ARE IN
TUNE WITH **YOUR** NEEDS.
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO CHECK IT OUT.

WE OFFER CONTEMPORARY AND
ANTIQUE STRING INSTRUMENTS,
BOWS, ACCESSORIES, LUTHIER
SERVICES -INCLUDING
RESTORATIONS AND BOW REPAIR,
AS WELL AS RENTAL PROGRAM.

INQUIRE ABOUT YOCJ
STUDENTS' DISCOUNT

PRINCETON VIOLINS
240 NASSAU STREET,
PRINCETON NJ 08542
(609) 683-0005
info@princetonviolins.com

www.princetonviolins.com



Thank you for attending our performance!

To learn more about YOCJ, go to www.yocj.org



[www.facebook.com/
youthorchestraofcentraljersey](https://www.facebook.com/youthorchestraofcentraljersey)



[instagram.com/
yocjnewjersey](https://www.instagram.com/yocjnewjersey)

7pm Concert

Saxophone Quartet

Dr. Jordan Smith, Coach

Mountain Roads

I. Overture

II. Chorale: Wo soll ich fliehen

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

Ishan Chikka, Soprano Saxophone

Max Chua, Alto Saxophone

Aaryan Ajith, Tenor Saxophone

Riley Talerico-Dovel, Baritone Saxophone

Saxophone Choir

Dr. Jordan Smith, Conductor

Handel in the Strand

Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

arr. Bricault

Ghibli Medley

Joe Hisaishi (b. 1950)

arr. Bluhéron, Sax arr. Ajith

Student Conductor & Arranger, Aaryan Ajith

Bohemian Rhapsody

Freddie Mercury (1946-1991)

arr. Tomsett

Sopranino and Soprano Saxophone

Ishan Chikka

Soprano Saxophone

Abner Brijesh

Evan Reese Pagtalunan

Alto Saxophone

Reagan Alphonso

Sanjana Bellur

Toorjo Bhattacharya

Maximus Chua

Zachary Cruz

Joseph Day, III

Dylan Dell Beni

Jayden Francis

Tyler Jacome

Aayush Kala

Aaditya Kaushik

Julianne Lunsford

Arya Phirke

Zachary Rubin

Nicholas Scarpa

William Sun

Akshita Vashisht

Tenor Saxophone

Aaryan Ajith

Miles Birnbaum

Manthan Dixit

Saharsh Nair

Sia Satish

Reya Varun

Baritone Saxophone

Vikram Balaguru

Harini Ravindranathan

Riley Talerico-Dovel

Bass Saxophone

Aidan Ni

Symphonic Orchestra *Kyle Ritenauer, Guest Conductor*

Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36

Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov (1844-1908)

Concerto in E-flat Major

Alexander Glazunov (1865-1936)

for Alto Saxophone & String Orchestra Op. 109

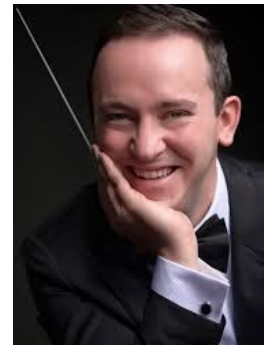
Abner Brijesh, Senior Solo Competition Winner

The Planets

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

I. Mars, the Bringer of War

IV. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity



Kyle Ritenauer is a dynamic and emerging conductor, known for his collaborative approach and versatile skill set that spans from the concert stage to opera and ballet. Kyle has conducted the National Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic, is a regular guest conductor for The Juilliard School Orchestra and Dance Division, and works regularly in the world of opera including his role as principal conductor of the Cali Opera Program. Kyle has served for five years on the Artistic Staff of the Manhattan School of Music, is regularly engaged at The Juilliard School, serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at Montclair State University, and is a member of the conducting faculty at the Pierre Monteux School. The 2024-25 season promises to be an exciting year for Kyle, with performances including appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra

at the Kennedy Center and with the Juilliard Ballet and Orchestra at Lincoln Center. In addition, he will perform several concerts at the Manhattan School of Music and other prestigious venues across New York City. Throughout his career, Kyle has appeared as guest conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Symphony, the Norwalk Symphony, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Symphony New Hampshire, and Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect. In the role of cover conductor, Ritenauer has worked with the National Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Métropolitain (Montreal), American Composers Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Kyle is a passionate teaching artist and holds a particular fondness for bringing classical music to underserved communities. Kyle has had the honor and privilege to assist conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel, Gianandrea Noseda, David Robertson, Stanislav Kochanovsky, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Gemma New, Jader Bignamini, John Adams, and Marin Alsop among others. Kyle served for many years as the assistant conductor of New York City's Camerata Notturna, a group that supported Kyle through a large part of his development as a young conductor. Kyle is a student of David Robertson and a graduate of The Juilliard School's Orchestral Conducting Program where, upon graduation, he received the Charles Schiff Conducting Prize for outstanding achievement.