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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



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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

Saturday May 3

Plainsboro Founders Day - visit the YOCJ booth!
Plainsboro Recreation & Cultural Center

Saturday May 18 • 3pm & 7pm

Spring Large Ensemble Concerts
WWP High School South

3:00pm:

Wind Symphony
Sinfonietta String Orchestra
Pro Arte Orchestra
Wind Symphony & Pro Arte Orchestra

7:00pm:

Saxophone Choir
Symphonic Orchestra, featuring
Abner Brijesh,
Senior Solo Competition Winner
performing the Glazunov Saxophone Concerto

Tuesday June 3

New Student Auditions: Register at yocj.org/auditions



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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 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

Kyson Zhou

Since 2018

Prisha Bagchi
Miles Birnbaum
Julie Cai

Since 2019

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

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 Harikrishnan
Abigail Knowles
Morgan Li
Arsh Mehan
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Dates, times, artists, and programs subject to change.

Today's performance is being videotaped by
Brianne Dixon Videography, LLC
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Footage will be available to YOCJ families for
viewing as well as for free download soon.
Watch for an email with instructions and links.

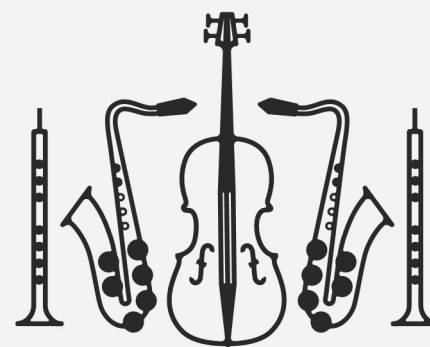
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Flute Choir

Sandy Olson, Conductor

Lough Erin Shore

Irish Folk Song

arr. Kate Agioritis

Folksongs of Hampshire

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

arr. John Gibson

Amay Agarwal
Aayush Arni
Amy Chua
Anna Citron
Rayansh Phirke
Akshay Ramesh

Shaswat Senthilkumar
Mahd Shabab
Hannah Shue
Shivika Sinha
Diya Sundar
Mukund Venkatesan
Pradyumn Yeturi

Saxophone Ensemble

Dr. Jordan Smith, Conductor

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

I. Allegro

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

arr. Caravan

Shepherd's Hey

Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

arr. Cohen

Soprano

Ryan Yang

Alto

Shi Alan Chen
Benjamin Kim
Rishik Pannala

Baritone

Sebastian Grassi

Tenor

Aarav Rohatgi
Abhiram Palamner

Bass

Aarav Patel
Kiran Patibanda
Vikunth Sridhar
Shaiv Vardhan
Arpan Vijay

Bass

Anagha Vinod

Brass Choir

Shannon Ferrara, Conductor

Legends of the Pacific

II. Between the Redwoods

Frank Gulino (b. 1987)

Northern Lights

for Brass & Percussion

Charles Rochester Young (b. 1965)

Trumpet

Prarthana Harikrishnan
Maia Hicks
Max Whittle

French Horn

Ethan De La Garza
Neel Kamath
Audree Oh
Zachary Phelan

Trombone

Avyaya Srivastava
Alvin Valdez
Tuba
Noah Chen

Percussion Ensemble

Chris Colaneri, Conductor

Instant Carmen

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

arr. Chris Brooks

Ritual of The Tribe

Chris Brooks (1957-2023)

The Gem Bay

Lalo Davila (b. 1958)

Anbini Adhimoolam
Nandish Anadkat
Juliana Collins
Christian Epps
Rohan Khanna

Brandon Mora
Gabrielle O'Neill
Jason Shi
Priyal Tyagi
Kiaan Vaishnav

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



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

Symphonic Woodwinds

Barbara Witmer, Conductor

Octet for Woodwinds

Robert Baksa (b. 1938-2023)

Allegro

Flute

Amogh Basker
Anna Citron
Amira Das
Lina Lin
Anyapatel
Paavni Suyal

Oboe

Diya Chowdhury
Mihika Srivastava

Bassoon

Sam Chung
Jason Lu

Clarinet

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

Brass Ensemble

Michael Anzuini, Conductor

Chorale from Die Meistersinger

Richard Wagner (1813-1833)

arr. H. Voxman

The Call to Adventure

David Marlatt

Trumpet

Joseph Cridge
Rayan Das

Trombone

Samuel Adigun
Sharvil Srinivasan

Baritone

Gyan Chande

Tuba

Aanya Sabharwal

French Horn

Johan Mekunnell
Eshaan Pathak

Saxophone Quartet

Dr. Jordan Smith, Coach

Mountain Roads

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

I. Overture

II. Chorale: Wo soll ich fliehen

Ishan Chikka, Soprano Saxophone

Max Chua, Alto Saxophone

Aaryan Ajith, Tenor Saxophone

Riley Talerico-Dovel, Baritone Saxophone

Woodwind Choir

Scott Collins, Conductor

Lascia ch'io Pianga

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

arr. Cesar Madeira

Allegro and Minuet

William Boyce (1711-1779)

arr. John Gibson

Flute

Esther Adigun
Amay Agarwal
Sneha Anand
Aayush Arni
Ahana Ashokan
Amy Chua
Kasey Gu
Krish Patel
Rayansh Phirke
Akshay Ramesh
Shaswat Senthilkumar
Diya Sundar
Mukund Venkatesan
Pradyumn Yeturi

Oboe

Sritan Gottipati
Lipi Kothavade

Clarinet

Sneha Dhananjay
Lakshya Sadwal
Leon Sato
Katie Seo
Maya Shue
Any Telang
Shaarav Vardhan
Svara Venkatesan

Bassoon

Yena Moon
Moinak Pal



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.

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