



MONTEUX
SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

– 2026 –
**CONDUCTOR &
INSTRUMENTALIST
BIOGRAPHIES**

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INSTRUMENTALIST
BIOGRAPHIES

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Natalie Zeles

is currently pursuing her Graduate Artist Certificate at the University of North Texas, where she is a teaching fellow for flute and chamber music. She is currently studying with Terri Sundberg, whom she also had as a teacher for her BM degree. She completed an MM degree at the University of Colorado Boulder under the guidance of Christina Jennings. She has received recognition in several competitions, including first place in the Kansas Flute Society Summer Flute Competition, 2nd place in the Oklahoma Flute Society Collegiate Solo Competition, 3rd place in the Colorado Flute Association Young Artist Competition, 3rd place in the American Virtuoso International Music Competition at Carnegie Hall, and 3rd place in the George Papich Chamber Competition. She was also a finalist at the CU Boulder Concerto Competition, a two-time finalist at the UNT Chamber Music Gala, and a semi finalist in the Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition. This August, she will be competing as a quarter-finalist at the NFA Young Artist Competition. Natalie has performed with numerous orchestras, including: the Longmont Symphony Orchestra, the Boulder Chamber Orchestra, the UNT Symphony Orchestra, the CU Boulder Symphony Orchestra, and the Eastern Music Festival Symphony Orchestra. In her free time, Natalie enjoys hiking with her dog, Mabel, cuddling with her cats, Boots and Pixie, and exploring restaurants in search for the best Indian food.



Jessica O'Brien

was born and raised in Stevenson Ranch, California. She began studying flute at the age of eight with Rosy Sackstein, and is now going into her third undergraduate year, studying with Professor Bonita Boyd at the Eastman School of Music. At Eastman, Jessica has been a member of various ensembles, such as the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra, the Eastman Wind Orchestra, as well as multiple kinds of chamber groups. Her summers include attending programs such as the Northern California Flute Camp, Beyond the Masterclass, and Interlochen Arts Camp. Most recently, she attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (2024). Between 2022 and 2023, she participated in the Spotlight competition in downtown Los Angeles and was awarded for being a Semifinalist in the classical music category. She has also participated in many masterclasses, including those with Anthony Trionfo and Nancy Stagnitta at Interlochen, Jill Felber and Marianne Gedigian at the Whole Flutes masterclasses, Gary Woodward, Karen Van Dyke, Catherine Boyack, and Tomiko Tsai at the Northern California Flute Camp, Jim Walker at Beyond the Masterclass, and lastly Tim Hutchins and Cynthia Meyers at her school, the Eastman School of Music. Outside of her studies, Jessica enjoys going on little adventures, reading, and finding the best cookie recipe.



Lauren Flaten

Minnesota native Lauren Flaten is dedicated to creating meaningful and relevant musical experiences—both on and off the podium. She has recently conducted The Orchestra Now (TÖN), assisted on productions of Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi and Menotti’s Amelia al ballo with artistic director Stephanie Blythe, and assisted the Bard East/ West Ensemble on tour to China, performing in Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Beijing. A graduate of Bard College Conservatory of Music, Lauren led scenes from Mozart’s Die Zauberflöte and Menotti’s The Consul in Bard’s 2026 Opera Workshop. She has attended the Miami Music Festival with Mark Gibson and the National Orchestral Institute + Festival, and participated in masterclasses with Pierre Vallet and Carl Topilow. Lauren holds degrees in flute performance from the University of Colorado Boulder and St. Olaf College, where mentors included Christina Jennings, Catherine Ramirez, Steven Amundson, and Timothy Mahr. Offstage, Lauren holds a deep commitment to accessible and diverse musical programming. She works with the Cultural Caravan, a Boulder-based nonprofit, where she has collaborated with over 80 artists to produce 150+ free and low-cost concerts for the local community.



Kaitlyn Ritter,

a talented 26-year-old flutist from Utah, with an extensive performance career including winning first place in the Dixie State Woodwind Competition and winner of the concerto competition with the Lyceum Philharmonic Orchestra. During her undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University, she served as principal flute with the BYU Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras and performed with renowned guest artists such as Itzhak Perlman. She also attended the International Music Academy Orpheus in Vienna on full tuition scholarship and performed with the BYU Flute Choir at the National Flute Association in San Antonio, Texas. She has also performed internationally with the BYU Chamber Orchestra, touring the Czech Republic, Austria and Italy. She has been featured on the recording of the Student Emmy winning animation short film, “Witch’s Cat” and on The National Parks album, 8th Wonder Orchestral Sessions. Currently, Ritter is pursuing a master’s degree in flute performance at the University of North Texas with Terri Sundberg. While attending UNT, she performed in the Wind Symphony with Eugene Corporon and played in the opera, Gianni Schicchi. She teaches private flute and piano lessons and leads flute sectionals at local high schools and middle schools. Ritter also enjoys playing flute for her church and participating in community orchestras and volunteering with the Texas Flute Society and in the community. Recently she played in the Draper Philharmonic and was principal flutist with the Aspen Choir and Orchestra Lamb of God and Messiah concerts.

— OBOE —



Hyobin Kim,

a rising 2nd year Oboe Performance Graduate Student at Oklahoma City University (OCU), is a student of Dr. Rachel Maczko. She serves as a graduate assistant in music admission & recruitment and is also an active performer in the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Philharmonic, & String Chamber ensemble. She has recently participated in solo and chamber ensemble masterclasses

under Dr. Nancy Ambrose King, Professor Emily Brebach, Professor Peter Cooper, and the Ariel String Quartet. Prior to OCU, Hyobin received her Bachelors from the University of Texas at Arlington in Oboe Performance under Professor Melissa Bosma and was a member of the UT-Arlington's Wind Symphony, Symphony orchestra, Wind Chamber ensemble, and Sigma Alpha Iota's Zeta Nu chapter, with leadership positions held as Editor & Secretary. Additional teachers are Tim Daniels and Gina Ford.



Nina Montague

is a rising senior at the University of Connecticut, where she is pursuing a degree in Oboe Performance with a minor in Cognitive Science. Originally from Manchester, Connecticut, Nina began her oboe studies in high school, where she studied under Ling-Fei Kang. Over the past four years, Nina has performed with prominent ensembles including the Greater Hartford Youth Wind Ensemble. She

has also contributed to numerous pit orchestras and participated in various summer music camps. At UConn, Nina studies under Professor Laura Yawney and has performed with the UConn Symphony Orchestra, UConn Wind Ensemble, Collegium Musicum Choir Ensemble, and several chamber groups. Passionate about both music and research, Nina is eager to further develop her skills as a musician and scholar. She looks forward to pursuing future opportunities in both performance and research.



Gennavieve Wrobel

is a third-year Doctoral student in Oboe Performance at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she studies with Professor Linda Strommen. She earned her Master of Music degree from Indiana University and previously completed a Bachelor of Music in Woodwind Performance at Florida State University, along with minors in Music Entrepreneurship

and Classics. Throughout her academic career, Gennavieve has performed with a variety of university ensembles, local ensembles, chamber groups, and student-led organizations. She is a recipient of the Jacobs Fellowship Scholarship and has maintained a strong record of academic excellence throughout her graduate studies. In addition to her performance and academic work, Gennavieve is actively involved in arts administration and music education. She serves as the Department Assistant for the Jacobs Oboe Studio, works in the Jacobs School of Music Scheduling Office, and is the Administrative Assistant for the Jacobs Virtual Academy, a program dedicated to expanding access to music education throughout Indiana. These roles have allowed her to develop a broad understanding of both the artistic and administrative aspects of the music profession. A passionate performer, educator, and advocate for arts accessibility, Gennavieve enjoys sharing music with a wide range of audiences and students. Her long-term goal is to combine performing and teaching at the collegiate level while remaining active as both a performer and educator.

— CLARINET —



Andrew Battaglia

is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree under Jonathan Gunn at The University of Texas at Austin. Previously, Andrew graduated from Boston University and has studied with Rob Patterson, Barret Ham, Andrew Sandwick, and Charly Salinger. Andrew has performed as principal clarinetist of the UT Symphony Orchestra, the UT Wind Ensemble, and the BU Symphony

Orchestra at Boston's Symphony Hall. He also has performed chamber music with members of the Boston Symphony and Boston University faculty. In Boston's local music scene, Andrew made appearances with the Cape Ann Symphony, the Du Bois Orchestra, and was principal of the Boston Ballet's Next Generation Orchestra. His masterclass performances include those led by Yehuda Gilad, Michael Wayne, Boris Allakhverdyan, and Greg Raden. His past summer experiences include Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Aria International Summer Academy, and the Killington Music Festival.



Carl Ek

Hailing from a musical family in Montreal, Canada, Carl Ek began playing the clarinet at age 10. He obtained a bachelor's degree and graduate diploma in performance from McGill University where he studied with Alain Desgagné of the Montreal Symphony. He currently studies with Eli Eban at Indiana University where he is pursuing a master's degree in performance.

From 2019 to 2024, he was the principal clarinet of the Orchestre Symphonique des Jeunes de Montréal, with whom he performed the Copland Clarinet Concerto as a winner of their concerto competition. Other orchestras he has performed with include the Orchestre Classique de Montréal, the McGill Symphony Orchestra and the IU Concert Orchestra. Over the years, he has worked with renowned clarinetists James Campbell, Charles Neidich and Yehuda Gilad, and has performed under conductors such as Jacques Lacombe, Alexis Hauser and Louis Laviguer.



Jacob Bleeker

is a rising clarinetist from Michigan, recognized for his refined tone, expressive musicianship, and compelling artistic presence. He has performed widely across Michigan and beyond, earning early distinction as principal clarinetist of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, as well as a concerto competition winner with the Grand Rapids Symphonic

Band. While studying at Grand Valley State University, Bleeker attended the Pierre Monteux school and was the 2018 GVSU Concerto Competition winner. He later completed his undergraduate degree at Central Michigan University, winning the 2024 Nixon Woodwind Competition and the 2025 CMU Chamber Music Competition. Recently, he was appointed principal clarinet of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. Bleeker is currently pursuing a master's degree in clarinet performance at the University of Michigan, studying with Chad Burrow and Daniel Gilbert.

Veronica Pavlovic

(Photo & Bio unavailable)



Cassandra Valenti

Cassie is super excited to be attending the Monteux Music School and Festival this year! She is a rising senior at Vanderbilt University studying bassoon under Dr. Peter Kolkay, and hopes to go into film music in order to help impact large audiences through movies, television, and video games. She has performed in eleven states and three countries, and has been under the baton of Sir

Andrew Davis, Maestro Joseph Young, and Maestra Mei-Ann Chen, and has worked with Gil Shaham, Hilary Hahn, and Aaron Dahl during her time with NYO. She is also going to be studying in Vienna, Austria in the Fall! Along with NYO, Cassie has also attended the RISE Film Scoring Orchestra (Los Angeles, California; 2026), Domaine Forget (Quebec, Canada; 2025), the International Chamber Music Academy of Ochsenhausen (Ochsenhausen, Germany; 2025), the Glickman-Popkin Bassoon Camp (Marion, North Carolina; 2024), Festiband (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 2024) and Juilliard Summer Winds (New York, New York; 2020, 2021). Other notable people she has worked with are: Carin Miller, Carlo Columbo, Nancy Goeres, Billy Short, Andrew Brady, Francisco Joubert, Judith LeClair, Shawn Mouser, Frank Morelli, and Kim Laskowski. Outside of bassoon, Cassie also enjoys composing and arranging music and plays baritone saxophone in Vanderbilt's pep band. She plays on a 1972 Puchner Original.



Nicholas Hosking

is a bassoonist studying for a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with Professor Christopher Marshall, a member of the Minnesota Orchestra. Nicholas has been studying bassoon for 8 years and will be entering his third year of college in the Fall. He plays both bassoon and contrabassoon in several ensembles at the University

of Minnesota, including bands, orchestras, and various chamber groups. He has participated in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and Portland Youth Philharmonic throughout his time in high school and has played with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony and the Buffalo Community Orchestra in Minnesota. He also participated in the Cuban American Youth Orchestra Double Reed Festival in Havana, Cuba. Aside from music, he enjoys spending time with friends and family as well as taking his dog Butter on walks throughout his neighborhood. In his free time, he makes bassoon reeds, listens to music, and reads books. Nicholas was born in Wellington, New Zealand, and moved to Oregon with his family in 2012. He began playing music in his middle school's band on clarinet, and switched to bassoon when he had the opportunity. He began playing contrabassoon as well during his time in both the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and the Portland Youth Philharmonic. His first bassoon teacher was Adam Trussell, who is currently the Principal contrabassoon player of the Houston Symphony.



Ryan Kapsandy

is a current bassoonist at the University of Washington who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in bassoon performance while studying under Paul Rafanelli of the Seattle Symphony. Ryan's journey with the bassoon began when he was 14 with private lessons from Lantz Berets in his home town, Olympia, Washington, although he had been involved in the school bands, orchestras, and choirs

since he was 8. Over his eight years as a bassoonist, Ryan has been making his own bassoon reeds for more than six years, has had success in Washington All-State and Solo and Ensemble, and has taken lessons from Seth Krinsky. Since moving to Seattle for his higher education, Ryan has gotten to perform around the area as an orchestral bassoon and contrabassoon player in the Ballard Civic Orchestra, Tacoma Opera, and Evergreen City Ballet Orchestra as well as with his woodwind quintet, Ilinx.



Alek Prok

A versatile and experienced musician, Alek Prok has performed with a wide variety of ensembles including orchestras, operas and chamber groups. During his residence in Tucson, Arizona, he appeared as both a bassoonist and contrabassoonist in the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra, and the Civic Orchestra of Tucson. In recent

summers he performed with the student and faculty orchestras at Eastern Music Festival, and as principal bassoonist of the California Orchestra Academy. No stranger to performing in operas, he was the principal bassoonist for performances of Puccini's La Boheme and Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos in the Chicago Summer Opera festival, and Puccini's Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi with the Bay View Festival Mainstage Opera. As a chamber musician Alek has experience performing in a variety of chamber groups on and off the traditional stage. While a member of a longstanding wind quintet during his undergraduate studies, his group performed 20th century works in downtown Tucson as a part of Musical Murals. Piano trios, quintets, sextets and larger groups like Stravinsky's octet with the University of Arizona Chamber Winds are also included in Alek's chamber repertoire. Alek was awarded second place for the 2024-2025 University of Arizona President's Concerto Competition, demonstrating his strong soloistic musicianship. He holds Bachelor degrees of Music and Biology from the University of Arizona where he studied with Marissa Olegario. Currently, Alek is pursuing his Master's in Music and is studying with Martin Garcia at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Allison Hoffman

is a French horn player and teacher based in Tallahassee, Florida. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in horn performance at Florida State University, having previously earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Illinois State University. Her primary teachers include Dr. Rachel Hockenberry and Professor Michelle Stebleton.

Allison has been recognized for both academic and musical excellence through numerous honors, including talent scholarships from both FSU and ISU, as well as the Presser Undergraduate Scholarship. An avid freelancer, Allison regularly performs as a substitute musician with professional ensembles such as the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Panama City Symphony Orchestra, Heartland Festival Orchestra, and Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. A devoted pit musician, she has played in numerous professional and amateur musical, opera, and ballet productions. She is also an active soloist and recently advanced to the finals of the 2026 Ruth Kern Young Artists Competition. Allison previously served as a K-5 general music and 6-8 choir director in Lincoln, Illinois, while maintaining a private studio through the Music Shoppe in Normal, Illinois. She has led many masterclasses for beginning and intermediate horn students in and around the Bloomington-Normal area. Allison now serves as a graduate teaching assistant for the horn studio at Florida State University, where she teaches undergraduate horn students and assists with studio administration. In both her public school teaching and private instruction, she emphasizes flexibility, patience, and positivity while maintaining high expectations and a clear, structured plan of study to support continuous growth and success.



Thomas Wilhelm

is a horn player from Cedar Creek, Texas, and recently earned a bachelor's degree in music performance from Oklahoma State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. During his time at OSU, he has served as Principal Horn of the Wind Ensemble since 2024 and has performed regularly with the university's Symphony Orchestra, Legacy Horn Choir, and Horn Octet.

Thomas has previously participated in the FOOSA Summer Festival. Professionally, he has performed as Substitute Second Horn with the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra for multiple productions of The Nutcracker and has also appeared with the Oklahoma Baroque Orchestra. An active chamber musician and competitor, Thomas has earned recognition at several regional and international competitions, including First Place at the 2024 International Horn Symposium Horn Quartet Competition and First Place awards at the 2025 and 2026 Mid-South Horn Workshop Horn Quartet competitions. In addition to performing, he is passionate about music education and has taught masterclasses and worked with young musicians as a marching band technician and clinician.



Lily McCormick

is a French Horn player based in Columbus, Georgia. She is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, studying under the tutelage of Patrick Hughes and is currently pursuing a Masters of Performance at Columbus State University under Dr. Anne Marie Cherry. She has recently won the 4th Horn position in the Albany Symphony Orchestra in Albany, GA. As a freelance horn

player, Lily has played in various settings such as solo recitals, church venues, and professional brass quintets. These include the First Baptist Church of Austin Brass Quintet and The St. Luke Methodist Church Orchestra and the Cedar Park Winds. While in the Austin, TX area, she provided private lessons for high school and middle school students, alike. With a passion for emotional connection through performance, she prioritizes breathing life into her playing. Lily has explored many avenues of music making in her life including playing piano, guitar, and singing. All of these endeavors have lead to an enriched, well rounded musical experience. She has attended the Southeast Horn Workshop, where she performed with the Schwob Horn Choir, Midsouth Horn Workshop, where she performed with the UT Austin Horn Choir, has attended Cormont Horn Camp, and is currently attending the Monteux Music Festival.



Annie Rizzo

is an active performer and educator currently pursuing graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music. A graduate of Messiah University, she developed extensive performance experience through participation in large ensembles, chamber groups, pit orchestras, and collaborative performances throughout her undergraduate career. Her time at Messiah provided opportunities to

perform a wide range of repertoire while refining both ensemble and solo musicianship. In addition to her collegiate performance experience, Annie maintains an active freelance career throughout the region. She regularly performs for local church services and special events and has worked as an orchestral substitute with community and regional ensembles. Her performance experience also includes numerous school musical productions and pit orchestra performances, where she has collaborated closely with directors, vocalists, and fellow instrumentalists in fast-paced settings. Alongside performing, Annie is a dedicated private instructor with extensive teaching experience working with students of varying ages and skill levels. Her teaching emphasizes strong fundamental musicianship, technical development, creativity, and confidence-building while fostering a positive and engaging learning environment. Through both private lessons and educational settings, she is passionate about helping students grow as thoughtful, expressive musicians. As both a performer and educator, Annie Rizzo is committed to musical excellence, collaboration, and creating meaningful musical experiences within her community.

— HORN —



Peter Herrmann

Born and raised in Southern California, Peter Herrmann is currently a student at the University of Redlands, where he studies French Horn performance under the tutelage of Danielle Ondarza. Prior to beginning his time at Redlands, Peter studied with Adam Wolf while attending Loma Linda Academy, where he developed his musical foundation and passion for music performance. Throughout his recent years, Peter has performed as a substitute with several local university orchestras and chamber ensembles, gaining valuable experience in a variety of musical settings and collaborating with other musicians. Peter has earned a number of awards, including first place in the high school division of the 2022 Southwest Horn Workshop competition, the First Year Honor Award from the University of Redlands, and the Director's Award for Band while attending Loma Linda Academy. In addition to his performance activities, he is committed to continued artistic growth through private study, ensemble participation, and the exploration of a wide range of musical styles and repertoire. He values the opportunities music provides to connect with others, communicate meaningful ideas, and contribute to his community. Throughout the remainder of his undergraduate studies and beyond, Peter hopes to deepen his understanding of music, build lasting connections with fellow musicians, and secure a full-time orchestra position while also teaching the next generation of musicians wherever his career may take him. Outside of music, Peter enjoys photography and spending time with close friends and family.

— TRUMPET —



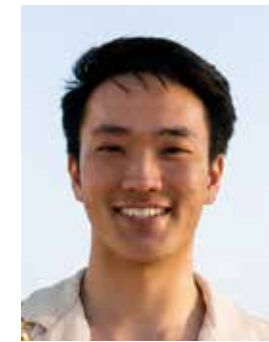
Evan Eldridge

is a conductor, trumpeter, and educator currently pursuing a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Georgia State University. Originally from the Chicago area, he began studying trumpet in fifth grade and developed a lifelong passion for orchestral music that has led to a multifaceted career as both performer and conductor. Eldridge earned bachelor's degrees in Trumpet Performance and Music Education from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where he studied trumpet with John Rommel and conducting with Andrew Downs. He currently studies conducting at Georgia State under Henry Cheng and Tamara Dworetz. In the Atlanta area, Eldridge serves as Assistant Conductor and Librarian for the Johns Creek Symphony Orchestra. He also works closely with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, where he works with young musicians and contributes to the organization's educational and artistic initiatives. As an artist, Eldridge is deeply interested in collaboration across disciplines and seeks opportunities to bring together diverse artistic voices. He is particularly passionate about developing new projects that challenge traditional concert experiences, creating work that audiences have not encountered before, and championing music being written today. Whether on the podium, in the rehearsal room, or through interdisciplinary partnerships, he strives to foster meaningful artistic connections and expand the possibilities of live performance.



Tim Hosler

is a trumpet performer with a passion for all kinds of musical styles ranging from baroque all the way up to contemporary works. Tim enjoys playing in all kinds of musical settings such as orchestras, chamber, brass quintet, and solo. He just graduated with a bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from the University of Wyoming studying under Dr. David Wharton. Tim plans to continue his studies at Oklahoma City University studying with Scott Meredith while playing in their graduate brass quintet, Black Welder Brass Quintet. During his time at UW he has competed in a variety of competitions. Tim was a semi finalist in the Ryan Anthony Memorial chamber competition held at the International Trumper Guild (2025), finalist in the Wyoming Symphony young artist competition (2024) and the North American Baroque Trumpet Competition on the solo and ensemble divisions (2024), the following year placing third in the ensemble division of the competition (2025). Tim is very excited and grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Monteux School and Music Festival, where he looks forward to collaborating with talented musicians, studying great orchestral repertoire, and continuing to grow as a performer and artist.



Ian Kiyokawa

is an active trumpet player from the Washington D.C. area. He began trumpet lessons in grade school with Dave Detwiler, and recently received his Bachelor of Music from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, studying with Joey Tartell. In addition to modern trumpet, Ian is an avid Baroque trumpet player, having begun studying historical performance with Kris Kwapis while at IU, and recently performed Telemann's Trumpet Sonata in D Major with IU's Baroque Orchestra. In past summers, Ian has attended the Sewanee Summer Music Festival and the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute. Outside of trumpet, Ian is an instrument collector, loves backpacking, and collecting vinyl records. He will be attending the Johns Hopkins University Peabody Institute this fall, pursuing a Masters of Music studying with William Gerlach of the National Symphony Orchestra.



Adam Smith

is currently pursuing a Master of Music Performance at Colorado State University, where he serves as the trumpet graduate teaching assistant and studies with Dr. Stanley Curtis and Justin Bartels. He teaches applied trumpet, chamber music, assists in brass techniques for music educators, and works as assistant instrument curator. In his time at CSU, he has served as principal trumpet of both the CSU Wind Symphony and University Symphony, will be a featured soloist with the Wind Symphony on Tyzik's New York Cityscapes in December and Arban's Fantaisie Brillante in April, and has successfully coached a trumpet ensemble to national competition qualification. Originally from Castle Rock, Colorado, Adam earned his undergraduate degree in Music Performance at San Diego State University with John Wilds. He was a member of the DCI World Champion Blue Devils (2023), and is an alumnus of the Vienna Summer Music Festival (2024) and Ictus International Trumpet Seminar (2025). He has also performed as a regular substitute with both the Longmont Symphony and the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus.

— TROMBONE —



Ryan Liu,

bass trombone, is returning to Hancock for his 4th summer at Monteux. A native of Sunnyvale, California, Ryan has earned his bachelors of music from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, studying under Denson Paul Pollard and Brittany Lasch, and is currently studying his masters of music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying under John Engelkes.

He has recently been appointed the bass trombone position at the Boise Philharmonic and is excited to join them for the upcoming season. In addition, he performs with the Golden Gate Park Band as their bass trombonist and has performed with various groups in the Bay Area such as the Stockton, Sacramento, San Jose and Santa Cruz Symphony. Outside the classical world, Ryan has performed under band leader Wayne Wallace, John Fedchock, Brent Wallarab, and John Raymond. Outside of music, Ryan is an avid disc golfer and loves watching and talking football.



Josías D. Muñiz

is a 24-year-old trombonist currently pursuing his master's degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Originally from Savannah, Georgia; he received his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University where he studied with William Mann. In his time there, he won the Brumby Concerto competition in 2022 and performed with the University Wind Ensemble. As he continued his

undergraduate degree, he was a finalist in the Southeastern Trombone Seminar Excerpts Competition in 2023, and was a winner of the Jaqueline Advent Concerto Competition at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in 2024 where he performed with the faculty orchestra. Now at SFCM, he studies with Paul Welcomer and hopes to secure an orchestra position in the near future. He also hopes to continue his solo career, and continue performing for communities and audiences alike.



Javid Labenski

is a rising senior at Temple University pursuing a dual B.M. in trombone performance and mathematics. He studies with Matthew Vaughn and Justin Moore, and performs regularly with the Temple University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony on alto, tenor, and bass trombone. He has previously taken part in the Berlin Opera Academy, Rafael Mendez Brass Institute, and Pokorny Low

Brass Seminar. Hailing from Marlton, N.J., he began the trombone in his 4th grade band, eventually deciding to seriously pursue instrumental studies after experiences in youth orchestras and all-state bands. Javid's favorite composer is Ravel, and outside of music he enjoys watching old movies and reading detective stories.

— TUBA —



Jonathan Miller

is a Tuba player from St. Petersburg Florida currently pursuing a Bachelors degree in Tuba performance at the Eastman School of Music under Justin Benavidez. Prior to Eastman he graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy where he studied under Thomas Riccobono. Jonathan is an avid arranger having been commissioned to arrange pieces for varying instrumentation and has

had the honor to lead the Eastman Tuba and Euphonium ensemble in several performances of his arrangements. Jonathan is a member of the S.E. Shires Rising Artists program. He has been recognized by various organizations including the NAACP and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. While at Eastman Jonathan has been named a YoungArts competition winner with distinction as well as the winner of the 2026 North East Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference (NERTEC) student solo competition. Jonathan was also named a finalist for the mock orchestra and artist solo competitions at NERTEC 2026. Jonathan is an active member of the community and is the Vice President of Communications of the Black Students Union at Eastman. Jonathan's previous teachers include Gabriel Rice and Harold Van Schaik.

— PERCUSSION —



Allison Olds

earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, graduating in May 2025. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Percussion Performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), with an expected graduation date of May 2027. This summer marks her third season at the Monteux School & Music Festival.

At CCM, Allison performs regularly with the CCM Philharmonia and enjoys collaborating with fellow students on recitals, chamber performances, and other projects. During her first year of graduate study, she served as a Graduate Assistant in the percussion department. Prior to attending CCM, Allison spent three seasons performing as a substitute percussionist with the Lakeland Symphony Orchestra. Her primary interests are orchestral percussion and ensemble performance, and she values opportunities to perform a wide variety of repertoire alongside other musicians. In addition to her performance activities, Allison is interested in music education and the role of percussion in both orchestral and academic settings. She appreciates opportunities to work with performers, teachers, and conductors from a variety of musical backgrounds through festivals and professional engagements. After completing her master's degree, Allison plans to pursue doctoral studies in percussion and hopes to build a career that combines collegiate teaching with professional performance.



Charles "C.J." Butera

is currently a student at Baylor University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Performance. He is a student of Dr. Todd Meehan and Arlo Shultis. C.J. is a member of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra under Jeffrey Grogan and the Baylor Wind Ensemble under Dr. Eric Wilson. C.J. also plays drums in the Baylor Jazz Ensemble under Alex Parker, and recently participated

in a jazz mission trip to Kenya in May. A versatile musician, C.J. plays just as comfortably as a chamber musician. As a member of the Baylor Percussion Group, he has played notable works such as Peaux from Pleiades by Iannis Xenakis, Ionization by Edgar Varèse, and Phillip Glass' Metamorphosis No. 1 arranged by Third Coast Percussion. Outside of school, C.J. is a Percussion Fellow in the Waco Symphony Orchestra under Lawrence Loh and Substitute Percussionist in the Central Texas Philharmonic under Stefan Sanders. Some other conductors that C.J. has shared the stage with are Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Mei-Ann Chen, Sir Andrew Davis, Andrew Kim, James Young, Michael Webster, and Delyana Lazarova. When C.J. is not playing in an ensemble, he enjoys playing tennis and pickleball, collecting CDs, and playing Mario Kart.



Christopher Boxall

is a percussionist based in the DMV. He completed his Master's in Music at Shenandoah Conservatory. He completed his Bachelor's in Music at the University of Maryland - College Park. In addition, he completed a minor in arts leadership. At Shenandoah, Chris studied with well renowned percussionist Karlyn Vifia. He has previously studied with Scott Christian and Lee Hinkle at the

University of Maryland. While in Winchester, he has participated in the percussion ensemble's collaborative concerts with Shenandoah Conservatory's dance department, helped with premieres of new works by student composers at the conservatory's annual ShenCoLab festival, and played in Shenandoah Conservatory's production of On the Town. During the second year of his master's he premiered Dessecher by Ireland-based composer William Kenlon. Other memorable performance opportunities include collaborating with MIT student Tatsuya Daniel on his 2022 album Sounds of Percussion, performing at the Kennedy Center, and getting to study at the 2023 Sandbox Percussion Seminar. As an ensemble musician, he has played with the Capital Wind Symphony, the Columbia Orchestra, the Maryland Winds, and the Main Street Chamber Orchestra. Chris is excited to work with the directors and guest musicians at Monteux this summer, and play music with old colleagues and new faces!

— HARP —



Anastasia Arango

Anastasia's journey with music began at a young age, and she always knew she wanted to study harp. Since her first harp lesson at the age of 11, her love for the instrument and its repertoire has only grown. She is an active soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician in both the southeast Alabama and Denver, Colorado regions, and performances have taken her across the continental

United States and the world. As an orchestral harpist, she has performed with the Colorado Symphony, the Littleton Symphony, the Pikes Peak Philharmonic, the Stratus Chamber Orchestra, the Denver Chamber Orchestra, and the Tri-State Community Orchestra where she was principal harpist from 2020-2022. Recent engagements include performances with Orford Academy in Quebec, the Althofen Masterclasses in southern Austria, the Brevard Summer Festival, the National Music Festival, and Monteux's 82nd season last year. Her competition performances include the Korea International Harp Competition in Seoul in 2024 and receiving honorable mention in the Jefferson Symphony's 2025 Young Artist Solo Competition. Anastasia recently earned her Bachelor of Music in Performance under the tutelage of Courtney Hershey Bress, principal harpist of the Colorado Symphony, at the Lamont School of Music. She will be relocating to Pittsburgh, PA at the end of this summer to continue her studies with Gretchen Van Hoesen of the Pittsburgh Symphony at Carnegie Mellon University. In her spare time, she loves to hike in the beautiful front range of Colorado and educate the masses on the unique charm of her instrument.



Anna Loegering

is a harpist from Stillwater, Minnesota, who began playing the harp at four years old. A rising senior at the University of Michigan, she has studied with both Joan Raeburn Holland and Yolanda Kondonassis. In 2020, Anna won first place in the Intermediate II division of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Harp Society competition. In 2022, she won the Karen Lundmark Holmes

Award at the Young Person's Symphony Concert Association concerto competition held by the Minnesota Orchestra. That same year, she won the Second International Suzuki Harp Competition, category G (ages 17-18). Anna has participated in multiple summer festivals, including the Maine Coast Harp Institute led by Yolanda Kondonassis in 2022, Texas Music Festival in 2024, and the Monteux School and Music Festival in 2025.

— PIANO —



Vera Tianyi Lu

continues to develop as a pianist and conductor. She began formal music studies in Vancouver at the VSO School of Music Performance Prep Program, supported by the Youtz Family Scholarship. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she studies piano with Polina Bepalko and Awadagin Pratt, and conducting

with Aik Khai Pung. In 2022, she conducted The Magic Flute at the Miami Music Festival. At CCM, she assistant conducted ballet Coppélia with the CCM Concert Orchestra in 2025, and Baroque repertoire for CCM Wind Concerto Competition in 2024. She actively performs as orchestral pianist in programs featuring new music by local composers. Her solo playing has been recognized in the 2024 Matinee Musicale Competition and CCM Undergraduate Piano Competition, where she was awarded the Nancy F. Walker and Romeo Gorno Scholarships. In summer 2023, she assisted with community concerts and led choral workshops at the Silk Road International Culture Exchange Center in China.



Timothy Morrow

is a conductor, pianist, and composer from Basking Ridge, NJ. Currently, he serves as the director of the St. Sergius English Mission Choir at the Synod of Russian Orthodox Bishops (ROCOR) in New York City. He has served as an assistant conductor for the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra, Bard College Community Orchestra, Westminster Community Orchestra, and most recently with

the Opera National de Lorraine in Nancy, France in their production of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin. He has participated in masterclasses with Leon Botstein, José Luis Gomez, and Leonardo Pineda. He also sings with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir under notable conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Joe Miller, and Riccardo Muti. Timothy studied at Manhattan School of Music with conductor George Manahan, and looks forward to attending the Monteux School and Music Festival in Hancock, Maine this summer. He enjoys working as an accompanist throughout New York and New Jersey and is also fond of folk music, recently traveling to the Republic of Georgia to study Gurian folk songs and Georgian Orthodox Chant.

— VIOLIN —



Ana Belén Castro Castro

Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, she is a violinist who holds both a Bachelor's degree in Music with a specialization in Performance and an Associate Degree in Music, both from the University of Guadalajara. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Music with a specialization in Performance at the University of Maine.

She began her musical studies at the age of 10 at the Zapopan House of Culture, in the keyboard and guitar workshops. Later, she started her violin studies at the Zapopan School of Music (EMZ) under the guidance of Ysaí Cárdenas. From 2012 to 2015, she studied the Associate Degree in Music at the University of Guadalajara (UDG), while also complementing her violin studies with Professor Nicolás Corrales. From 2016 to 2021, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Music with a specialization in Performance at the same institution, during which time she also studied with Maestro Christopher Wilshire and Perla Fernández. She is currently a student of Dr. Anatole Wieck. To complement her training, she has participated in several festivals and courses, including the Disciplinary Orientation Course taught by the José White String Quartet (2014), Festival del Lago (2018 and 2019), Formandi Festival (2019), Baroque Music Interpretation Course led by Heriberto Delgado (2019), Sa'Oaxaca Festival (2020), FESMO (2020), Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute (2021), and Online Solo Strings Intensive (2021). She has been part of various chamber music ensembles such as the Ripiendo Ensemble and the String Ensemble of the Zapopan School of Music. She has performed violin and piano duos with pianists Vanesa Briseño and Rosa María Navarro. She was a member of the Zapopan Youth Symphony Orchestra (OSJZ), as well as a violin teacher at the Zapopan School of Music. She has collaborated with the Chamber Orchestra of the Autonomous University of Guadalajara (OCUAG), the Colima Philharmonic Orchestra (OFC), and served as a guest teacher with the Tuxpan Jalisco Chamber Orchestra. As a soloist, she has performed with the Zapopan Chamber Orchestra and the Tuxpan Jalisco Chamber Orchestra. For two years, she worked as a teacher for the Public Education System (SEP) in the state of Jalisco as an Arts instructor with a focus on music. Her main areas of focus are professional instrumental performance, the promotion of music education, and chamber music performance.

Aideé Yasmin Enríquez Guajardo

began her musical studies in 2012 with the Esperanza Azteca Symphony Orchestra in Monterrey under the guidance of Maestro Miguel Ángel Soto, where she studied music theory and violin. During her time there, she served as Principal Second Violin and later as Concertmaster. In 2016, she was selected to participate in the National Meeting of Esperanza Azteca Orchestras in Puebla, where she had the opportunity to perform alongside renowned cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto. The program included works such as Canto a la música by Samuel Zyman, Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, performed at Sala Nezahualcóyotl. In January 2019, she participated in masterclasses with Dr. Ames Asbell (Texas State University School of Music). That same year, she joined the Nuevo León Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, an experience that reinforced her decision to pursue music professionally. In August 2019, she became a member of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education Symphony Orchestra. In 2020, she began her undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Music of the Autonomous University of Nuevo León (FAMUS-UANL), studying under Maestro Ricardo Hamaury Gómez Gómez, Second Concertmaster of the UANL Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, she took part in masterclasses with Dr. Lynn Ledbetter (Texas State University School of Music) and earned first place in the FAMUS internal string competition. Throughout 2022, she was invited to perform in several programs with the UANL Symphony Orchestra, including the Santa Lucía International Festival, Season Programs VIII and IX, the Christmas in Monterrey concert, and a studio recording released by Rovi Records. In 2023, she was selected to participate in Sinfónica Azteca 2023, where she received masterclasses from Zsolt-Tihamér Visontay and Diana Ramírez, and took part in the orchestra's residency and national tours. That same year, she performed with the UANL Chamber Orchestra alongside flutist Horacio Franco. Since 2023, she has worked as an extra musician with both the UANL Symphony Orchestra and the UANL Chamber Orchestra. In August 2025, she participated in EIMUC, the International Chamber Music Encounter held in San Luis Potosí. She is currently in her eighth semester of the Bachelor of Music degree at FAMUS-UANL, continuing her technical and artistic development while maintaining an active orchestral and chamber music career.



Park Choy

is a rising senior at Montclair State University, where he studies violin with Michael Roth, and is currently earning a degree in Music Education. Passionate about education and accessibility, he has been a private lesson instructor at Vienna the Music school, a music studio in West Orange NJ, as well as at Montclair Music Studio, where he taught violin and piano. Park has performed with

the Montclair State University Symphony Orchestra, the Montclair State University Chorale in collaboration with New Jersey Symphony, and the Livingston Symphony Orchestra. He is excited to spend his first summer in Maine and looks forward to being a member of the orchestra at Pierre Monteux School.



Marian Jamora

Born and raised in Memphis, TN, Marian Jamora picked up the violin at the early age of 5. She currently studies under violinist Victor Avila Luvsangenden. She is aiming to get her Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN while pursuing the orchestral conducting certificate. She has grown a huge passion for both, and she plans to keep pursuing music

after her undergraduate years. Marian has been involved in many orchestras and ensembles since she could remember. She has placed excellently throughout the WTSBOA and TMEA conventions throughout her involvement of seven years. In early 2023, she was announced as the winner of the Germantown Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition and has received other honorable mentions about her playing. Throughout the past of summers, she has attended Lutheran Summer Music Academy as co-concertmaster under guidance of Jonathan Ong, violinist in the Verona Quartet. In 2022 and 2023, she has studied under violinists Tina Raimondi and Caroline Chin at the Brevard Music Center. During Marian's time at Brevard, she sat as assistant concertmaster and principal second of the Brevard Concert Orchestra. She has also attended Sewanee Summer Music Festival 2021, under the guidance of violinist Eva Cappelletti Chao. Marian most recently has held section and assistant principal positions in Texas's Round Top Festival Institute in 2025. She has also formed and played in many many chamber groups throughout her time in school and outside orchestra programs. Marian has recently sat concertmaster at her high school and the Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra, and she now sits co-concertmaster in the Concordia Orchestra for the past two years of her undergraduate while freelancing and teaching at the Amped School of Music in the Fargo-Moorhead area. During her free time, she loves to play video games, go on runs, and catch up with her friends and the world around her.



Evan Thornton

is a violinist and recent graduate of the University of Florida, where he earned his degree in Music Performance and a minor in Event Management. He's now continuing at UF in the Master of Science in Management program, where he's looking to blend his background in music with skills in leadership and organization. Evan has been playing violin since he was six and

has always been passionate about connecting with people through music. Outside of rehearsals and concerts, he enjoys movies, running, and discovering all kinds of music. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, Evan is excited to keep building meaningful experiences through the arts.



Kiley Foxhall

is a passionate orchestral and chamber violinist from Poughkeepsie, NY. She has played with many groups throughout New York and New Jersey, including the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Westchester Symphony Orchestra, Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra of the Southern Fingerlakes. She was also recently a guest artist at

the Rome Free Academy, where she spent a day working with talented high schoolers, teaching masterclasses, and giving a chamber and solo performance. She has appeared at venues such as Merkin Hall, performing with the Kronos Quartet, and Woodstock Playhouse. Previously, she has attended Hunter International Music Festival, Online Solo Strings Institute, Renova Festival, and Music at Port Milford, where she was able to study with Fabiola Kim, Curtis Stewart, Jannina Norpoth, Min Jeong-Koh, Catherine Cosbey, Tokai String Quartet, and Quator Saguenay. Growing up, the Jasper String Quartet would visit her high school twice a year to give masterclasses and coachings, which is what inspired her to pursue a career as a violinist instead of her other passion: theatre! She aspires to be a chamber musician and continue working with orchestras. Kiley earned her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance at Ithaca College, where she studied with Calvin Wiersma and Christina Bouey. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Violin Performance at Montclair State University, studying with Michael Roth. In her graduate studies at Montclair, she fulfills her passion for orchestral music within her role as the Graduate Assistant to the Orchestra.



Harshul Mulpuru

is an Indian American conductor and violinist based in Louisville, Kentucky. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Louisville, where he serves as Graduate Assistant Conductor under Kimcherie Lloyd. At the University of Louisville, he has assisted rehearsals, prepared ensembles, and conducted performances with the Symphony

Orchestra and Opera Theatre, leading repertoire ranging from Rossini and Beethoven to Berlioz and Dukas. Previously, Harshul co-directed the Cawthon String Orchestra at Florida State University (2024-2025). He earned his bachelor's degrees in Music and Information Communication Technology, along with a Performer's Certificate in Violin under Benjamin Sung. Harshul has participated in the International Conducting Workshop and Festival in Plano, Texas, studying with Farkhad Khudiyev and Donald Schleicher, and has performed as a violinist at the Brevard Music Center and Eastern Music Festival. He is a recipient of the Pattis Family Foundation Emerging Artists Award, which supports his continued artistic development and collaborative work.



Zongheng Zhang

is a conductor, violinist, and educator currently pursuing dual Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Orchestral Conducting and Violin Performance at Michigan State University. He serves as Assistant Conductor of the MSU Symphony Orchestra, MSU Concert Orchestra, and MSU Opera Theater, where he also works as an opera coach. His recent conducting engagements include appearances

with Musique 21 Ensemble for Contemporary Music, Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, and MSU Opera Theater productions of La Cenerentola, The Ghost of Gatsby, and The Grapes of Wrath. In 2024, he conducted Le Faucon by Dmitry Bortniansky at the Butler Opera Center. Before joining Michigan State, Zhang earned his Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin, where he served as Director of the University Orchestra, Assistant Conductor of the UT Symphony Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor of the Butler Opera Center and Austin Opera Center. His work there included opera coaching, cover conducting, backstage conducting, livestream production, and performances broadcast on KMFA 89.5. Also active as a violinist and violist, Zhang has performed with professional ensembles including the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Central Texas Philharmonic, and The Orchestra Now. He previously served as Concertmaster and Principal of the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra and The Orchestra Now. His awards include recognition as a finalist in The American Prize Opera Conducting Division, the MSU Research Enhancement Award, and the MSU Running Start Award.



Cornelia Di Gioia

is a violinist and violist who studied music and history at Grinnell College. She began violin at age six, primarily studying with Sheila Hanford, and continued her studies at Grinnell with Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn and Charles Miranda. Throughout her youth, Cornelia was a member of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory, and soloed multiple times with a chamber orchestra run by retired

principal violist of the Chicago Symphony, Charles Pikler. She has performed in masterclasses with groups including the Lincoln Trio, Risus Quartet, Jupiter String Quartet and the Cavani String Quartet, and participated in festivals including the Castleman Quartet Program and the Monteux School and Music Festival. Along with leading the ensemble as concertmaster for most of her time at the college, in Spring of 2026, Cornelia was selected to perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Grinnell Symphony Orchestra. She is also very interested in historical musicology and early music, and plays baroque violin, viola and viola da gamba. In her free time, she likes to dance, make art, and woodcarve, and she is currently learning to play the accordion.



Juan Florez

is a violinist and conductor from Miami, Florida. He was recently named a Conducting Fellow for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and was admitted to the Jacobs School of Music to pursue his D.M.A. in Orchestral Conducting. He is currently the founding Artistic Director of the Collective Chamber Orchestra, and started building

a robust conducting presence for himself by leading the Tegucigalpa Symphony Orchestra in performance, the ensemble of the capital of Honduras, and the Orquesta Filarmónica de Honduras. Most recently, he won the Gold Prize at the 2025 Georges Bizet International Music Competition, and was the principal conductor for the Festival Internacional La Centro in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He is also a violinist for the Jacksonville Symphony, the Ocala Symphony Orchestra, and the Coastal Symphony of Georgia, and has had previous performances with major orchestras, such as the New World Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he was inspired by Gustavo Dudamel to study conducting. Juan has completed his bachelors' degree in Violin Performance from the University of Florida and a Masters of Science in Management geared towards Arts Administration at the Hough Graduate School of Business. Simultaneously, he also completed a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting under the direction of Dr. Tiffany Lu. Juan also studies with her at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors.



Shaina Carinha

is a New Jersey-based violinist and educator with experience spanning orchestral, operatic, and musical theater performance. She holds a degree in Violin Performance from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. Shaina currently serves as Concertmaster of Opera Magnifico and Assistant Concertmaster of Brook Orchestra. She has performed with a variety of

ensembles, including the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Livingston Symphony Orchestra, Seton Hall University Orchestra, and South Orange Symphony. In addition to her orchestral work, Shaina has performed extensively in opera and musical theater productions throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She has collaborated with numerous theater companies, including Bucks County Playhouse, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, and The Summit Playhouse. Recent projects include performances in Gary Adler's new musical The Nice List and Starstruck, a new musical featuring music by Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls. In addition to performing, Shaina is a dedicated violin teacher who maintains a private studio and works with young children as a preschool violin instructor. She is passionate about fostering musical curiosity and confidence in students of all ages, creating a warm and encouraging learning environment. Whether on stage or in the classroom, Shaina brings enthusiasm, professionalism, and a deep love for music to every setting.



Chelsea Xuereb

New York-based Maltese Violinist, Chelsea Xuereb is an active soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Xuereb is the First Prize winner of the June 2025 Music Talent Award Competition in the National Category, and a recipient of the Excellence in Orchestra Award and the John J. Cali Young Artist Award at Montclair State University. Committed to performing music from the classical canon

alongside that of our time, she curates programs that bring together traditional repertoire with works by contemporary composers. Chelsea has collaborated with Maltese composer Dr. Veronique Vella as well as has recently debuted two pieces by emerging composers Kylan Hillman and Gian Torrano Jacobs. At Montclair Symphony Orchestra, Centre Symphony Orchestra, Collegium Musicum NY, she has held concertmaster, associate concertmaster, and principal second violinist positions and has also appeared with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in a Malta Youth Orchestra side-by-side concert. Chelsea has performed at Carnegie Hall, and at Kaufman Music Center's Merkin Hall with Grammy Award-winning ensembles Time for Three and the Attacca Quartet. She has shared the stage with internationally renowned pianist Lara Downes, violinist Vijay Gupta, and composer/violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain. Chelsea holds a Master of Music from Montclair State University and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Malta. Her current teacher is Gary Capozziello. Chelsea plays on a Michael A. Daddona violin (2025).



Ryan Urato

is pursuing a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Michigan, where he studies with Kenneth Kiesler and serves as Assistant Conductor of the Campus Philharmonia Orchestra and co-director of the Chamber Strings Ensemble. Previously, Ryan served as Assistant Conductor of the Nashua Chamber Orchestra and Music Director of the Overture

String Orchestra in Concord, MA. He has participated in conducting workshops with Donald Schleicher, David Jacobs, Matthew Lynch, David Itkin, and Mark Gibson. A 2024 graduate of Brown University, Ryan's conducting encompasses orchestral and choral repertoire, as well as musical theater. At Brown, he led the university orchestra in performances of Ginastera's Estancia Suite and Poulenc's Organ Concerto, and conducted his capstone project featuring Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Jessie Montgomery's Starburst. Additional credits include Music Director for Brown Ballet's The Nutcracker, conductor for Into the Woods, and guest conductor with the Falmouth Chorale. An orchestral violinist and chamber musician, Ryan performs with the Apollo Ensemble and New England Philharmonic. Fluent in five languages and an experienced K-12 educator, Ryan is committed to creating opportunities for young people who – like himself – come to classical music from the outside.



Leon Kobayashi

is a Japanese-American orchestral and operatic conductor and violinist from Chandler, Arizona. He has extensive experience leading ensembles of both music majors and non-majors, fostering communities that encourage collaboration, growth, and musical excellence. He received his Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from University of Minnesota, where he

served as conductor of the University Philharmonic Orchestra, Gold Campus Orchestra, and UMN Opera Theatre. There, he conducted full productions of Street Scene and Le Nozze di Figaro, and assisted on Hänsel und Gretel and Dream of the Red Chamber. He received his Bachelor of Music in Violin and Conducting from Vanderbilt University, where he served as Music Director of the Vanderbilt Commodore Orchestra, helping rebuild the ensemble into a thriving and inclusive orchestra following the pandemic. As a violinist, he has performed with professional orchestras including the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Quad City Symphony Orchestra, and Alabama Symphony Orchestra. His primary conducting mentors include Mark Russell Smith, Ernesto Estigarribia Mussi, and Robin Fountain, with additional guidance from Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Andrew Litton, and James Holmes.



Ashley Crawford

is a violinist currently based in Miami. She recently graduated from Florida International University with her master's degree in violin performance, studying under Amernet Quartet violinist, Avi Nagin. She was also a graduate assistant in string performance, music history, and bibliography. Ashley completed her undergraduate studies at Shenandoah Conservatory under

the tutelage of Akemi Takayama, where she was concertmaster and featured as a soloist in SU's 2021 production of The Last Five Years. Most recently, Ashley collaborated with Warner Music Latina and Yandel on his new "Sinfónico En Vivo" album, and joined Yandel for part of his Sinfónico USA Tour 2025. Ashley is currently the associate concertmaster of the Miami Pixel Symphony Orchestra, and second violinist of the Miami Pixel String Quartet. In addition to an active performance career, she maintains a private studio and works with a diverse range of students.



William D. Holtz

is a conductor, violist, and music educator from the Washington, DC area. He recently graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master of Music in Viola Performance, having previously earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Viola Performance with a minor in Orchestral Conducting. At Carnegie Mellon, Holtz studied conducting with

Monteux School and Music Festival alumnus Daniel Nesta Curtis. He organized multiple conducting recitals, conducted the CMU Repertoire Orchestra a record eighteen times, and led string sectionals for the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic. As Associate Conductor of the Carnegie Mellon All University Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Klefstad, Holtz led fourteen performances and assisted with auditions, competitions, and organizational efforts throughout his four-year tenure. As a violist, Holtz has performed with regional orchestras such as the Erie Philharmonic and Johnstown Symphony Orchestra. Most recently, he performed Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 with Chamber Music Pittsburgh alongside his teacher, David Harding, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principal cellist, Anne Martindale Williams. A passionate advocate for expanding musical horizons, Holtz has performed on viola, piano, mandola, and bass guitar, and has worked in a wide range of musical settings including orchestras, chamber ensembles, musical theater productions, rock and pop groups, and a mandolin and guitar orchestra. Holtz is currently pursuing a K-12 certification in Music Education and will complete his student teaching in Pittsburgh this fall.



Eli Schaffer

is a versatile violist, orchestral leader, and educator dedicated to performance and pedagogy. He serves as Principal Viola of both Opera Magnifico and the Bound Brook Symphony, recently performing as a featured soloist with the latter. As a passionate instructor, Eli teaches viola students of all ages and levels, focusing on building strong technical foundations and fostering a lifelong

engagement with music. Driven by a deep appreciation for the classical canon, his artistic work seamlessly spans the symphonic stage, pedagogical mentorship, and his interest in opera.



Noah Stevens

is a violist and conductor based in New York City. Recent instrumental performance highlights include his concerto debut with the Baroque Orchestra of NJ, a full length solo recital at the Van Vleck House, the world premier of Joshua Fadenholz's record breaking viola sonata, and a multimedia collaboration with dancer/choreographer Alyssia Farias.

Passionate about education and accessibility, Noah conducts primarily student and pre-professional ensembles, such as the Aurelius Chamber Orchestra, New York City Orchestra Project, Montclair State Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Youth Symphony, and the Pierre Monteux School Orchestra. He is also a frequent guest conductor at Columbia High School. A dedicated pedagogue, he is a String Fellow with the Montclair State Symphony, a coach with the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, and maintains a studio of violin and viola students. Noah was also faculty at the 2025 Montclair Summer Strings Festival. This summer, he will attend the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors in Hancock, Maine (his fourth year!), the Lucerne Festival Academy in Lucerne, Switzerland, and make his first appearance with the Bar Harbor Music Festival. Noah is a proud alum of Montclair State University's Cali School of Music, where he graduated summa cum laude, studying viola performance with Kathryn Lockwood, and conducting with Kyle Ritenauer. This fall, he begins the ARCO career mentorship program led by Emily and Ranaan Meyer.



Aria Anderson

is a dynamic and in-demand artist in each of her chosen fields. Beginning her musical journey at the age of three, she often snuck out at night to listen to violin lessons taking place downstairs, and her passion for music and beauty has never faded. As a violinist, violist, and vocalist she has been touring in Asia, Europe, and North America since she was nine years old, and frequently performs

with local Philadelphian orchestras. She is an enthusiastic chamber musician and pedagogue, and a proud junior faculty member at Blue Mountain Chamber Music Festival. Aria received a bachelor's degree in philosophy before beginning a masters in viola performance program, which she completed in the studio of Kerri Ryan at Temple University. She then began a professional studies program before matriculating into Temple's DMA program, continuing under Kerri Ryan. Her past teachers include Sherri Anderson, John Gerschefski, Igor Fedotov, and Ana Tsinadze. As a vocalist, she studied with Joy Meade and Damian Savarino.

— VIOLA —



Emma Welsh

is a violist based out of Lenexa, Kansas. As an active member of the Kansas City classical music community for the past 10 years, she has served as principal violist for the KU Symphony Orchestra numerous times, as well as substitute violist for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and section viola in the Lawrence Theatre Opera. In prior years, she has been invited to perform Verdi's

Requiem with the Conservatorio di Milano in Milan, Italy. In addition, she recently went on a tour of Italy and recorded an album, "Prairie Fire!", with the newly established KU Prairie Fire String Orchestra under the baton of Creston Herron, debuting commissioned pieces by renowned composers such as Kirt Mosier, Quinn Mason, and Libby Larsen. She has participated in other recording projects, including American Idol contestants The Whips' debut album, "How to Hold a Grudge" in 2023. In 2024, she was the winner of the Kansas MTNA Young Artists State Solo Competition. This May, she graduated with a BM in Viola Performance from the University of Kansas, studying under Professor Boris Vayner and Ming-Yu Hsu, principal violist of the Kansas City Symphony. Emma will be beginning her Master of Music Program in the Fall at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying under Sheila Browne. Outside of music, Emma loves to read and play with her 3 dogs.



Solchan Kim

is a violinist, violist, and conductor with experience in a vast array of musical genres. At the age of 9 he started learning the violin and recently switched to the viola, but has also played the trombone and piano in jazz and rock groups. He has worked with notable musicians such as Barry Shiffman, Taras Gabora, Steven Tenenbom, Ernst Kovacic, and Michael van der Sloot. Solchan

currently studies the viola with Steven Dann at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto and is the recipient of the Ihnatowycz Emerging Artist Scholarship. For conducting, he has studied with Ivars Taurins at GGS and Matthew Lynch as part of the Dirigerakademie program. Solchan has won numerous prizes at music festivals, including several 1st prizes at the Performing Arts BC Provincial Festival for violin. He has been active as an conductor in Toronto with groups such as EnCello Ensemble and Orchestra Toronto, and in 2024, Solchan conducted the GGS String Orchestra in a program including the Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings. He currently works with the Oscar Peterson Program where he works with children from undeserved communities as a viola mentor and conductor.

— CELLO —



Leigha Daniels

is a cellist from Ormond Beach, Florida. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with the St. Olaf Orchestra during its tour of the Midwestern United States under the direction of Chung Park, and has also performed as a soloist with the University of Central Florida Symphony Orchestra. Daniels is an alumna of several summer music programs, including the Brevard

Music Center Summer Institute, the International Cello Institute, and the Wintergreen Music Festival. She holds degrees from St. Olaf College and the University of Maryland, where she was an active instructor with the Terrapin Community Music School. Daniels will continue her education at the University of Maryland, where she will pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and study under Rachel Young, a member of the National Symphony Orchestra.



Sean Muller

An adventurous spirit defines cellist Sean Muller's musical journey, as he constantly seeks fresh and revitalizing experiences. Having completed his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, as well as a performer's certificate, Sean is pursuing a Master of Music in Cello Performance with Dr. Steven Thomas at the University of Florida. He is an active member of the graduate

chamber music program and the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra, serving as the principal cellist and librarian under the direction of Dr. Tiffany Lu. His most recent solo recital showcased repertoire from across musical periods, including Bach's Cello Suite No. 5, Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances, and Brahms's Cello Sonata No. 2. In addition to cello, Sean enjoys playing piano, rock climbing, mountain biking, skiing, and SCUBA diving. He is also a competitive runner, having recently completed the Atlanta Marathon in March.

— CELLO —



Joe Cracolici

Originally from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, cellist Joe Cracolici completed his undergraduate studies at the College of the Holy Cross as the Brooks Scholar for the Class of 2023, earning degrees in Music and Accounting while studying with Jan Müller-Szeraws and Julia Yang. For his graduate studies, he studied in Boston at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in the studio

of Christine Lamprea. Joe has attended the National Orchestral Institute and Festival and the Eastern Music Festival multiple times, and most recently spent last summer at the Trentino Music Festival in Mezzano, Italy. As an orchestral musician, Joe regularly performs with the New England Repertory Orchestra and the Du Bois Orchestra of the Cambridge Music Society, and has previously performed with the Apollo Ensemble of Boston and the Boston Civic Symphony. A proud and enthusiastic music educator, Joe has worked in a variety of settings during his teaching career, having previously taught at the Boston String Academy, in the Somerville Public Schools, and in the Longy Sistema Side-by-Side program. Currently, Joe works as the Program Manager of the Worcester Chamber Music Society's strings program Neighborhood Strings, teaches as Cello Faculty at the Concord Conservatory of Music and Pakachoag Music School, and serves as the Lower Strings Orchestra Coach at Clark University. Aside from music, Joe loves playing/watching baseball and basketball, experiencing great movies and TV shows (especially ones with great soundtracks), and gradually refining his cooking skills.



Jonah Cohen

is a composer, conductor, pianist, and cellist from Farmington Hills, MI and currently based in New York City. His work centers around balancing accessibility with adventurousness to create memorable, impactful experiences for the performers and the audience. As a conductor, Jonah began his formal studies at Interlochen Arts Academy, where he participated in the Advanced

Conducting course and founded the Interlochen Modern Music Project. From 2022 to 2025, Jonah served as a Robert L. Poster Apprentice Conductor at the New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), where he studied with Andrew J. Kim, Michael Repper, Adrian Rogers, and Tanya Chanphanitpornkit. Jonah has participated in summer festivals such as Wintergreen Music's LEAD Cooperative Conducting Program, National Orchestral Institute + Festival's Conducting Academy, and Monteux School & Music Festival (upcoming) where he has had the privilege of learning from Marin Alsop, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Erin Freeman, and Mei-Ann Chen. He currently serves as Assistant Conductor of the Weill Cornell Music & Medicine Orchestra and Director of the Music & Medicine Chorus; in July 2025, he made his guest conducting debut with the Orchestra in a full program. As a pianist and cellist, he regularly performs with ensembles such as the Juilliard Orchestra, Columbia University Orchestra, Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra, and Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Jonah recently received a Bachelors of Music in Composition degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with John Corigliano, David Ludwig, and A.B. Kirsten. In fall 2026, he will begin pursuing a Master of Music in Composition degree at Yale School of Music.



Benjamin Marten Stayner

is a conductor, music director, and multi-instrumentalist from Youngstown, NY. After receiving a Bachelor of Music in Music Theory from The Hartt School and a Master of Music in Conducting (Musical Theatre & Opera) from Ithaca College, he spent three years music directing and conducting musical theatre

around the country. Benjamin has collaborated with Broadway-level talent such as David Archuleta, Josh Strickland, and Felicia Finley. He has studied conducting with Edward Cumming, Glen Adsit, and Christopher Zemliauskas. In masterclass, he has worked with Tito Muñoz, Michael Jinbo, and Carl Topilow. Benjamin is currently working toward a Master of Music in Orchestral and Choral Conducting at the University of Connecticut, studying with Paul McShee and Jamie Spillane. As part of his assistantship, he teaches fundamentals of music theory and ear training, assists with undergraduate conducting classes, and serves as the Assistant Conductor of the UConn Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir.



Sila Naz Kuvanci

is a Turkish double bassist who recently earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Double Bass Performance from Arizona State University. In Fall 2026, she will begin pursuing a Master of Music degree at Arizona State University, where she will continue her studies with Professor Catalin Rotaru. An active performer, Sila has appeared with numerous orchestras and

ensembles throughout Arizona, including symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras, opera productions, choral ensembles, and wind ensembles. Her broad performance experience has allowed her to collaborate with a diverse range of musicians while developing a versatile approach to the double bass. Throughout her time at Arizona State University, Sila performed with the ASU Symphony Orchestra, ASU Wind Ensemble, and ASU Wind Symphony. She has frequently served in leadership roles within the bass section and has been selected as principal bassist for numerous performances. Her dedication to musical excellence has been recognized through the ASU School of Music Special Talent Award. Originally from Eskişehir, Turkey, Sila began her musical studies at the AUDK Conservatory, where she received extensive musical training throughout middle and high school. Passionate about orchestral and chamber music, she continues to refine her artistry through performance, collaboration, and advanced study. As she begins her graduate studies, Sila looks forward to expanding her artistic voice and sharing the expressive possibilities of the double bass with audiences in a variety of musical settings.



Xavier Vongphakdy

serves as Associate Principal Bass of the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra. He also performs with the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Quincy Symphony Orchestra, and was a substitute for the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra and the Southeast Iowa Band. In addition, Xavier is the bassist for the University of Iowa Symphony Band performing at the College Band

Directors National Association and the Iowa Band Association. He has performed in several opera and theatre productions such as Rita, La Colombe, Così fan tutte, Scalia/Ginsburg, and Into the Woods. Xavier also plays electric bass for the Iowa Pep Band, performing in the NCAA Men's and Women's March Madness tournaments. This year, Xavier was awarded a scholarship from the Iowa Center for the Arts Competition and was a nominee for the Fulbright Scholarship. He has participated in the National Music Festival, Monteux Music Festival, Ozarks Music Festival, and the Jeff Bradetich Double Bass Master Classes. His teachers include John Schimek, Volkan Orhon, Kenny Lee, and Richard Heidel. Outside of performance, he's a content creator with over 1,200 followers on Instagram (@x_vongphakdy) and a video with over 4 million views. Xavier is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music at the University of Iowa.



Ludovic Grell

Originally from Moncton, New Brunswick, Ludovic Grell is a Canadian conductor and double bassist currently studying at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. He began his musical training with Sistema New Brunswick, where he started studying the double bass at the age of ten. After relocating to Montréal, he joined the Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de Montréal, where he served as principal bass and received the Sandra Wilson Award and Scholarship. He is a graduate of the International Baccalaureate Music Program at École secondaire Joseph-François-Perrault. As a double bassist, Ludovic Grell studies with renowned Canadian bassist Joel Quarrington and has served as principal bass in numerous ensembles, including the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and others. As a soloist, he has performed Koussevitzky's Double Bass Concerto and Bottesini's Grand Duo Concertante. Alongside his instrumental studies, he is pursuing conducting studies with Jean-Marie Zeitouni and Simon Rivard, and has worked with conductors including Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Hannu Lintu, Dalia Stasevska, Naomi Woo, and Sascha Goetzel. In 2024, he conducted the National Youth Orchestra of Canada in a performance of Charles Ives's The Unanswered Question at TCU Place in Saskatoon. In 2025, he participated in the Fiskars Summer Festival in Finland as part of the Lead! Foundation mentorship program. He will return to Fiskars in 2026 after participating in the Monteux School and Music Festival. He is a recipient of several scholarships from the Fondation du Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec.

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