

MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

– 2019 – CONDUCTOR & INSTRUMENTALIST BIOGRAPHIES

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2019 Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival

Conductor & Instrumentalist Biographies

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CONDUCTORS

William Bewley (1st year, bass) started conducting at 15 years of age at the Cannon Music Festival where he studied conducting with Dr. James Anderson. In high school, He studied conducting with John Gordon Ross and bass with Paul Sharpe before attending East Carolina University where he received a bachelors degree in music performance studying bass under Leonid Finkelshteyn and conducting under Dr. Jorge Richter. In addition to his bachelors degree, William received an advance performance certificate in bass performance from East Carolina and his M.M. in orchestral conducting from Southern Illinois University. During his time at Southern Illinois University, William studied under Monteux alumnus Edward Benyas, and held the positions of associate conductor and chief of orchestra staff. When he's not in rehearsal, William enjoys walking his dog Jesse, riding his motorcycle and watching The Office.

Daniel Feng (2nd year, piano) is a prolific pianist and conductor, he is currently the Music Director of International Chamber Orchestra of America (ICOA). Their highlighted concert, New World, New Music, features Feng's commission of Bruce Adolphe integrated new work Dvorshock, as well as violinist Kevin Lin, co-leader of the London Philharmonic. As guest conductor, Feng recently conducted Copland's Appalachian Spring with the Martha Graham Dance Company's Graham 2 at their Christmas concert. Feng's concert appearances include Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, Young Artist Showcase at WQXR. Feng focuses his efforts towards the greater integration of classical music into our daily lives, and he's dedicated to reinventing the public's relationship with classical music.

Tonatiuh Garcia (3rd year, viola) is equally skilled as a solo, chamber, orchestral violist, and conductor. He has been a member of the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra since August 2002. As an orchestral violist, Tonatiuh has performed with the Youth Chamber Orchestra of Veracruz, National Symphony in Mexico, Philharmonic Orchestra of Acapulco, Academy Orchestra from Gran Theater of Liceu (Barcelona), and National Youth Catalonia Orchestra. Tonatiuh earned his Bachelor of Music degree from University of Veracruz. He holds a Master of Music degree in Conducting from Texas Tech University where he studied with David Becker, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from TTU, where he studied under Renee Skerik, Katrin Meidell, and Kimberly Sparr. Tonatiuh received postgraduate degrees from Liceu Conservatory of Barcelona, before pursuing his Master of Musicology at University of Granada concentrating in Cultural Politics and Management at the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico.

Shane Gillen (1st year, bassoon) is a bassoonist and conductor from Tampa, Florida. Shane graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2018 with a BFA in Bassoon Performance and currently attends the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University as a master's student in bassoon. As a conductor, Shane worked extensively with the Carnegie Mellon University Repertoire Orchestra in addition to pursuing his own

personal projects under the study of Daniel Nesta Curtis. As a bassoonist, Shane has attended the Aspen Music Festival as well as played in the AIMS in Graz Orchestra (Austria). His primary bassoon teachers are Benjamin Kamins and Nancy Goeres.

Eric Goldberg (2nd year, percussion; 1st year, conductor) is a classical percussionist and aspiring conductor and educator that enjoys performing in a wide array of settings and creating opportunities to collaborate with others. As an orchestral musician, he has performed as principal percussionist of the Britten-Pears Orchestra in the United Kingdom for multiple seasons and has also appeared at the Miami, Edinburgh, and Lucerne summer festivals. Possessing a special passion for modern and contemporary performance, he has appeared at international solo competitions at TROMP Percussion Eindhoven and Northwestern University, and enjoys programming concerts featuring composers such as George Crumb, Paul Lansky, Elliot Carter, Iannis Xenakis, and David Lang. As a conductor, he has studied at several workshops and has had the chance to conduct the Chamber Orchestra of New York and the Lviv Philharmonic in Ukraine. This year, he founded a Chicago-based ensemble called the Millennial Chamber Players which gave its debut concert in May after a successful crowdfunding campaign. He began conducting studies with Maureen Hynes at Manhattan School of Music (MSM) and continued with Mark Shapiro at the Juilliard Evening Division. He received his Bachelor of Music in percussion performance from MSM where he studied with Christopher Lamb, Duncan Patton, She-e Wu, and Kyle Zerna. He will begin graduate studies in music education at the VanderCook College of Music in the fall. Apart from music, Eric's passions include the other performing arts, fitness, mental health awareness, LGBTQ equality, and dogs.

Milan Milisavljevic (1st year, viola) is currently Principal Viola with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He is considered one of the leading violists of the young generation. The Strad magazine described his playing as "very imaginative, with a fine, cultured tone", with Milan's recording of A. Khachaturian's Solo Viola Sonata hailed as "definitive". Milan has studied with James Dunham at Rice University, as well as with Atar Arad, Nobuko Imai, Paul Neubauer and Jutta Puchhammer. He has appeared as soloist with the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Aspen Sinfonia, the Belgrade Philharmonic and others. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the Guarneri, Mendelssohn, St. Petersburg and Brentano String Quartets. Milan is also a member of the viola faculty at the Mannes School of Music in New York.

Joseph Morag (2nd year, violin) was acclaimed by the New York Times for his "gorgeous tone," and "physically expressive cues," and has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral violinist. Joseph has studied conducting under Joshua Gersen at the New York Youth Symphony's Apprentice Conducting Program, Victor Yampolsky at the Wintergreen Music Festival, and Michael Jinbo at the Monteux Winter Workshop. As a violinist, Joseph has appeared as soloist and concertmaster with the Vancouver Symphony, Columbia University Orchestra, Empire Chamber Orchestra, New York Youth Symphony, and National Orchestral Institute Festival Orchestra. Currently, Joseph plays with the Chelsea Symphony, Montclair Orchestra, and Symphoria.

Hannah Reitz (2nd year, violin) enjoys a varied career as a performer, teacher, and conductor. In demand as an educator, she has worked for years as a string coach, adjudicator and conductor with various young string symphonies including Minnesota All-State Orchestra, St. Olaf Music Camp Orchestra, the Lincoln Youth Symphony, UNH Youth Symphony, and Seacoast Youth Symphony Orchestra. Currently Hannah is a Lecturer at the University of New Hampshire where she teaches violin and viola, Assistant Director of the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestra, and private studio teacher. Hannah graduated with departmental distinction from St. Olaf College in 2010 (B.M. Violin Performance) where she served as a multi-year concertmaster of the acclaimed St. Olaf Orchestra. In May 2013 she graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (M.M. Violin Performance), and in May she also graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Hampshire with an M.A. in conducting. Hannah has been a conductor and violinist at the Pierre Monteux School, a member of the AIMS in Graz Festival Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with Charleston Symphony and Symphony New Hampshire.

Kyle Ritenauer (8th year, percussion) is happy to be back for his 8th Summer at the Pierre Monteux School. This season Kyle has appeared as guest conductor with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra leading 5 full production performances of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*. He also led two performances with Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect featuring Charles Ives' Symphony no. 3 'The Camp Meeting'. Most notably, Kyle stepped in with 3 minutes notice to conduct the full production ballet of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* with the Juilliard Orchestra in performance at Lincoln Center. In June, Kyle made his debut in Beijing, China at the Super Cello Festival leading two performances consisting of cello concerti performed by some of the lead cellists in our field. As a cover conductor Kyle has worked with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and Symphony New Hampshire. Kyle just completed his first at the Juilliard School and is a student of Maestro David Robertson.

Kin (Desmond) Siu (1st year, violin) is a Hong Kong-American conductor and violinist. He holds the position of Music Director and Music Coordinator for the nonprofit organization Arizona Pro Arte. A Master of Music graduate of Northern Arizona University, Desmond served as Assistant Director of the NAU Orchestras while working as guest Music Director with the Opera Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Desmond's past positions include Assistant Conductor positions for the organization Orchestra Northern Arizona, the Skidmore Orchestra, and Music Director of the Skidmore Chamber Orchestra. As a violinist, Desmond currently plays with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and Prescott's new orchestra, Arizona Philharmonic.

Benjamin Stayner (2nd year, cello; 1st year, conductor) is a conductor, cellist, composer, and pianist from Western NY. He has conducted the Hartt Orchestra and the Foot in the Door Ensemble, as well as the String Orchestra of Brooklyn in a masterclass with Tito Muñoz. In 2014, he won a TANY Award for Outstanding Musical Direction of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Theatre in the Mist. As a strong advocate for new music, he has commissioned many new works for himself, as well as his cello and double bass duet, Duo716. He conducted the premiere of his piece, *Wake Up!* for solo percussionist and chamber ensemble, this last March with the Foot in the Door

Ensemble. He also music directs musical theatre productions throughout the year. Benjamin recently finished undergraduate studies in music theory and composition at The Hartt School. He will continue on to Ithaca College this fall to pursue a Master's degree in conducting, while serving as a graduate assistant for the Opera and Musical Theatre department.

Emma Strub (2nd year, viola; 1st year, conductor) first attended the Monteux School in 2016 as a violist. She received her undergraduate degree in viola performance from the University of Memphis, and her masters in viola performance from Rutgers University. While Strub was completing her viola degrees, she took conducting lessons and created informal orchestras for herself to conduct. In 2018 she attended the Conductor's Retreat at Medomak, where she studied with Ken Kiesler. Strub now lives in Austin, Texas, where she is a prolific freelancer.

Martin Vaillancourt (1st year, violin) is a violinist and conductor currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in music history at McGill University. Martin studies violin with concert master of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, Richard Roberts, and conducting with Maestro Alexis Hauser. In addition to the Pierre Monteux School, he has participated in a number of conducting festivals such as the Vienna Summer Music Festival, Beyond the Baton with Diane Wittry, and will partake in the International Conducting Workshop Festival with Larry Rachleff later this summer. Martin has played in many Montreal based orchestras such as the Orchestre Philharmonique et Choeur des Melomanes and L'Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke. Martin loves to act and sing and is music director of one of McGill's top a capella groups Effusion.

Matthew Woodard (2nd year, violin; 1st year, conductor) is a composer-performer whose varied interests have sparked a diverse creative output. Matthew began his musical career as a violinist, and appeared as soloist most recently with The Orchestra Now of Bard College, with whom he performed Ligeti's Violin Concerto. As a composer, Matthew's works have been performed at Bard College, the New England Conservatory, the Rivers School, Rice University, and Yale University, as well as on the radio and television program From the Top. Recent collaborations include new music for dance with the Yale Undergraduate Theater/Dance Studies Department at the Yale University Art Gallery to commemorate its former director Jock Reynolds. Matthew also frequently collaborates musically with the Yale School of Drama, and has performed in two Yale Cabaret productions. Matthew has attended many summer festivals, and in August 2018 traveled to Switzerland to attend the Lucerne Festival Academy. Matthew earned his Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music in May. On graduating he was awarded the Broadus Earle Prize for excellence in violin, and an Alumni Association Prize for contributing positively to the general life of the school. Matthew holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees from Bard College and Conservatory, where he also studied French Literature.

Xuecong (Sunny) Xia (1st year, violin) currently serves as assistant conductor at the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra and Opera Theater while pursuing a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting and Violin Performance. Additionally, Xuecong makes regular appearances at the New Music Series directed by Dr. Keith Fitch at CIM. Xuecong has worked with many prominent conductors around the globe,

including Kenneth Kiesler, JoAnn Falletta, Romolo Gessi, Markand Thakar, Peter Stark, Brett Mitchell, and Jørgen Fuglebak. As an accomplished violinist, Xuecong has served as concertmaster of the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra and performed as a soloist with orchestras in China and Australia

Spencer Zembrodt (1st year, percussion) is a conductor, composer, and percussionist. He was Assistant Conductor of the Shippensburg Symphony Festival from 2014-18, working alongside his teacher, Robert Trevino. He has conducted the Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra in Orchard Park, New York, and the Seven Hills Sinfonietta in Cincinnati, Ohio. He earned a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the State University of New York at Fredonia, where he was Assistant Conductor of Orchestras and studied with Dr. David Rudge (a Monteux alumnus). Mr. Zembrodt's compositions are represented by Washington Street Publishing. He currently resides in Florence, Kentucky and works as a freelancer.

CONDUCTING ASSOCIATE

Tiffany Lu (2012-2015, violin; 3rd year Conducting Associate) has just completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Maryland. She returns this summer for her third year as Conducting Associate at the Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival. Tiffany will soon enter her fourth season as Music Director of the Wilmington Community Orchestra in Wilmington, DE and her fifth year as assistant conductor of the Capital City Symphony in Washington, D.C. Tiffany is passionate about teaching in all contexts, from orchestral rehearsal to private conducting and violin instruction as well as classroom conducting. This fall she will join the core faculty at the Music School of Delaware as conducting instructor, violinist, and librarian. She will also work with the Prince Georges' Philharmonic as assistant conductor.

From 2015-2019, Tiffany was music director of the Maryland University Repertoire Orchestra, and assistant conductor of the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra as well as the Maryland Opera Studio, where she presented Weill's *Zaubernacht* in spring 2019. Tiffany has been cover conductor with Symphony NH, Georgetown University, Cornell University, and Princeton Symphony; she has also served as producer on recordings with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Smithsonian Chamber Players. Previous positions also include cover conductor and principal librarian at the 2016 and 2017 National Orchestral Institute, and conductor of the Young Artists' orchestra at the DC Youth Orchestra Program.

Tiffany has performed in master classes led by Jeffery Meyer, Mark Stringer, Carl St. Clair, Alan Gilbert, Larry Rachleff, David Effron, Lior Shambadal, Mark Shapiro, Marin Alsop, and Victor Yampolsky. She regularly performs as a section violinist with Annapolis Symphony and The Florida Orchestra, and enjoys teaching, writing, and cooking.

2018 Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival

INSTRUMENTALISTS

FLUTE

Daniel Prevost (1st year) is a freelance flutist currently active in the Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Daniel graduated in 2016 from George Mason University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, studying under the tutelage of Mrs. Julianna Nickel. Most Recently, Daniel has studied with Mrs. Alice Weinreb of the National Symphony Orchestra and Dr. Troy Paulantonio of the United States Army Field Band. Daniel regularly performs with the Washington Sinfonietta and was featured as a quarterfinalist in the National Flute Association's Young Artists competition in 2018.

John Ray (1st year) is a flutist currently in his junior year at the Hartt School in pursuit of a Bachelor's of music under the study of professor Janet Arms. He has been awarded prizes in competitions including the 2015 New Jersey Flute Society's annual concerto competition, where he received second place, and was also awarded the 2015 Cynthia Platt Scholarship from the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and proceeded to open one of their concerts as a soloist. He was also a second-place winner of the 2018 Great Composers Competition Rising Talents of Americas competition. John has performed in masterclasses for many world-class flutists including Emmanuel Pahud, Jeffrey Khaner, Elizabeth Rowe, Carol Wincenc, Keith Underwood, Tara O'connor, Bart Feller, Cynthia Meyers, and more. Outside of the western Boehm model flute, John has always been interested in flutes and recorders of different cultures and time-periods. He recently took up the chinese Dizi and will be offering lessons for the 2019-2020 school year at the Hartt School Community Division.

Erika Rohrberg (2nd year) is currently pursuing Bachelor of Music degrees in Flute Performance and Music Management at The Hartt School, where she is a student of Janet Arms. While at school, she is an active participant in ensembles such as Foot in the Door, the Hartt Orchestra, and the Hartt Wind Ensemble. She is a current member of Performance 20/20, Hartt's intensive chamber music program; her involvement in chamber music has included duos with percussion and guitar, trios, flute quartets, and most recently the Performance 20/20 Woodwind Quintet. This past fall, she was also selected as a finalist in Hartt's annual Concerto Competition. She has performed in masterclasses for many well known soloists and orchestral musicians, including Stefán Höskuldsson, Cynthia Meyers, and Emmanuel Pahud. Erika is currently the undergraduate assistant for the Hartt flute studio, where she serves as Studio Manager. A native of Massachusetts, Erika enjoys coaching archery, reading, and running in her spare time.

McKena Stickney (1st year) is a Second year Bachelor of Music student at the Eastman School of Music, studying flute under Bonita Boyd. Having started flute at the age of 10, she quickly began lessons and became involved in as many musical groups

as possible. These included the Rochester Philharmonic youth orchestra where she was principal flutist for two years and was featured in a concerto, the New York conference all state wind ensemble, and the All Eastern band. Her future goals are to work with instrument manufacturing and repair while maintaining a flourishing private studio, and an orchestral presence.

OBOE

Daniel Graber (1st year) is an oboist born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Daniel began playing and studying oboe at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts where he spent many of his afternoons practicing and taking classes for theory, musicianship, and performance. While attending NOCCA, Daniel worked with many well known musicians. In 2013, Daniel began performing as a freelance oboe player in the northeast Ohio area. He has just finished a master's degree in Oboe Performance at Lynn University, studying under the former principal of the New York Philharmonic, Joseph Robinson. Daniel currently resides in Miami, where he will begin his doctoral studies in the Fall.

Shoshana Klein (1st year) is an oboist in the process of moving to Montreal to start a master's degree at McGill University. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 with a degree in music and psychology, and in May 2018 with an advanced musical studies certificate. Shoshana is particularly interested in contemporary applications and social impacts of music. With a specific interest in new music, she has attended the Fresh Inc and Bang on a Can Festivals, and performed dozens of world premieres and original compositions, including performances at venues in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, North Adams, Massachusetts; and New York City.

Sarah Minneman (1st year) is currently pursuing her doctorate in oboe performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Mark Ostoich and Dwight Parry. She has recently performed with the Queen City Chamber Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Fresno Philharmonic, Riverside Philharmonic, and Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra. She holds an M.M. in Oboe Performance from the University of Southern California where she studied with Allan Vogel, David Weiss, Marion Kuszyk, and Joel Timm and was a member of the USC Scholarship Woodwind Quintet. She also holds a B.M. in Oboe Performance and a B.A. in Germanic Studies from the University of Maryland where she studied with Mark Hill.

CLARINET

Abbegail Atwater (1st year) is a recent graduate of Lawrence University where she earned a Bachelor of Music studying under David Bell. Abbey has had numerous musical accomplishments including solo performances with the Waukesha Area Symphonic Band in May 2015 and the Lawrence University Wind Ensemble in May 2019. She was also runner-up in the Music Teachers National Association Young Artists Competition in 2016 and was a finalist in the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2017 and 2018. In June 2016, Abbey attended the

Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy. She has held principal and Eb clarinet positions in Lawrence University's Wind Ensemble and Orchestra and served as co-principal of the Waukesha Area Chamber Orchestra from 2012-2017. Additionally, Abbey has performed in master classes for renowned artists such as Julian Bliss, David Shifrin, and Imani Winds. This fall, Abbey will begin her M.M. in clarinet performance at Temple University where she will study with Paul Demers of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Zachary Neville (1st year) has had an enjoyable career as a performing musician. Hailing from the rural coalfields of central West Virginia, Zackary was a member of the West Virginia Youth Symphony, with whom he would tour Central and Eastern Europe in 2012. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Performance from Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, West Virginia in 2016, where he won the School of Music's Biannual Honor's Recital Competition that same year. While at Alderson Broaddus, Zackary performed with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra as a substitute. He earned his Masters of Music in Music Performance from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2019. He is currently earning an Advanced Music Studies diploma in Orchestra Clarinet Performance at Carnegie Mellon. While there, he would perform with the CMU Philharmonic, the Wind Ensemble, and numerous chamber groups, and competed in the school's annual Silberman Chamber Music competition. A keen advocate of contemporary music, Zackary also performed with the CMU Contemporary Music Ensemble under the direction of Monteux alumnus Daniel Nesta Curtis, also serving as his graduate assistant. He was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society in 2019. Zackary currently lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his girlfriend Kelsey Bosley. He is an avid hiker, environmentalist, and a dedicated fan of the Pirates, Penguins, and Steelers.

Charles du Preez (1st year) hails from rural Nebraska, where he grew up next to a cornfield. He received his MFA in Music Performance from the California Institute of the Arts, and is currently pursuing his DMA in Clarinet Performance with an individualized minor in Electro-Acoustic Music and Multimedia at the University of Arizona, where he studies with Dr. Jackie Glazier and serves as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for the clarinet studio. Other activities include performing with the Tucson Symphony, the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra, and the Arizona Symphonic Winds. Recent endeavors include competing as a finalist in the International Clarinet Association Orchestral Audition Competition (Ostend, Belgium, 2018), the San Luis Potosi Opera Festival (Mexico, 2018), and performing at the American Single Reed Summit (2018). When not doing music, Charles practices qi gong and yoga, enjoys running and triathlon, and is an ACSM Certified Personal Trainer.

BASSOON

Alex Brake (1st year) is a recently-graduated student from Fairfield, Illinois. He attended The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying under Timothy McGovern. During his time he played with both the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony and performed at the 2019 CDBNA National Convention with the latter group. He has also performed with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra,

Sinfonia da Camera, and Knox-Galesburg Symphony. Alex has participated in summer festivals including Madeline Island Chamber Music, Eastern Music Festival, and Monteux School and Music Festival. Starting in the Fall of 2019, Alex will be attending DePaul University pursuing a Master's in Bassoon Performance.

Shane Gillen see *Conductor Biographies*.

Zachary Elmore (1st year) is a Cleveland native, holding a B.M. in Music Education and a M.M. in Bassoon Performance both from Kent State University, where he studied under Mark DeMio. Zachary has performed as a member of many regional ensembles, including the Cleveland Winds and the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra. An avid educator as well as a performer, Zachary has a healthy and growing studio, and frequently assists in local schools to help bring attention to the increasing rarity of the bassoon."

HORN

Chase DeCarlo (1st year) is a winner of the FSCAA Concerto Competition, the College of Central Florida Concerto Competition, and a finalist in the FSYO Concerto Competition. He was accepted into the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra in 2017, and was featured as a soloist in the Jacksonville Winter Symposium performing the Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1. Chase is a recipient of the Harold Schwartz Scholarship, the FSCAA Scholarship, and the Grat L. Rosazza Scholarship and attended the Miami Music Festival in 2018. Chase attended the College of Central Florida and is currently completing his undergraduate studies in French Horn Performance at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music under Gregory Miller.

Noah Fotis (1st year) is a freelance hornist from Virginia operating in Connecticut. Currently studying with Barbara Hill at The Hartt School, he graduated *cum laude* from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2018 with a BM in Horn Performance under Patrick G. Smith. His passion for performing is equally divided among the innumerable avenues – orchestral, chamber, theatre, solo, etc. When he is not on (or below) stage, he enjoys reading with his cat, Samantha, and fishing.

Sada Harris (1st year) is a graduate student in Music Performance at Rutgers University, and she completed her undergraduate studies at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. Sada has performed with the Columbus Symphony, Lagrange Symphony, Springer Opera House, Bravura Philharmonic, and Symphony in C. She has previously participated in the Hot Springs Music Festival and the Northwestern University Peak Performance Horn Symposium. Her teachers include Richard Deane, Dr. Natalie Higgins, and Anna Dodd. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga and reading.

Matthew Ropa (3rd year) is a southwest Florida native with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Central Florida and a recent Masters graduate of the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, where he studied with former American Brass Quintet hornist David Wakefield. He has performed with various orchestras around central Florida and Connecticut, as well as been in attendance at the Aspen

Music Festival.

Stefan Williams (1st year) is a graduate student at the Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts under the tutelage of Leelanee Sterrett. Previously, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, where he was a student of Dr. Jean Martin-Williams. Stefan has previously attended the Brevard Music Center and Sewanee Summer Music festivals. His other teachers include Richard Deane and Joy Branagan.

TRUMPET

Carla Lamb (1st year) is the trumpet and brass faculty member at the John G. Shedd Institute of the Arts in Eugene, Oregon. She performs regularly with the Rogue Valley and Corvallis Symphonies, and in Broth; an R&B band which she also manages. She has also performed with the Nashville Philharmonic, Nashville Collegiate Orchestra, Astoria Music Festival, Orchestra Next, and Atlantic Music Festival as a Resident Artist Fellow. As an administrator she has worked at Chamber Music Northwest, Orchestra Next, and the Jacksonville Symphony. She earned her B.M. at Belmont University and M.M. at the University of Oregon. Her teachers include Jim Daniel, Dr. Joel Treybig, Brian McWhorter, and Sarah Viens. This summer she looks forward to performing at the Pierre Monteux Festival in Maine and with Broth at the International Pop Festival in Portland, Oregon.

Nicholas Slaggert (1st year) from Evanston Illinois, and he has studied at DePaul University in Chicago since 2015. His teachers have included Bill Denton, Matt Lee, and Billy Gerlach. In June 2019, he was appointed to a position with the Helena Symphony in Helena Montana. Outside of trumpet, Nicholas has a passion for the outdoors, environmental issues, and sci-fi. Additionally, Nicholas enjoys teaching, both through maintaining his own studio, and through volunteering with the Chicago Arts and Music Project.

Emily Tourgeman (1st year) is a 22-year-old trumpet player from Staten Island, New York. She just completed her dual major bachelors degree in Music Education and Trumpet Performance from the Hartt School in West Hartford, Connecticut where she studied with Professor Phil Snedecor. Emily began her trumpet studies in 2006 when she was in fifth grade, and has been playing ever since. Her playing features many different styles and genres from orchestral, to jazz and commercial style musics. Her goal is to be a freelance musician in the New York City area where she plans to play in many different types of ensembles throughout her career. Emily will be starting her Master's degree in Trumpet Performance studying under Professor Mark Gould at Mannes, at The New School this fall. Aside from performing and teaching music, Emily also enjoys cooking and exploring her Israeli culture!

Justin Way (1st year) is a rising senior in the studio of Dr. Christopher Moore at Florida State University where he is completing his BM in Music Performance. Originally from Dauphin Island, Alabama, Justin is an active performer at FSU including 2 years as the principal trumpet in the University Philharmonia Orchestra and University Symphonic Band, his brass quintet, Shades of Brass, and the University Chamber Winds. Justin

also performs with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and the Columbus (Georgia) Symphony Orchestra. Justin is an avid SCUBA diver and has logged dives across the southeast and Central America.

TROMBONE

Kevin Casey (1st year) is a graduate student in Orchestral Performance at the Manhattan School of Music, and he completed his undergraduate studies at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. He has performed with the Columbus Symphony and the Lagrange Symphony, and he appears as a member of the Columbus State University Trombone Ensemble on their 2017 CD entitled "Full Tilt". Other recording credits with the ensemble include New York Philharmonic Bass Trombonist George Curran's 2017 CD entitled "Vital Signs" and Associate Principal Trombonist Colin Williams' 2019 CD entitled "Ash". His teachers include Joseph Vascik, Dr. Bradley Palmer, and Colin Williams.

Nathan Cooper (1st year) is one of four brothers and is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He attended West Chester University for his undergraduate studies and received his Master's Degree from the Eastman School of Music. He has attended the Summer Trombone Workshop at Temple University in 2014 and the Winter Trombone Workshop at Ithaca College in 2014 and 2017. He has also recently performed in Cleveland's Severance Hall with the Eastman Wind Ensemble. His private teachers include Larry Zalkind, Daniel Cherry, Haim Avitsur, John Swana, and Steven Shiffer.

BASS TROMBONE

Joseph Poole (1st year) is a native of Marietta, Georgia currently pursuing an Artist Diploma in Bass Trombone from Rutgers University. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from Kennesaw State University and a Master's Degree in Music Performance from Rutgers University. His primary teachers have been George Curran, Brian Hecht, and Dr. Tom Gibson. Mr. Poole enjoys playing in various genres and ensembles which recently have included the Eastern Wind Symphony, Bravura Philharmonic, and Royal Krunk Jazz Orkestra.

TUBA

Tyler Woodbury (1st year) is currently finishing his Bachelor's degree in Tuba Performance and Music Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A native of Chicopee, Massachusetts, he began studying with Dr. John Bottomley in 10th grade, who has been his primary teacher ever since. Tyler is an active musician in Western MA and beyond, notably playing on tours with the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra and a tour of Ireland with the UMass Wind Ensemble. Recently, he has been chosen as a semifinalist in the Leonard Falcone International Tuba Competition, where he will be competing against other tuba artists in August of 2019.

PERCUSSION

Dimitri Georgantonis (1st year) is currently a junior music education major at West Virginia University studying under Professor George Willis and Brian Wolfe. Previous to, Dimitri grew up in Rochester, NY where he graduated from East Rochester High School and studied privately under Ruth Cahn at the Eastman Community Music School. This past fall, Dimitri was appointed the Associate Teacher of Percussion of the WVU Community Music Program. At WVU, he is a part of the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Percussion Ensemble, Mountaineer Fifes and Drums, as well as an active member of NAFME. After finishing his Bachelor's degree, he plans on obtaining his Masters in Music Performance.

Eric Goldberg *see Conductor Biographies.*

Kyle Ritenauer *see Conductor Biographies.*

Spencer Zembrodt *see Conductor Biographies.*

HARP

PIANO

Samuel Chen *see Violin.*

Daniel Feng *see Conductor Biographies.*

VIOLIN

Rebin Ali (1st year) was born in the city of Suleimanya in the mountainous northern region of Kurdistan, Iraq. He studied at the College of Fine Arts of Salahaddin University in Erbil. He also studied at the Iraqi YES Academy with American Voices in 2009 and 2010. In the fall of 2010 Rebin was invited as a full-scholarship student to study Music and English at Saint Louis University. During the 2010-12 season he played in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Ward Stare, and studied violin with Marc Thayer. In 2011 Rebin was one of three featured soloists in a concert of Middle Eastern music sponsored by New England Conservatory in Boston. He has also been a guest artist in various concerts with the St. Louis Symphony's Community Partnership Program. Rebin has participated in music festivals such as Eastern Music festival, Bowdoin Music festival, Brevard Music Festival, and the Pheonix phest in Michigan. As a teacher, Rebin has taught in both the Illinois String Academy, and the Champaign school of music in Champaign-Urbana. His teachers include, Meghan Frievoegel, Stefan Milenkovich, Carolyn Hubel, and Marc Thayer. Rebin holds BM and MM degrees in violin performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Samuel Chen (1st year, piano/violin) is a senior at University of Hawaii at Manoa where he pursues a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. He won the Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition Young Artists at the state level in 2018, Hawaii Music Teachers Association Piano Competition High School division in 2014, the Morning Music Club Scholarship Competition in 2015, and the University of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2017. Samuel teaches piano and violin at the Waialae Arts School. Samuel currently studies with Dr. Thomas Yee for piano and Joseph Stepec for orchestral conducting.

Aina Delfin Roji (1st year, violin) from Puebla, Mexico, began violin lessons at age six with Irene Ortiz Beltrán. She has been a member of the Orquesta Filarmónica 5 de Mayo since 2013. Aina has performed with orchestras throughout Mexico and the United States, including the Boston Youth Philharmonic Orchestra of the New England Conservatory (under Benjamin Zander), the "Daniel Ayala" Youth Symphony (under Rey A. Conde Valdivia and Rubén Flores Hernández), and as a founding member of the Children's Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, which toured nationally. In 2005 and 2006, Aina was also selected as a member of the Annual International Youth Symphony hosted by the San Diego Youth Symphony. Aina holds violin performance and education degrees from the Escuela Municipal de Bellas Artes de la Carreras, and has taken classes from Juan Manuel Jiménez, Tibor Varga, and Christopher Wilshire.

Jonathan Kuehn (3rd year), baroque and modern violin, was born and raised in the Puget Sound region. He performs regularly with numerous orchestras in the area including the Seattle Philharmonic. Additionally, he was a founding member of the UW Baroque Ensemble as Principal Second Violin. Recently he served as guest concertmaster of the UW Campus Phil. He has played in masterclasses by Ming-Feng Hsin and Gabriel Lefkowitz. In 2018 he performed Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* alongside Ming-Feng Hsin. Currently he studies with Maria Larionoff. He holds a BS in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington and enjoys flying recreationally.

Tiffany Lu *see Conducting Associate.*

Joseph Morag *see Conductor Biographies.*

Hannah Reitz *see Conductor Biographies.*

Oscar Salinas (1st year) is from Monterrey, México. He began his musical studies at the age of 10 with Bozhidar Stoykov at the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey. He was a member of the OSIM (Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil y Juvenil de México) for two consecutive years. He participated and was a 3rd prize winner in the Concurso Nacional de Violín "Tomás Ruiz Ovalle" in Zacatecas 2014. He has taken masterclasses with Cuauhtémoc Rivera, Albert Markov, Milan Pa'la, Igor Petrushevsky among others. He is currently working towards a Bachelor of Music Degree in Violin Performance with Prof. Bozhidar Stoykov.

Kin (Desmond) Siu *see Conductor Biographies.*

Isaac Suarez (3rd year) was born in Monterrey Nuevo Leon. He began studying music at the age of 9 under the tutelage of Professor Lilia Naydenova. Later he was accepted in the Superior School of Music and Dance of Monterrey, beginning his formal studies at the age of 16 under the direction of Master Bozhidar Stoykov.

Isaac has taken master classes with teachers such as Albert Markov, David Mc Carroll, Cuauhtémoc Rivera, and Arón Bitrán, among others. He has performed in numerous venues in the city, was the winner of the soloists competition of the “Escuela Superior de Música” in 2011 and 2014, and in 2015 appeared as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of the “Escuela Superior de Música de Monterrey” at the National Conservatory of Mexico City. Currently Isaac is a member of the Symphony Orchestra of the University of Nuevo Leon. During his professional career he has worked with many chamber music groups, performing at festivals, chamber music concerts and chamber competitions in Mexico and internationally. In 2017 his quartet was winner of the Best Interpretation Award in the National Competition of “Latin American Quartet.”

Martin Vaillancourt *see Conductor Biographies.*

Chloe Wehner (1st year) is passionate about sharing her love of music by teaching, performing, and collaborating. Being a busy musician all throughout the year, she has attended many music festivals including Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute, Aria Academy, and AIMS music festival in Graz, Austria. Some of her professional experience includes playing in ensembles for the Rochester Association of Performing Arts, the Blackfriars Theatre, and the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. She received her Bachelor of Music in violin performance in May of 2019 from Baldwin Wallace University, and is continuing her studies by pursuing a Master's degree at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.

Matthew Woodard *see Conductor Biographies.*

Xuecong (Sunny) Xia *see Conductor Biographies.*

VIOLA

Tonatiuh Garcia *see Conductor Biographies.*

Milan Milisavljevic *see Conductor Biographies.*

Emma Strub *see Conductor Biographies.*

Rachael Szewc (2nd year) is currently pursuing a Masters in Viola Performance at Southern Illinois University under Prof. Michael Barta. She received her Bachelor's in Music Education and Performance from the University of Maine, where she studied with Dr. Anatole Wieck. Rachael regularly performs in orchestras, chamber groups and festivals throughout the country. She has participated in a variety of ensembles, including the Southern Illinois Music Festival, Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival, Paducah Symphony Orchestra, Bangor Symphony Orchestra, and Mainely Baroque. Rachael also has a strong interest in Baroque music and has attended workshops in the United States and Italy.

CELLO

Elena Alba Cristerna (1st year) is originally from the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in cello performance at the Music University of Nuevo León, where she is a student of Dr. José María. She is active in different chamber music ensembles such as quartets, duos, trios and chamber orchestra and has participated in different local orchestras. She is also currently a member of Sinfonietta orchestra at the university. When she is not playing, she enjoys taking walks and playing board games.

Max Hanks (2nd year), age 21, is a cellist from Long Island, New York. This past spring, Max graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a Bachelor's of Music in Cello Performance under the instruction of Regina Mushabac. While attending BW, Max had the opportunity to explore conducting, chamber music, and percussion in addition to his cello studies. Having completed Conducting Apprenticeships with Dr. Tiffany Chang and Dr. Soo Han, he conducted the BW Symphony Orchestra in the premier of student compositions. This fall, Max is looking forward to starting his Masters of Music at Hartt School of Music under the direction of Mihai Tetel.

Emily Kwak (1st year) studied with Jeffrey Solow at Temple University and Dr. Lawrence Stomberg at University of Delaware, where she also studied conducting informally with Dr. James Allen Anderson. She attended NOI, and served as Apprentice Conductor of Delaware County Symphony. A lifelong "Jersey-Delphian," Emily has performed at the Kimmel Center as a member of Temple University Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, the Carroll Family Irish Ensemble, and most recently during an (unsuccessful, yet highly rewarding!) audition for the Philadelphia Orchestra's substitute pool. She currently organizes concerts, studies jazz, and performs with the Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey.

Jack Peterson (1st year) began cello studies at age 13 under the tutelage of Professor Paul York at the University of Louisville School of Music in Louisville Kentucky. He attended the Youth Performing Arts School as an orchestral studies major and participated in a variety of summer institutes, some of which including the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival and Sewanee Summer Music Festival. Peterson went on to receive his undergraduate degree in Cello Performance from the Eastman School of Music where he studied under Steven Doane and Alan Harris and enjoyed frequent collaborations with the Ying Quartet, film music ensembles and a variety of new music ensembles. Currently based in Chicago, he frequently performs and records with indie bands such as The Phantom Broadcast, Fat Night, Fuzzy Poser and Poor Calvin and is a member of Champaign-based folk rock band Rebecca Rego and the Trainmen.

Christian Selig (1st year) began cello instruction at age 16 with Hamilton Cheifetz, and continued his studies with Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir and Eric Gaenslen at the University of Washington. He has attended the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz and the Marrowstone Music Festival on fellowship. Christian has participated in

masterclasses with musicians such as Efe Baltacigil, Yegor Dyachkov and Glenn Dicterow (as a member of the Daana Quartet). Christian works as a data scientist in Seattle, and enjoys reading chamber music, cooking, and writing code.

Benjamin M. Stayner *see Conductor Biographies.*

CONTRABASS

William Bewley *see Conductor Biographies.*

Alexander Burns (2nd year) is a bassist from Lynbrook, New York. He has a B.S. in music education at Hofstra University. He is currently attending Stony Brook University for a masters in performance, studying with Blake Hinson, assistant principal to the New York Philharmonic.

Justin Kehati (1st year) hails from Long Island, and is an incoming senior at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. He is currently working towards a B.A. in music education, with a minor in music business. Justin is incredibly excited to be playing bass with the ensemble, and looks forward to gaining tons of experience and knowledge, as well as playing all kinds of orchestral repertoire. Previous ensembles Justin has played with include the Long Island Youth Orchestra and the Orchestra of Northern New York.

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