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Radha Mahakali
The Ruzicka Family
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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

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 Sifodoc 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, Rifa 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*

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Music (B.A.)
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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 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 2 • New Student Auditions

Register at yocj.org/auditions

6th Annual Summer Chamber Music Camp

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

Registration Deadline: June 15

Tuesday September 8 • New Student Auditions

Register at yocj.org/auditions



Monday July 6 - Friday July 10, 9am-Noon

Monday July 13 - Friday July 17, 9am-Noon

Both weeks include Friday 11am Final Recitals

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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

Since 2019

Lucas Horowitz

Anya Patel

Sloka Vendra

Eshan Yalla

Since 2020

Roshan Nankani

Aidan Ni

Since 2021

Natalie Cheng

Advait Ghantasala

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

Preeta Cyrus

Audree Oh

Wallace Snow

Akshita Vashisht

Sanjana Bellur

Gian Michael Diaz

Joshua Fermo

Yafei Lei

Sia Satish

Swathi Venkatesh

Karan Vijayakumar attends Monroe Township High School and will be attending Purdue University planning to major in Aerospace Engineering. Karan began playing the violin in fifth grade and has been a member of YOCJ since 10th grade. He would like to give special thanks to his private teacher, Louise McClure, for her constant support and steadfast encouragement! Outside of music, Karan loves spending time with his friends, reading, and watching movies. His favorite memory is attending the YOCJ summer camp and making new friends.

Harish Vijayaraghavan is a senior at South Brunswick High School. This fall, he will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to study Computer Science and Music. Harish began playing the violin in 2017, and has studied under Jennifer Sharpe, Marjorie Seldon, Gregory Gelman, and most recently under Ruotao Mao. He also studies South Indian Classical Carnatic violin at the Swaradhika School of Carnatic Music under Radhika Devrajan. Among his accomplishments, Harish completed his Carnatic Arange-tram in August 2023, a formal debut recital marking mastery of the South Indian classical tradition. Outside of music, he enjoys competitive Rubik's cube speed-solving and computer science. He is grateful to his first teacher, Mrs. Sharpe, for introducing him to the violin and igniting a lifelong passion for music. He joined YOCJ in Spring 2025 and his favorite memory is performing the Dvorak Cello Concerto alongside soloist Yumi Kendall.

Eshan Yalla is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. He has been playing the viola for nine years and is currently studying with Mr. Manulik. Eshan first joined YOCJ in 2019 and his favorite memory is traveling to Austria, experiencing the country's rich artistic and musical heritage, and staying up late talking to his friends. Eshan would like to thank his parents, sister, friends and his neighbor/first private teacher Ms. Sriya Bapatla for encouraging his love of music in any form. Outside of music Eshan enjoys making and drinking iced coffee and tea, playing NYT word games, and rewatching Legally Blonde. Eshan will be attending Cornell University to study public policy, with additional interests in economics and data science and is excited to explore music-related activities in college!

Kyson Zhou is a student at Laurel Springs School and a dedicated young violinist pursuing his passion for music. He began playing the violin at the age of four and will study violin performance at the McDuffie Center for Strings in Macon, Georgia in the fall. Over the years, he has had the privilege of learning from distinguished teachers including Chika Mimura, Dr. Kevin Tsai, Xiaofu Zhou, Dr. Valissa Willwerth, and his current teacher, Kimberly Fisher. Kyson joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in third grade and has since cherished the meaningful interactions and conversations he shares with fellow musicians and faculty. In his time with YOCJ, he has performed with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and the Piano Guys, and has participated in masterclasses with David Kim, William Harvey and Aubree Oliverson. He is also honored to be part of the YOCJ /PSO 2025-2026 Student Council. Outside of music, he enjoys reading, exploring philosophy, hiking, and engaging in outdoor survival and camping activities. He would like to express his sincere gratitude to his parents for their unwavering support of his musical journey.

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!



The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey is pleased to participate in 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!

***Shop at McCaffrey's Food Markets.**

***Save your receipts!**

***Send them in with your child to any YOCJ rehearsal in an envelope marked "McCaffrey's Receipts"**

***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.



3pm Concert

Wind Symphony *Scott Collins, Conductor*

Inchon **Robert W. Smith (b. 1958)**

A Child's Lullaby **Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)**

Colorado Peaks **Dana Wilson (b. 1946)**

Flute

Esther Adigun
Ahana Ashokan
Shresta Desireddy
Emilie Fougnes
Sophia Kim
Svamin Pandya
Diya Sundar
Pradyumn Yeturi

Oboe

Riya Mangla
Emma Song
Claire Wang

English Horn

Claire Wang

Clarinet

Anirudh Mandayam
Ayush Srivastava
Aakanksha Talapaneni
Shaarav Vardhan

Bass Clarinet

Nicholas Feddern

Bassoon

Christopher Assiamua

Alto Saxophone

Saish Nagnur
Kiran Patibanda
Kellan Rourke

Tenor Saxophone

Abir Pal

Baritone Saxophone

Sebastian Grassi

Trumpet

Michael Anzuini &
Rayan Das
Aarya Gaidhani

French Horn

Eshaan Pathak
Nora Watson
Jarret Sussein +

Trombone

Samuel Adigun
Eesha Menon
Aadya Nair
Aditya Navale
Nate Rensink +

Tuba

Evan Mancino
Jon Seidel +

Percussion

Shrika Roy
Jason Shi
Digvi Tyagi
Kiaan Vaishnav
Sudarshan Venkatesh

Piano

Sandra Anzuini +

& = YOCJ Staff

+ = Educator

has been a member of the HSN Knights Marching Band for the past four years, also under the direction of Mr. Verblaauw. Nick is a member of the HSN Jazz Band and was part of the pit orchestra for the school play last year. Nick became interested in the saxophone as a child while listening to his father, Carl, play at home every evening. Nick is also a member of the MidKnight Inventors Robotics Team and plays on the HSN Varsity Baseball Team. Nick's favorite YOCJ memory is driving to a performance at The College of New Jersey during a blizzard.

Mahd Shabab is a student at WWP High School South and plans to study Business Administration at Northeastern University. He began playing the flute in fifth grade and currently studies with his private teacher, Amy Tu. Mahd joined YOCJ in 2022 and has played in the Region and All-State Band. Outside of music, Mahd enjoys trying different restaurants, listening to music, and playing video games. He would like to thank his parents, his past and current school band and orchestra teachers, the YOCJ staff, and his private teacher for their support and inspiration throughout his musical journey. His favorite YOCJ memory is performing in the large ensemble concerts at TCNJ.

Cassidy Shea is a senior at Montgomery High School and has been playing the cello since the fourth grade. She has studied with Louise and Ted McClure, and currently studies under David Szepessy. She is extremely grateful to her family and her teachers for their unlimited support in her musical journey. She joined YOCJ in September 2025 and her favorite memory was participating in the masterclass with Yumi Kendall in March 2026. In her free time, she enjoys reading and taking pictures of nature. She hopes to continue her musical endeavors post-graduation and in the fall, she will be attending Rutgers University, New Brunswick to pursue a Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

Wallace Snow is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North who plans to attend Swarthmore College where he wants to study engineering or physics. His musical journey began in fourth grade under Mr. Pugh at Millstone River School before moving under his current instructor Solomon Guhl-Miller in seventh grade. He began his YOCJ career at the beginning of high school and he is also a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, where he holds the principal seat for the 2025-26 season. His other musical endeavors include playing the electric bass in school musicals, jazz band, and choral revues, and playing the guitar for fun. Outside of music, he loves playing basketball and football with friends, going to the gym, hiking, and playing with his cats. He would like to thank his wonderful family for driving him everywhere and supporting all his musical interests every step of the way and his friends for their constant and priceless support. His favorite YOCJ memory is the time spent roaming around the Altstadt in Vienna on the 2024 Austria tour with friends, eating the best gnocchi he has ever had!

Jacob Toledo attends East Brunswick High School and will be attending NYU Stern School of Business in the fall, where he plans to study Business with a concentration in Accounting. He began playing the violin in fourth grade and has studied with Ana Maria Diaz Herrera. He currently studies with Dr. Kevin Tsai. Jacob joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2023. Outside of music, he enjoys hiking, baking, listening to music, and exploring new restaurants. He would like to thank his school teachers for their guidance and support throughout his musical growth. His favorite YOCJ memory is the conversations and connections he has built with his fellow musicians.

Anya Patel is a student at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and has been playing the flute for eight years. She currently studies under Ms. Amy Wolfe whom she would like to thank for inspiring her and fostering her passion for music. Anya joined YOCJ in sixth grade as a part of the flute choir and is now a proud member of the symphonic orchestra. For the past four years, she has continued her passion for music in her high school marching band and pit orchestra. Outside of music, you can find her debating on the mock trial team, dancing, or hanging out with her friends. Anya plans to attend Rutgers University Honors College this fall where she will study neuroscience on the pre-med track. She would like to thank her parents and music teachers for supporting her in all her musical endeavors.

Dan Ruzicka is a student at New Providence High School. He will be attending Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University this fall for instrumental music education, saxophone concentration. Dan has been playing tenor saxophone since fourth grade. He began his musical journey in jazz but then transitioned to classical saxophone, which he has been studying under Jarod Apple. Dan's secondary instrument is bass clarinet, and he doubles on various other woodwind instruments. Dan joined YOCJ in 2025 after seeing the YOCJ Saxophone Choir's impressive performance at the North American Saxophone Alliance Region 8 Conference at Penn State. Dan is a 7-time NJMEA regional and all-state musician, and was the third place finalist in this year's NJMEA Youth Composers Competition for his composition "Mind." His favorite YOCJ memory has been bonding with the saxophone quartet this year. Dan wants to extend his thanks to his parents and music teachers for all of their support these past eight years, especially to his elementary school band director, Mr. Baker, for igniting his excitement for music. Dan has composed an original piece, "Riptide," for saxophone choir, which he will be conducting tonight.

Ananya Samavedam is a dedicated musician and a senior at John P. Stevens High School in Edison. She fell in love with the violin before she began playing in fourth grade, often spending her time watching performances and listening to modern instrumental music. She is particularly grateful to her great-aunt, also a violinist, for inspiring her throughout her musical journey. Ananya joined YOCJ in fall 2023, which helped to refine her talent and led her to become the concertmistress of her school's Camerata Orchestra. Beyond music, Ananya is a TEDx speaker, the founder of the mental wellness app "Dear Me," and a recipient of the New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. She is committed to community service, serving as an Edison Board of Education ambassador and a Healthcare Committee advisor for Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.'s Youth Advisory Council. An aspiring author, Ananya hopes to publish her first novel in college while continuing to participate in orchestras and string quartets. Her favorite YOCJ memory is performing in the historic Haydn Hall at Esterházy Palace with her friends. She will carry these memories with her as she pursues International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliott School alongside the University Honors Program.

Nicholas Scarpa is a graduating senior at WW-P High School North and will attend the University of Maryland in the fall where he plans to study Electrical Engineering. Nick began playing the saxophone in middle school and now plays Alto, Tenor and Baritone saxophone. He has enjoyed being a part of YOCJ for the past four years. During that time, he studied privately under Mr. Jason Verblaauw and would like to extend a big thank you to him for his great sense of patience! Nick

Sinfonietta String Orchestra

Phillip Pugh, Conductor

A Little Stream
(Ziao He Tang Shui)

Traditional Yunnan Folk Song of China
arr. Albert Wang

Theme and Variations

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
arr. Loreta Fin

Finale
from String Quartet, Op. 39

Alexander Glazunov (1865-1936)
arr. Jeremy Woolstenhulme

In Your Wildest Dreams

Tyler S. Grant (b. 1995)

Violin I

Deeksha Chandrakar
Kaylyn Eswine
Aarya Gupta
Eshaan Hebbar
Andrew Li
Kenneth Liao
Evana Mallapuram
Parth Sharma
Nehir Soykal *
Isaac Yin

Violin II

Aunwita Jana
Emanuel Kowalski
Eleanor Liu *
Ishika Maniar
Sorya Soni
Rachel Sujith
Renee Wu
Richard Wu
Nicole Xia

* = Principal
+ = Guest musician

Viola

Emma Anam
Nevin Benjamin
Alexander Detherage *
Apoorva Gogineni
Iris Jang
Brendan MacMillan
Nozomi Pugh
James Yong

Cello

Rohan Dhuldhoya
Rishi Jadhaw
Benjamin Lu
Brian MacMillan
Ryan Makaryk
Laura Otto
Priyanshi Patel *
Esther Rabitsky
Azaan Shabab
Eric Xu
Michael Yuan

Bass

Norah Meyer *
Wallace Snow +

Pro Arte Orchestra

Phillip Pugh, Conductor

Serenade for Strings, Op. 11

Dag Wirén (1905-1986)

- I. Preludium
- II. Andante
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Marcia

Violin I

Elery Badros
Stella Evanini
Joshua Fermo
Claire Hodgson *
Yashanth Logaraj
Saanvi Mathur
Tanvi Mukka
Alaina Rosof
Gianna Zhou

Violin II

Neil Benjamin
Charlotte Elga
Vivienne Lin
Anvi Mahendrakar
Vani Mehta
Vrushti Mehta
Hikari Pugh
Ananya Saraogi *
Sehaj Singh
Rena Yu
Emma Zhang

* = Principal

Viola

Chinmay Choudhary
Lilah Jacome
Aiden Makaryk
Prisha Patra
Eleonora Ruiz *
Bethany Tuan
Anna Yang

Cello

Aditya Aras
Tamoghna Banerjee
Niyati Chintagunta
Korok Das
Anushka Gogineni
Aditi Karthik
Abigail Knowles
Sabrina Molinari
Shrey Patel
Omkar Raj
Aishani Singh
Nathan Sung *
Henry Toettcher
Swathi Venkatesh
Mitchell Whitman

Double Bass

Alma Bahk *
Daniel Wagner

like to thank countless school orchestra teachers, private lesson teachers, his parents, and his orchestra peers for helping him improve throughout his musical journey. He will be attending Carnegie Mellon University as a chemistry major and hopes to continue playing in the CMU All University Orchestra.

Ceilidh Manigrasso, a senior at Bordentown Regional High School, first began playing the cello in fourth grade. Originally under the instruction of Ms. Alicia Method, Ceilidh currently studies under Mrs. Elizabeth Lee, who encouraged her to join the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in January 2022. In addition to YOCJ, Ceilidh has performed with the NJMEA Regional Orchestra for the last five years. Ceilidh also loves playing the upright bass in her school's Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Pit Orchestra. She won an honorable mention for her bass solo and was part of the NJ State Jazz Competition's Best Rhythm Section. Along with orchestra and band, Ceilidh is her school's NHS President, a theater club officer, and a captain of her school's varsity bowling team, which last year won its first Division title in over a decade. Her favorite YOCJ memory was performing under the baton of Daniel Muck in Haydn Hall during the 2024 Austria tour. Ceilidh plans to major in Mathematical Sciences on a pre-medical track at Swarthmore College while continuing to play in the college's orchestra. Ceilidh would like to thank her parents for their support of her music and for always encouraging her to pursue her passions.

Silvano Massa attends West Windsor Plainsboro High School South and he plans to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He will major in political science, however, before attending college, he will be taking a gap year to participate in the Future Leadership Exchange (FLEX Abroad) program, where he will attend a high school in Kazakhstan for an academic year. Silvano began playing the clarinet in 5th grade and his current teacher is Ms. Jill Gagiardi. He joined YOCJ in his freshman year of high school. His hobbies include playing clarinet and saxophone, being on the radio in radio club, and baking. His favorite YOCJ memory is being able to perform in concerts with his peers.

Hamsini Mettu attends West Windsor Plainsboro High School North and plans on pursuing a pre-law track at the University of California, Berkeley. She started playing the flute in fourth grade under flutist John Lane and has continued to do so for the past eight years. Hamsini joined YOCJ during the 2023-2024 season and aside from flute enjoys writing and reading poetry as well as anything to do with history. She would like to thank all her musical instructors for her flute journey including her private teacher as well as her instructors at YOCJ and school band. Hamsini's favorite memory during YOCJ is performing at and touring Esterhazy palace during the Austria tour.

Roshan Nankani is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and plans to study computer science at the University of Toronto. He studies privately with Chika Mimura and joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2021, where he has enjoyed growing as a musician and collaborating with peers. Outside of music, Roshan participates in Academic Decathlon and Quiz Bowl, earning numerous awards, and has a strong interest in art history and economics. He would like to thank his older brother, Kabir Nankani, and his parents for inspiring and supporting his musical pursuits. His favorite YOCJ memory is going on tour in Vienna!

at the 2026 National Marine Band Concerto Competition in Washington D.C. Most recently, he has recorded with the radio show "From the Top." Alexander likes to take walks in nature and play chess in his free time. His favorite YOCJ memory was playing the cello solo for Franz von Suppe's "Poet and Peasant Overture" last year. For Alexander, music is a cherished gift, and he is grateful for his family and all of his teachers, present and past, who share his musical journey.

Advait Ghantasala is a senior at South Brunswick High School and will be attending Case Western Reserve University, where he plans to follow the pre-med track and major in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism. He began playing the violin at age eight and has studied under Jodi Rajesh and Emily Muller. Advait joined the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey in 2022. Outside of music, he enjoys reading, working out, and learning about science, especially biology and chemistry. He would like to thank his parents for enrolling him in violin lessons and always encouraging him, as well as his friends in all of his school orchestras and in YOCJ for making rehearsals and performances such a fun and engaging experience that inspires him to keep playing. His favorite YOCJ memory is traveling to Austria and performing in the historic Esterházy Palace.

Lucas Horowitz, a graduating senior from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, will be continuing his education at Princeton University in the fall as a prospective chemistry major. Picking up the cello for the first time in fourth grade, Lucas began his study under Mrs. Kristin Palombit and later with Mr. David Szepessy. Besides the cello, Lucas can be found playing Ultimate Frisbee or on side quests with his friends. Lucas would like to thank his WWP teachers Mr. Pugh, Mr. Jones & Ms. Zhang, and Mr. Oettle; his quartet members; and his parents for their continued support. YOCJ has been a constant in Lucas's life since fifth grade, and he most enjoyed being the principal cellist on the 2024 international tour to Austria.

Lilah Jacome will be graduating from Princeton Day School and plans to pursue her interest in Neuroscience and Sociology at her prospective college. Lilah was introduced to the viola in the fourth grade, and now studies under Paul Manulick. Lilah joined YOCJ in tenth grade and is happy to be part of a group of musicians that were passionate about playing their instruments. In addition to being a member of YOCJ, Lilah plays in a string quartet and her school's chamber music group for school events. She attributes her achievements and perseverance to her amazing music teachers both inside and outside of school who were passionate about music and were patient with her development. Lilah will continue to look for opportunities to play and further develop her musical ability in her future endeavors.

Konnor Lee is a senior at Montgomery High School. He started playing violin in fourth grade following in the footsteps of his parents, both violinists, who encouraged him to start playing. Since then, he has studied with various private teachers, including Anne Ku, Ingrid Tang, and Ji Hyun Kim and has been a member of YOCJ since eighth grade. Despite many amazing memories, his favorite has to be performing Concerto for My Family with Ranaan Meyer on his 16th birthday. Konnor is also a member of his school orchestra and a part of Montgomery's orchestra council. Outside of orchestra, he also plays the piano, recently passing the RCM Level 10 Piano Exam. In his free time, he likes to beat his family in Nintendo Switch games, eat all kinds of food, and play sports with his dad and brother. He would

Pro Arte Orchestra & Wind Symphony

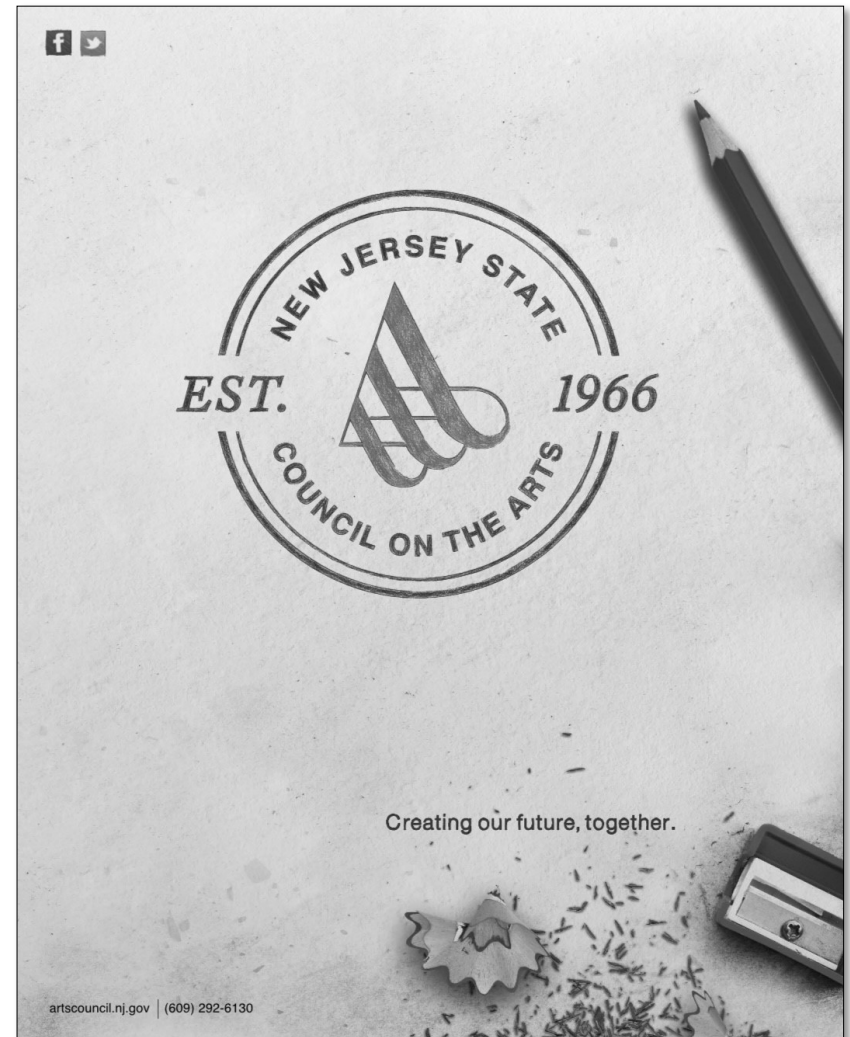
Scott Collins & Phillip Pugh, Conductors

October

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Overture to Zampa

Ferdinand Hérold (1791-1833)



Congratulations 2025-2026 Region & All State members!

Aakanksha Talapaneni, Clarinet, Region High School Band
Aiden Ni, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Alexander Detherage, Viola, Region Intermediate Chamber Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Alma Bahk, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra
Anbini Adhimoolam, Percussion, Region High School Percussion Ensemble
Arsh Mehan, Viola, Region High School Orchestra
Arya Phirke, Saxophone, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Ava Esser, Trombone, Region Intermediate Band, Region II NJAJE Junior Jazz Ensemble
Ayush Srivastava, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band
Brianna Gibson, Clarinet, Region High School Band & Orchestra, All State High School Band & Orchestra
Ceilidh Manigrasso, Cello, Region High School Orchestra
Christian Epps, Percussion, Region High School Percussion Ensemble
Christopher Assiamua, Bassoon, Region Intermediate Band
Claire Hodgson, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Dan Ruzicka, Saxophone, All State High School Orchestra
Dylan Dell Beni, Saxophone, Region High School Band
Emma Anam, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Emma Song, Oboe, Region Intermediate Band
Eric Xu, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Eshaan Hebbbar, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Esther Adigun, Flute, Region Intermediate Band
Ethan De La Garza, French Horn, Region High School Band, All State High School Band & Orchestra
Henry Toeffcher, Cello, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
James Yong, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Jason Shi, Percussion, Region High School Orchestra
Kaylyn Eswine, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Kiran Patibanda, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band
Leon Sato, Clarinet, Region High School Band
Mahd Shabab, Flute, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Maia Pai, Saxophone, Region High School Band
Maximus Chua, Saxophone, Region High School Band
Moinak Pal, Bassoon, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Natalie Cheng, Violin, Region High School Orchestra
Neel Kamath, French Horn, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Nevin Benjamin, Viola, Region Intermediate Orchestra
Olivia Swarup, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra
Parth Sharma, Violin, Region High School Orchestra
Prisha Bagchi, Violin, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Rayan Das, Trumpet, Region Intermediate Band
Saish Nagnur, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band
Samuel Adigun, Trombone, Region Intermediate Band
Sebastian Grassi, Saxophone, Region Intermediate Band
Shaarav Vardhan, Clarinet, Region Intermediate Band
Sharvil Srinivasan, Trombone, Region High School Band, Region High School Orchestra
Shaswat Senthilkumar, Flute, Region High School Band
Silvano Massa, Clarinet, Region High School Band
Sophie Kim, Flute, Region High School Band
Stella Evanini, Violin, Region Intermediate Orchestra, All State Intermediate Orchestra
Walker Pella-Woo, Clarinet, Region High School Band, All State High School Band
Wallace Snow, Double Bass, Region High School Orchestra, All State High School Orchestra
Yashanth Logaraj, Violin, Region High School Orchestra

SENIOR BIOGRAPHIES

Amogh Basker is a senior at Central Jersey College Prep Charter School in Somerset, NJ, and will be attending Georgia Tech this fall to study Computer Science. His musical journey began in third grade when he took up the flute under the guidance of jazz musician Julian Pressley, later furthering his studies with Sarah Carrier. Additionally, Amogh has studied Indian Classical Carnatic music since sixth grade under BV Balasai, and joined YOCJ in 2023. Outside of music, he enjoys painting and basketball. Amogh is deeply grateful to his parents and mentors for encouraging him to keep music a meaningful part of his life. His most cherished YOCJ memory is the orchestra's tour to Austria, where he explored Europe for the first time and made several long lasting memories.

Natalie Cheng is a senior at Montgomery High School and plans to attend Binghamton University in the fall, where she will study Business Administration. She began playing the violin at age nine and joined YOCJ in eighth grade after participating in the Summer Chamber Music Camp. Beyond YOCJ, Natalie serves as the Associate Director of Helping Harmony, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free instruments and music lessons to underserved communities across New Jersey. Through this role, she combines her love of music with a commitment to expanding access to the arts. Some of her favorite YOCJ memories include performing in masterclasses with her string quartet and sharing laughter during rehearsals.

Preeti Cyrus has played violin for nine years, four of them in YOCJ. She studies with Ray Demski and has been Lawrence High School's concertmaster for all four years of high school. She is her school's Tri-M music honors society president and created an honors orchestra program at Lawrence High School. Outside of music Preeti enjoys debate and mock trial. She plans to attend Lafayette College and will major in government and law. She's grateful for her time in YOCJ and would like to thank all of her teachers, family, and friends for supporting her.

Alexander Peter Fiszer Alexander Peter Fiszer currently attends Liberty University Online High School and has been a member of YOCJ since fall 2024. He is excited that he will be studying cello performance at the Manhattan School of Music/Juilliard this fall. Alexander began playing the cello at age six and has been privileged to train under accomplished cellists like Evangeline Benedetti, Mark Churchill, Uri Vardi, Minna Rose Chung, Susan Moses Bloom, Kevin Krentz, and David Szepessy. He has participated in the Sphinx Performance Academy summer program for the past six years and has attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Alexander has many awards under his belt, winning second place at Madrid's Nebrija University and in the Radda International Competition. He has also been a first place winner in the International Academy of Music Competition in Italy and in 2025, he placed second in the Opus Competition. In addition to his YOCJ Concerto Competition selection he was also selected for the concerto competition for the Summit Symphony and received third place

Violin I

Prisha Bagchi **
 Natalie Cheng
 Caden Co
 Advait Ghantasala
 Konnor Lee
 Nishant Vasanth
 Sloka Vendra
 Harish Vijayaraghavan
 Kyson Zhou

Violin II

Preeta Cyrus
 Gian Michael Diaz
 Lasindu Gunasekara*
 Yafei Lei
 Roshan Nankani
 Ananya Samavedam
 Jacob Toledo
 Karan Vijayakumar

Viola

Kaushal Chikka
 Arsh Mehan *
 Arad Mirmadjlessi
 Arnav Nair
 Ranvir Singh
 Eshan Yalla

Cello

Nithya Balaguru
 Alexander Fiszer *
 Raghav Gnanasabapathy Kiruthika
 Lucas Horowitz
 Riley Leung
 Ceilidh Manigrasso
 Cassidy Shea
 Sophie Wang

Double Bass

Wallace Snow *
 Olivia Swarup

Flute

Sneha Anand
 Amogh Basker
 Hamsini Mettu
 Anya Patel *
 Mahd Shabab

Piccolo

Amogh Basker
 Mahd Shabab

Oboe

Diya Chowdhury
 Lipi Kothavade
 Mihika Srivastava *
 Barbara Witmer &

Clarinet

Brianna Gibson *
 Silvano Massa
 Sachi Nagabhairava
 Walker Pella-Woo
 Leon Sato
 Maya Shue
 Pranav Yogeswaran

Bassoon

Moinak Pal *
 Zachary Feingold #

French Horn

Ethan De La Garza
 Neel Kamath *
 Audree Oh
 Jonathan Clark #

Trumpet

Joseph Cridge *
 Maia Hicks
 James Yin
 Rachel Zoda

Trombone

Gyan Chande
 Ava Esser
 Sharvil Srinivasan *

Tuba

Genevieve Blesch #

Percussion

Anbini Adhimoolam
 Christian Epps
 Rohan Khanna
 Somya Mittal

Harp

Frances Duffy #

Piano

Akiko Hosaki #

** = Concertmaster

* = Principal

& = YOCC Staff

= PSO Musician

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Saxophone Choir

Dr. Jordan Smith, Conductor

Saxophone Quartet
mvt. IV

Philip Glass (b. 1937)

Precipice
I. Emerging

Brandon Shen (b. 2006)

*World Premiere of new version for the YOJ Saxophone Choir

Meditation

Mark Alan Taggart (b. 1956)

Riptide
I. The Calm

Dan Ruzicka (b. 2008)

II. Surge
III. Rampage
IV. Aftermath

*World Premiere performance, Dedicated to the YOJ Saxophone Choir.

**Conducted by Student Conductor and Composer, Dan Ruzicka

Sopranino Saxophone
Dylan Dell Beni *

Alto Saxophone
Reagan Alphonso

Tenor Saxophone
Joseph Day, III

Soprano Saxophone
Dylan Dell Beni
Tyler Jacome
Ryan Yang

Sanjana Bellur
Toorjo Bhattacharya *
Kyle Chen
Maximus Chua
Zachary Cruz
Aditya Kaushik
Rishik Pannala
Aarav Patel
Arya Phirke
Vikunth Sridhar
Akshita Vashisht
Arpan Vijay *
Edward Volkov

Aarav Rohatgi
Dan Ruzicka *
Sia Satish
Shaiv Vardhan

Baritone Saxophone
Julianne Lunsford
Maia Pai
Nicholas Scarpa
Anagha Vinod

Bass Saxophone
Aidan Ni

* = YOJ Saxophone
Quartet member

Symphonic Orchestra

Kenneth T. Bean, Conductor

Overture to Candide

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Concerto for Cello & Orchestra
I. Allegro

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Alexander Fiszer, Cello
Senior Concerto Competition Winner

The Firebird Suite — 1919

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

3. Demonic Dance of King Kastchei
4a. Berceuse — Lullaby
4b. Final



*Congratulations
Class of 2026!*