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25/26
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Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey

WINTER SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERT



December 13, 2025 7:00pm

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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

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Radha Mahakali
Saima Shabab
Caroline Sia
Meenakshi Viswanathan

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

Philip 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 Bachelor's 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.



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on sale in the lobby!**

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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 was a member of the music faculty at Millstone River School in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District where she taught elementary band for many years. She has recently retired from public school teaching. 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 Anzuni, 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. Anzuni 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. Anzuni 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. Anzuni 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. Anzuni served as the Director of the Princeton Youth Brass Band. Mr. Anzuni 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. Anzuni was selected as a national finalist for a Band Officer/Conductor position with the USAF Band Program, a Symphony level audition. Mr. Anzuni 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. Anzuni joined the staff of The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2024.

Upcoming Events

Sunday January 18 • 3pm & 8pm

Winter Large Ensemble Concerts
Kendall Hall, TCNJ

3:00pm:

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

8:00pm:

Saxophone Choir
Symphonic Orchestra, featuring
Yumi Kendall, Cello
The Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Principal Cellist
performing the Dvořák Cello Concerto



Tuesday January 27

New Student Auditions: Register at yocj.org/auditions

Tuesday February 3

Spring Semester Begins

Tuesday March 10th

Brass, Percussion, & Woodwind Masterclasses with PSO Clinicians
String Masterclass with Yumi Kendall

Saturday April 25, 7pm

Spring Small Ensemble Concert
Community Middle School

Saturday May 17 • 3pm & 7:30pm

Spring Large Ensemble Concerts
WWP High School South

3:00pm:

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

7:30pm:

Saxophone Choir
Symphonic Orchestra,
featuring Alexander Fiszer,
Senior Solo Competition Winner
performing the Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major



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

Since 2019

Lucas Horowitz
Anya Patel
Sloka Vendra
Eshan Yalla

Since 2020

Roshan Nankani
Aidan Ni

Since 2021

Natalie Cheng
Advait Ghantasala
Riya Gupta
Abigail Knowles
Arsh Mehan
Somya Mittal
Mihika Srivastava
Mahika Thakur

Since 2022

Dylan Dell Beni
Konnor Lee
Ceilidh Manigrasso
Hannah Shue
Kaushal Chikka
Caden Co
Caris Co
Preeta Cyrus
Audree Oh
Wallace Snow
Akshita Vashisht
Sanjana Bellur
Gian Michael Diaz
Joshua Fermo
Yafei Lei
Sia Satish
Swathi Venkatesh

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Made possible by funds from the
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Dates, times, artists, and programs subject to change.



Today's performance is being videotaped by

Briianne 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.

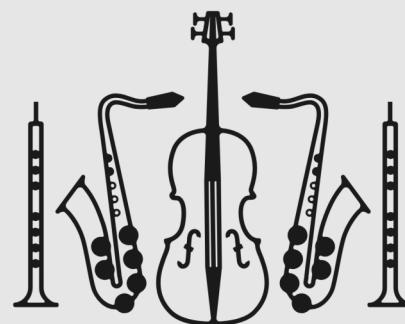
Please consider making a donation to YOCJ to help us continue
to give our musicians exceptional learning experiences.

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
seated around you. Photography & videography are not
permitted during the performance. Thank you understanding!

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Flute Choir

Sandy Olson, Conductor

Badinerie from Suite in B Minor

Johann S. Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Susie Wilkins

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

George F. Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Sondra Tucker

My Favorite Things

Rodgers and Hammerstein
arr. Ralph Raymond Hays

Aidan Chen
Amy Chua
Sophia Kim
Svamin Pandya
Akshay Ramesh

Shaswat Senthilkumar
Mahd Shabab
Hannah Shue
Pradyumn Yeturi

Saxophone Ensemble

Dr. Jordan Smith, Conductor

Prelude II

George Gershwin (1898-1937)
arr. Crockford

Quintette

III. Allegretto
IV. Allegro

Soprano

Liam Wynn

Soprano & Alto

Kiran Patibanda

Tenor

Abir Pal
Atharv Kumar

Alto

Shi Alan Chen

Vishaan Khare

Benjamin Kim

Saish Nagnur

Brian Qu

Baritone

Sebastian Grassi

Brass Choir

Shannon Ferrara, Conductor

Intrada No. 7

Melchoir Franck (1579-1639)

Parade of the Wooden Soldiers

Léon Jessel (1871-1942)
arr. Paul Chauvin

Trumpet

Joseph Cridge
James Yin

French Horn

Ethan De La Garza
Neel Kamath
Audree Oh

Euphonium

Gyan Chande

Trombone

Sharvil Srinivasan

Percussion Ensemble

Chris Colaneri, Conductor

Sonatina in G

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
arr. David Eickbusch

Aftershock

Nathan Daughtrey (b. 1975)

Rondo alla Latina

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)
arr. Florian Kirchner

Anbini Adhimalam

Christian Epps

Somya Mittal

Shrika Roy

Jason Shi

Kiaan Vaishnav

Sudarshan Venkatesh

Thank you for attending our performance!

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



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Symphonic Woodwinds

Barbara Witmer, Conductor

Suite Francaise

Pastorale

Serenade

Entrata

Flute

Amogh Basker
Hamsini Mettu
Anya Patel
Mahd Shabab

Guy Woolfenden (1937-2016)

Henri Marteau (1874-1934)

Oboe

Diya Chowdhury
Lipi Kothavade
Mihika Srivastava

Clarinet

Walker Pella-Woo
Leon Sato
Maya Shue

Bassoon

Moinak Pal

Woodwind Choir

Scott Collins, Conductor

Funeral March of a Marionette

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

arr. Bill Holcombe

The Fairest of The Fair

John Phillip Sousa (1854-1932)

arr. Bill Holcombe

& Bill Holcombe Jr.

Flute

Esther Adigun
Ahana Ashokan
Sophia Kim
Svamin Pandya
Pradyumn Yeturi

Oboe

Sritan Gottipati
Emma Song
Claire Wang

Clarinet

Lakshya Sadwal
Ayush Srivastava
Aakanksha Talapanen
Shaarav Vardhan

Bassoon

Christopher Assiamua

Brass Ensemble

Michael Anzuini, Conductor

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

arr. Paul Bara

arr. Richard Decker

English Madrigal Suite

I. Though Philomela Lost Her Love

III. Late In My Rash Accounting

Trumpet

Rayan Das
Rachel Zoda

Trombone

Samuel Adigun
Ava Esser

French Horn

Eshaan Pathak
Norah Watson

Tuba

Evan Mancino

Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey
Tuesday January 27th Auditions



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

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

Perform under the baton of our YOCJ Conductor, the finest local professional musicians! Work with Princeton Symphony Orchestra clinicians & Assistant Conductor Kenneth T. Bean!





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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