

# **2017 Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival**

## **Conductor & Instrumentalist Biographies**

A Special Supplement

for

Season Ticket Subscribers

© 2017 Pierre Monteux School



# 2017 Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival

## CONDUCTORS

**Yeo-Ryeong Ahn** (1<sup>st</sup> year, piano) was born in 1992 in Korea, began her musical studies in orchestral conducting at the Preparatory Division of the Korea National University of Arts, and obtained her bachelor's degree in conducting at the Korea National University of Arts, where she studied under the tutelage of Chi-Yong Chung in 2014. At KNUA, she regularly conducted symphonic and operatic works with the KNUA Repertory Orchestra and contemporary pieces by the composition class with student ensembles. Yeo-Ryeong Ahn has participated in masterclasses with Jorma Panula, Markand Thakar, and Paavo Järvi.

**Alex Amsel** (1<sup>st</sup> year, bassoon) is an Argentinian born bassoonist and conductor. His previous positions include Assistant Conductor at both the Miami Music Festival and Hot Springs Music Festival, and Resident Faculty Conductor at the Philadelphia International Music Festival. Amsel studied bassoon at the University of Texas Austin and the New England Conservatory, and has studied conducting with Larry Rachleff, David Effron, Cristian Macelaru, and Stefa Sanders. Amsel will continue his conducting studies at Peabody Conservatory this fall with Marin Alsop.

**Gregory Cardi** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) started the violin at the age of 6, and made his solo debut with orchestra by age 10. An alumni of the Walnut Hill School, Mr. Cardi received his Bachelors of Music from the Colburn Conservatory under the tutelage of Robert Lipsett, where he was crowned ping pong champion. He recently finished his Masters at the Juilliard School studying with Catherine Cho and Metropolitan Opera Concertmaster David Chan. Currently a fellow at the New World Symphony, he has conducted several performances in Miami Beach. A lifelong dream to conduct, Mr. Cardi is incredibly excited to learn at the Monteux School this summer.

**Antoine T. Clark** (3<sup>rd</sup> year, clarinet) is a clarinetist and is attending the Pierre Monteux School and Festival for a third year as a conductor. In 2013, he founded the McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra in Worthington, Ohio, for which he serves as Artistic and Music Director. Earlier this year, he was named a winner in the International Conductor's Workshop and Competition held in Atlanta, Georgia. In May, he was selected by the Jacksonville Symphony to audition for their Assistant Conductor position. Later this summer, he will assume the position of Assistant Conductor with the Gateways Music Festival at the Eastman School of Music.

**Hayden Denesha** (1<sup>st</sup> year, viola), a native of Buffalo, New York, USA, currently serves as a Youth Orchestra Conductor for the South Carolina Philharmonic Youth Orchestras as well as Graduate Assistant Conductor to the University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra. He has most recently served as Assistant Conductor of Orchestras and Opera at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Fredonia. Currently, Mr. Denesha is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree with Donald Portnoy at the University of South Carolina. Equally at home as a performer on viola, Mr. Denesha currently holds section positions in the South Carolina Philharmonic and Aiken Symphony Orchestras respectively. Mr. Denesha holds Bachelors of Music Degrees in

Music Education and Viola Performance as well as a Master of Music Degree in Orchestral Conducting from SUNY College at Fredonia.

**Ian Michael Elmore** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, bass) graduated from the University of Louisville this spring with an undergraduate degree in double bass performance. Ian has studied double bass with Sidney King, and conducting with Kimcherie Lloyd. In past summers, Ian has attended the Sewanee Summer Music Festival and Hot Springs Music Festival as a bassist, playing under the batons of JoAnn Falletta, Peter Bay, Cristian Macelaru, Alastair Willis, Kenneth Kiesler, and Larry Livingston. While at the University of Louisville he performed as a bassist with the Wind Ensemble and the University Symphony Orchestra. He also appeared with the University Symphony Orchestra as a student conductor. In addition, Elmore is the music director and founder of the Alunos Chamber Orchestra, a forty-piece student orchestra. This orchestra has performed the works of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Copland, Haydn and Schubert, while also performing new works of University of Louisville student composers. Ian intends to continue studying the double bass, as well as orchestral conducting.

**Ryan D. Farris** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, cello) is a conductor, composer, arranger, and cellist from Nederland, Colorado. He received bachelor of music degrees in cello performance and composition from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he also studied conducting with Gary Lewis and Nicholas Carthy. During his undergrad, Ryan conducted six world premieres, a concert of fully-staged opera scenes, recitals featuring Schönberg's Pierrot Lunaire and Copland's Appalachian Spring, and even his own orchestration of Debussy's La cathédrale engloutie. He was awarded a composer fellowship at the 2015 CU New Opera Workshop, and was recently a visiting artist of the University of Texas, Austin. This spring, Ryan received a scholarship to study with famed Icelandic cellist Sæunn Þorsteinsdóttir at the University of Washington. He is looking forward to moving to Seattle this fall to begin his Master's degree.

**Juan Tucan Franco** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) has performed in the most important stages of México as well as in other countries such as; The United States, Portugal, Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Italy, Austria, Germany, France and Belgium. During his young career, he has had the privilege of conducting for Ballet as well as for Opera on several occasions.

Franco has been guest conductor at some of Mexico's leading orchestras, including the Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra (OSA), Puebla's conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Northern Lights Festival Chamber Orchestra, Jalisco Philharmonic, Coahuila Symphony Orchestra, Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, Zapopan Symphony Orchestra (OSZ), Nayarit Symphony Orchestra, BUAP Symphony Orchestra, Colombia's National Army Symphony Band, Nayarit Chamber Orchestra, the Aramara ensemble and the principal youth orchestras of México.

Nowadays, he is the artistic conductor of the Guadalajara Youth Symphony Orchestra (OSIJUG) and of the "Camerata del Nayar."

**Tonatiuh Garcia** (1<sup>st</sup> 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 School of Music. He holds a Master of Music degree in Conducting from the Texas Tech University (TTU) where he studied with David Becker, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the TTU, where he studied under Renee Skerik, Katrin Meidell, and Kimberly Sparr.

Tonatiuh also received postgraduate degrees from Liceu Conservatory of Barcelona, Spain before pursuing his Master of Musicology degree at the University of Granada, Spain and a Specialty in Cultural Politics and Cultural Management at the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico.

**Jacob Joyce** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin), age 24, is a conductor and violinist from Ann Arbor, MI. In August, Jacob begins his new appointment as the Conducting Fellow for the Fort Worth Symphony. Jacob has previously held positions as Associate Conductor of the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Berkeley College Orchestra, Music Director of Opera Theatre of Yale College, and cover conductor for the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston. Jacob graduated from Yale College with a B.A. in Music and Economics in 2014, and he received an M.M. in Violin Performance from the Yale School of Music in 2015. Jacob then studied orchestral conducting with Hugh Wolff at the New England Conservatory. Past conducting teachers also include Toshiyuki Shimada and Kenneth Kiesler. Jacob has attended the Aspen Conducting Academy, where he studied with Robert Spano and Larry Rachleff, and was awarded the Robert Spano Conducting Prize.

**John Norine, Jr.** (9<sup>th</sup> year, cello) is a graduate of the University of North Texas with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting, where he studied under Anshel Brusilow and Clay Couturiaux. He also earned a Bachelor's of Music in Theory from the State University of New York at Potsdam. He works during the year as a music director for Music Theatre of Denton, a non-profit theatre organization serving the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area.

**Kyle Ritenauer** (6<sup>th</sup> year, percussion) enjoys a many-faceted career as a conductor, percussionist, and teaching artist in New York City. As a conductor Kyle has worked with orchestras such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and he has recently founded the Harlem-based ensemble, Uptown Philharmonic. As a passionate advocate for today's music, Kyle has premiered over 50 works by living composers including the premiere of Richard Danielpour's ballet *Cassandra's Curse*. As a percussionist, Kyle has served as Principal Percussionist of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic since 2011, and has performed with ensembles such as the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Louisiana Philharmonic. Kyle also performs frequently on Broadway on shows such as *Pippin*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.

**Allion Salvador** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, violin; 1<sup>st</sup> year, conductor) serves as concertmaster of the Seattle Philharmonic, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Sammamish Symphony, and assistant concertmaster of the Yakima Symphony. He has worked with the Aspen Festival and Opera Orchestras, Tacoma Symphony, Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet, City Opera Ballet, and many more. At the start of a promising conducting career, Mr. Salvador holds assistant conductor positions at the Seattle Philharmonic, Sammamish Symphony, and Seattle Collaborative Orchestra. He is the founder and music director of the Seattle Philharmonic Strings, a chamber orchestra promoting potent music in free community concerts. Mr. Salvador has studied

violin with Ron Patterson and David Halen, and conducting with Ludovic Morlot and Adam Stern.

**Shen Yiwen** (3<sup>rd</sup> year, piano) is a Chinese composer, conductor, and pianist. His music has been performed at prestigious venues in six continents and hailed as “a jaunty, vibrantly scored canvas” and “with a lucid, economical lyricism” by the New York Times. He has had works commissioned and premiered by the National Ballet of China, the Albany, American, Beijing, Minnesota Symphony Orchestras, and made his Carnegie Hall debut with a song cycle commissioned by the Carnegie Hall. Currently, Yiwen is studying orchestral conducting as a master’s student at University of Maryland. He holds a Doctoral degree in composition from The Juilliard School and taught at Juilliard from 2011 to 2016. For more information, please visit [www.shenyiwen.com](http://www.shenyiwen.com)

**Wayland Whitney** (1<sup>st</sup> year, viola) began conducting in 2009 after co-founding the Placer County Youth Orchestra in Roseville, CA. By 2015, he graduated from UC Davis with a B.A. in Music Performance, having studied viola with Ellen Ruth Rose, piano with Lois Brandwynne, and conducting with Matilda Hofman and Jeffrey Thomas. In 2016, he left the PCYO to become music director and conductor of the Music in the Mountains Youth Orchestra in Nevada City, CA, as well as Music Specialist for Yuba River Charter, a Waldorf school in Nevada City. Wayland has performed professionally with ensembles across the greater Sacramento region, and is currently a member of the Auburn and Folsom Lake Symphonies. He also maintains a small studio of private violin, viola, and piano students. When he's not in rehearsal, Wayland enjoys cooking, gardening, and Gin & Tonics.

## CONDUCTING ASSOCIATE

**Tiffany Lu** (2012-2015, violin; first year Conducting Associate) currently resides in College Park, MD, where this fall she will be entering the third year of DMA studies at the University of Maryland. Tiffany is the co-conductor of the UMD Repertoire Orchestra and assistant conductor of the UMD Symphony Orchestra. Tiffany is also Music Director of the Wilmington Community Orchestra (DE) and assistant conductor of the Capital City Symphony in Washington, D.C. Previous positions 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 also been assistant conductor at Ithaca College (2012-2015), where she earned her master’s degree studying with Dr. Jeffery Meyer. She has performed in master classes led by Carl St. Clair, Alan Gilbert, Larry Rachleff, David Effron, Mark Shapiro, Marin Alsop, and Victor Yampolsky. Growing up in Tampa, Florida, Tiffany began studying the violin at the age of three. She has performed with the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Binghamton Philharmonic, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Symphoria (Syracuse), and Gadje, a gypsy rock band based in Ithaca.

# 2016 Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

### FLUTE

**Sophia Ennocenti** (1<sup>st</sup> year) graduated this past May 2017 with a master's degree in flute performance from Rutgers University under the tutelage of Mr. Bart Feller. A native of Rochester, NY, she began her private flute studies at the age of 13, attending Eastman School of Music's prestigious pre-college program. She went on to attend Ithaca College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in flute performance and music education. Sophia is currently on teaching faculty at SpeakMusic Conservatory in Highland Park, NJ. Sophia actively participates in festivals and masterclasses which have brought her to such locations as New York City, Estes Park, Carmel Valley, Paris, Salzburg, Florence, and numerous other cities abroad. Principal teachers have included Jan Angus, Wendy Herbener-Mehne and Claudia Anderson. Sophia hopes to continue her studies and is pursuing doctorate programs for fall 2018.

**Dennis Li** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a resident of Southbury, CT. He began playing the flute at the age of 7 under the instruction of his mother, Jenny Li who holds a master's degree from NYU in Flute Performance. Now at the age of 22, Dennis has just finished studying at the Hartt School of Music with Janet Arms with a bachelor of music and will continue his education at Northwestern University with John Thorne for a master's degree in flute performance. He has also been a part of many different large and small ensembles including but not limited to, a flute and percussion duo, a flute and guitar duo, the Hartt School Wind Ensemble, the Hartt School Symphony Orchestra, the Hartt School Pit Orchestra, and the Ultraviolet Flute Quartet.

**Emilio Rutllant** (1<sup>st</sup> year), Chilean-born flutist, is one of the most sought after flutists in Florida. He is the principal flutist with the Miami City Ballet and South Florida Symphony Orchestra. He has given solo performances in several countries, including Spain, Italy, Austria, USA, and Chile. Emilio earned his Bachelor's Degree from Stetson University, and both Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Flute Performance from the University of Miami Frost School of Music under the tutelage of Trudy Kane, former principal flute of the Metropolitan Opera. He is currently enrolled in the Professional Performance Certificate program at Lynn University studying with Jeffrey Khaner, principal flutist of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

**Jessica Thomas** (1<sup>st</sup> year) recently graduated from Wright State University (MM) where she studied with Dr. Christopher Chaffee. Prior to her time at Wright State, she attended Michigan State University (BM) studying under Richard Sherman. In the Summer of 2016, she was invited to attend the Vianden International Chamber Music Festival in Luxembourg studying under Dr. Jennifer Parker-Harley. Over the last year she has performed in masterclasses for Dr. Debra Harris and Dr. Danilo Mezzadri. Along with her studies, she has been asked to perform in pit orchestras for Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, including "The Mikado" and "Pirates of Penzance," and has premiered a work for up-and-coming composer Josh Trentadue.

## OBOE

**Stefanie Cohn** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a freelance oboist and English hornist based in Northeast Ohio. She is the principal oboist of the Solon Philharmonic as well as a private oboe and mathematics instructor. She previously held the positions of 2nd Oboe/English Horn with Sinfonia Gulf Coast and English Horn with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed with such renowned orchestras as the Erie Philharmonic and the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Cohn completed her Master of Music degree at Florida State University as a graduate teaching assistant for the oboe studio. She also holds dual degrees from Duquesne University—a B.M. in Oboe Performance and B.A. in Mathematics. Her teachers include Dr. Eric Ohlsson, Scott Bell, and Danna Sundet.

**Mickey Hansen** (1<sup>st</sup> year), Seattle native, is second oboist of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and Wichita Grand Opera, and teaches at Wichita Collegiate School. Prior to Kansas, Ms. Hansen lived in San Antonio, Texas, where she frequently performed with the San Antonio Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, Alamo City Opera, and taught at Saint Mary's Hall. She has been awarded orchestral fellowships to the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme (England), the Zoltan Kodaly World Youth Orchestra (Hungary), and International Orchestral Institute Attergau (Austria), where she was a featured speaker and performer on German public radio, Deutschlandfunk. As a soloist, Ms. Hansen has performed with the Spokane Symphony, Arizona ProMusica Orchestra, and in 2011, won second place at the Boston Oboe Competition. Ms. Hansen received her Bachelor's of Music from The Boston Conservatory; teachers include David Weber, Andrea Banke, Mark Ackerman, and Robert Sheena.

**Kelly Smestad** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently a Master's student at Stony Brook University in New York where she studies with Pedro Diaz of the Metropolitan Opera and James Austin Smith of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Ms. Smestad holds two Bachelor degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from the University of Colorado Boulder where she studied with Peter Cooper of the Colorado Symphony. Previous teachers also include James Brody, Jason Lichtenwalter, and Rita Mitsel.

## CLARINET

**Laurie Blanchet** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), originally from Quebec, Canada, is currently a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and has performed with professional orchestras including The Quebec Symphony Orchestra. She has received a Bachelor's Degree from University of Sherbrooke, a Master's Degree in Clarinet and in Chamber Music at Quebec's Conservatory of Music and a Graduate Performance Diploma at McGill University. She will begin a Post-master's Certificate in Performance at DePaul University with the Principal Clarinet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Stephen Williamson. Her teachers have included: Nathalie DeGrace, Marie Picard and Jean-François Normand. In her free time, Laurie enjoys having a good coffee.

**Harrison Burks** (3<sup>rd</sup> year), originally from Atlanta, Georgia, is currently the 3<sup>rd</sup>/Bass clarinet with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra in Evansville, Indiana and a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He also holds degrees from the University of Alabama and Indiana University. This is his third time attending the Pierre Monteux School and Summer Music Festival. He has



spent past summers at the Hot Springs Music Festival and with the National Repertory Orchestra. Additionally, he has performed with the orchestras of Cincinnati, Tuscaloosa, and Owensboro.

**Antoine T. Clark** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Bryce Kyle** (1<sup>st</sup> year) began playing clarinet when he was ten years old. After cultivating his love for music with clarinetists Kent Krive and Suzy Bratton, Bryce went on to study at Grand Valley State University with international soloist, Arthur Campbell. While at Grand Valley Bryce has been awarded numerous competitive honors based on his solo performances to include The Arthur C. Hills Music Award, The Alexander Calder Honors Scholarship and the Anne Gannett Award for Veterans. Currently the principle clarinetist in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Orchestra at GVSU, Bryce also plays in chamber settings to provide music for the downtown Grand Rapids area

## BASSOON

**Alex Amsel** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Aviva Klein** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently an undergraduate at the University of Michigan studying bassoon with Jeffrey Lyman. She began playing the bassoon eight years ago in her hometown of Cleveland Heights, Ohio. During high school, she was a part of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and the Contemporary Youth Orchestra, both of which greatly increased her love of music and life. At the University of Michigan, her experiences with the bassoon studio, the Symphony Band, chamber groups, and the countless performances to attend have continued that work. This is her first year attending the Monteux School, and she is thrilled to be a part of it!

**Jamael Smith** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is currently pursuing graduate studies with Stephen Paulson at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Since moving to San Francisco, he has been very active in the premiering of new works throughout the Bay Area and has played regularly with North State Symphony Orchestra and ECHO Chamber Orchestra. Starting this fall he is looking forward to joining the education department of the San Francisco Symphony in their Adventures in Music program which serves all schools in San Francisco. He is a graduate of the University of Washington where he received his BM in music studying with Seth Krinsky. He has spent past summers at the Bayview Chamber Music Festival as well as this previous summer here at Pierre Monteux. He cannot wait to spend another beautiful summer in Maine playing with the orchestra.

## HORN

**Stephen Buley** (1<sup>st</sup> year), from San Antonio, Texas, is currently a Horn Performance major at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and is glad to be a part of Monteux this summer. At Baylor, Stephen studies under Jeffrey Powers and plays in the Baylor Wind Ensemble and the Baylor Symphony Orchestra, which was recently awarded the American Prize for the third consecutive year.

Stephen has been a part of several woodwind quintets, brass quintets, and other chamber ensembles while at Baylor, and recently performed at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the Semper Pro Music Chamber Competition. While not playing horn, Stephen enjoys listening to classic rock, playing video games and eating Italian food.

**Laura Chicarello** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a private horn teacher and performer in the Dallas and Fort Worth metroplex. She has performed with the Odysseus Chamber Orchestra, Allen Philharmonic, and Marshall Symphony Orchestra, as well as several orchestras in Louisiana, including the Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and Rapides Symphony Orchestras. As a soloist, Laura performed Schumann's Konzertstück with the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony as a member of the Millennium Horn Quartet, who won the orchestra's concerto competition in 2016. Laura holds a MM from Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and a BME from the University of New Hampshire. She studied with Kristine Coreil and Kendall Betts.

**David Dickerson** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a professional horn player from Altadena, California. David has worked with such groups as the Southeast Symphony Orchestra, the Annapolis Symphony, the National Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra and the as a freelance musician. During his instruction, he toured internationally with the New England Youth Ensemble throughout Europe, Australia, North and South America, and the Caribbean. Throughout his higher education, he performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Strathmore, the Kennedy Center, and the Mozarteum. He completed his studies at Washington Adventist University under Marty Hackleman and Silvia Alimena. More recently he was part of the horn section for the debut of the Chineke! Orchestra in London. He is currently a section mentor for the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles and a freelance horn player in the greater Washington DC metro area.

**PJ Hummelt** (1<sup>st</sup> year), born and raised in Portland, OR, began studying horn in fifth grade under Larry Johnson, professor of horn at Oregon State University. PJ played Principal horn with the Portland Youth Philharmonic for three years, where he performed notable works for first horn, such as Till Eulenspiegel and Siegfried's Rhine Journey. PJ currently attends Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California, where he plays Principal horn in the University Orchestra. PJ has also performed as a Young Artist with Chamber Music Silicon Valley for their current season. PJ is an economics major and music minor at SCU.

**Matthew Ropa** (1<sup>st</sup> 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

## TRUMPET

**Lindsey Frazier** (1<sup>st</sup> year) began playing trumpet at age 9 in Frisco, TX along with piano and organ. She received her bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from Northwestern University, studying under Charlie Geyer, Robert Sullivan, and Channing Philbrick. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in orchestral studies at Roosevelt University, studying under Channing Philbrick and Mark Ridenour. She freelances in the Chicagoland area and recently subbed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the training orchestra of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She is also a

member of Benefit Brass. This brass ensemble is led by Mary Barnes Gingrich and is coached by Chicago Symphony members Dan Gingrich and John Hagstrom.

**James McAloon Jr.** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently a junior at the Hartt School of Music studying with Phil Snedecor. He hails from Williamstown, New Jersey, where his playing first started in a very musical family. James has been recognized by the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Union League of Philadelphia for outstanding leadership and citizenship. James is also a member of the 20/20 Chamber Ensemble, the highest and most prestigious ensemble at Hartt while being one of the youngest in the group. He has been accepted into other groups such as All National Honors Orchestra, All Eastern Symphony Band, All State Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, along with numerous regional ensembles. He has also participated in masterclasses with John Wallace and James Thompson. Some of his previous teachers include Kevin Cobb and Darin Kelly.

**Daniel Rhu** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is 21 years old and was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. His first musical experiences were on the piano, which he studied from age 5 through the beginning of high school. He first began playing trumpet in his 6th grade band class. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance at the University of South Carolina, and studies the trumpet with James Ackley. His favorite composers are Chopin and Mahler. He loves biking and watching NBA basketball, and his favorite bands are Steely Dan and the Beatles.

**Michelle Riechers** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is pursuing her master's degree in Trumpet Performance and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan where she studies with William Campbell. During her time at Michigan, she has performed with the orchestras, bands, brass quintet, and trumpet ensemble, which won first prize at the 2017 National Trumpet Competition. In 2016, she performed Haydn's Trumpet Concerto with the Illinois Wesleyan University Symphony Orchestra, and also received third prize from the 2016 Great Composer's Competition Series with the performance. In May of 2013 she attended the International Chamber Music Festival in Bulgaria, where she studied and performed chamber music throughout the country. Michelle holds bachelor's degrees in Trumpet Performance and Economics from Illinois Wesleyan University.

## TROMBONE

**Brian Johnston** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) originally hails from Long Island, NY. He is currently a 2nd year member of The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and has performed with professional orchestras including The Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra. This year, Brian was lucky to have performed with The Civic Orchestra of Chicago's Brass Ensemble alongside members of the Chicago Symphony under the baton of Jay Friedman. Past endeavors include performing at the 2015 Dark Music Days Festival in Iceland. He has a Bachelor's Degree from The Hartt School, and is currently pursuing his Master's degree at The Chicago College of Performing arts with Chicago Symphony Principal Trombonist, Jay Friedman. Additional teachers have included John Faieta, John Rojak, Andy Malloy, and Reed Capshaw. When he is not counting a thousand rests, Brian enjoys the outdoors and having a good beer.

**Ben Larson** (1<sup>st</sup> year) moved from Boise, ID to Tempe, AZ, where he graduated this year from Arizona State University with a BM in Trombone Performance. His primary

teachers are Douglas Yeo and Brad Edwards. He has performed a wide variety of music with many great ensembles and talented musicians, but he most enjoys spending time with his dog and polishing his 4<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee trophy. Next year, Ben will be busy postponing inevitable grad school debt by taking a gap year.

## **BASS TROMBONE**

**Mitchell D. Filipiak** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), while graduating from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor in Music Education, played Bass Trombone with several groups around Columbus, Ohio, including the Columbus Dance Theater, Vaughn Wiester's "Famous Jazz Orchestra" and the Rick Brunetto Big Band. During the summer of 2016, Mitchell was a H. M. Payson & Co. Scholar in Instrumental Performance for the Monteux School and Music Festival, under the direction of Michael Jinbo. After studying with Joe Duchi at Ohio State, Mitchell earned a Master in Music at The University of Hartford's Hartt School where he studied with John Rojak and Haim Avitsur. When Mitchell is not playing trombone he loves to read, (Doris Kearns Goodwin, Malcolm Gladwell are a couple of his favorite authors) and to romp around in forests.

## **TUBA**

**Adam Norton** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is an enthusiastic musician with a love for orchestral repertoire. A native of Florida, Norton performed with area orchestras such as the Sarasota Orchestra and South Shore Symphony. Adam is currently in the process of establishing new outlets for his creativity. Now a freelance musician in San Francisco Adam is teaching, playing both chamber and orchestral music. Adam has received a Bachelor's of Music from the University of South Florida and a Master's of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

## **PERCUSSION**

**Eric Goldberg** (1<sup>st</sup> year), born and raised in Chicago, IL, is a NYC-based classical percussionist. He has appeared with orchestras at the Miami, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, and Lucerne festivals, and was invited to perform as principal percussionist of the Britten-Pears Orchestra (UK) for several consecutive seasons. He has also performed at international solo competitions at Northwestern University and TROMP Percussion Eindhoven (the Netherlands). Eric recently graduated from Manhattan School of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance, where he studied with Christopher Lamb, Duncan Patton, Kyle Zerna, and She-e Wu. He plans to stay in NYC and shift his focus to studying conducting, while still remaining active and engaged in the percussion world.

**Kyle Ritenauer** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Neil Rao** (1<sup>st</sup> year), of Louisville, Kentucky, is a Composer, Conductor, and Percussionist. Neil's compositions have been performed across the United States by groups such as the Louisville Youth Orchestra and Lineage Percussion. At the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, he has conducted the orchestra through works by Stravinsky, Mozart, and Bartók. As a percussionist, he has performed in concert halls around the world, including the Mozarteum, Konzerthaus Berlin, and Carnegie Hall,

and performed alongside members of So Percussion, Eighth Blackbird, and the John Cage Trust in nontraditional programs. In his down time, he enjoys playing video games.

## HARP

**Ina McCormack** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Harp Performance and Musicology at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music as a student of Yolanda Kondonassis. Ms. McCormack is an active orchestral musician, performing regularly with multiple Oberlin ensembles and as a substitute for the New World Symphony in Miami. Additionally, she has participated in numerous solo and concerto competitions. Summer activities include a fellowship at the 2016 Round Top Festival Institute and an Emerson Scholarship at Interlochen Arts Camp 2011. A high school graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Ina McCormack has been playing the harp since age nine.

**Caitlin Thom** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is currently a senior at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, pursuing degrees in performance and composition. She is a member of the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, Augustana Symphony, and Augustana Symphonic Band. She recently toured with the Augustana Symphonic Band in Spain. She studies conducting with the director of this ensemble, James Lambrecht, and conducted the ensemble for the second time this spring. In addition to her studies, she loves giving lessons to her harp students, and teaching music history classes for children at a local volunteer music academy

## PIANO

**Yeo-Ryeong Ahn** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Yiwen Shen** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## VIOLIN

**Valeria Blanco Mota** (1<sup>st</sup> year), originally from Xalapa, México, is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Maine, under the tutelage of Dr. Anatole Wieck. She also holds a Diploma from the Musikhochschule Münster where she studied with Helge Slaatto. Valeria is an active chamber musician, as a member of the Tamayo String Quartet she was awarded the Manuel M. Ponce prize for chamber musicians and played in several venues in Mexico and South America. She has collaborated with symphonic ensembles in Mexico, USA, Germany and the Netherlands, working with conductors such as Jan Latham-Koenig, Ronald Zollman, Xian Zhang, Antony Hermus, Marco Parisotto, Enrique Bátiz and Yan Pascal Tortelier.

**Gregory Cardi** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Matthew Cancio** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently a student at Central Washington University in Ellensburg studying Violin Performance and Music Education. His primary teachers include Carrie Rehkopf, Ron Patterson, and Jason Moody. As a member and orchestra senator for the nation's largest NAFME (National Association for Music Education) collegiate chapter in the nation, Matthew aims to make music and music education

more accessible to students of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of Washington. During his free time, he enjoys cooking, hiking, and playing video games.

**Juan Tucan Franco** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Rachel Gante** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is going into her senior year studying Violin Performance under Dr. Julian Ross at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, OH. At Baldwin Wallace, Rachel is the orchestra librarian, a section leader of the orchestra, and is active in chamber music and new music ensembles. This will be her second summer at the Pierre Monteux School & Music Festival. Rachel spent the spring semester of this year abroad in Germany, completing a minor in the German language and beginning her explorations of Europe.

**Jacob Joyce** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Judith Kim** (1<sup>st</sup> year) began studying with Professor Ronald Patterson and she continues under his instruction at the University of Washington. This year, she has taken lessons with Cordula Merks, Seattle Symphony Assistant Concertmaster, and Tekla Cunningham, Concertmaster and Music Director of Pacific Music Works. About to begin her senior year, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Science in Physics. Besides her solo practice, she also serves as principal violist of the UW Campus Philharmonia Orchestra and a violinist in the UW Scholarship Chamber Group, the Corda Quartet, coached by Melia Watras.

**Jonathan Kuehn** (1<sup>st</sup> year), baroque and modern violinist, was born and raised in the Puget Sound region. Currently finishing his BS in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington, he enjoys playing violin in multitudes of ensembles. Some of which include the UW Baroque ensemble, the Seattle Phil Strings, and the UW orchestra, where he is also serves as the undergraduate orchestral assistant. In past years, he studied violin with Joseph Gottesman. Beyond music, he focuses his efforts on finishing his private pilot's license.

**Tiffany Lu** *see Conducting Associate.*

**Alexandria Midcalf** (1<sup>st</sup> year) started her musical studies with piano at age six, and then violin at age ten. She received a Bachelor of Music from Central Michigan University in 2016 and is currently pursuing a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University where she is concert master of the BG Philharmonia and a violinist in the Graduate String Quartet. She was the second prize winner in the Golden Strings of America and American Protege Piano & Strings Competitions, and the audience favorite prize in the White Lake Solo Competition. Past summer studies include Meadowmount School of Music, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Round Top Festival Institute, and Miami Music Festival.

**Joseph Morag** (1<sup>st</sup> year) 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. A student of Aaron Rosand, Joseph appeared in Alice Tully Hall with the Columbia University Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Jeffrey Milarsky. Concertmaster of the National Orchestral Institute during its groundbreaking recording of John Corigliano's First Symphony with Naxos, Joseph

was invited to return as soloist and concertmaster under Osmo Vänskä. He also led the inaugural orchestra of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Institute, in addition to appearing with the orchestra as soloist under the baton of Bramwell Tovey. Joseph is concertmaster of the Columbia University Orchestra, and until this past season, was concertmaster of the New York Youth Symphony as well.

**Gerardo Pérez Vargas** (1<sup>st</sup> year), originally from Mexico City, is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Violin Performance at University of Maine studying under the guidance of Dr. Anatole Wieck. After finishing his undergraduate studies at Conservatorio Nacional de Música de Mexico he became member of the Orquesta Juvenil Universitaria Eduardo Mata, one of the leading orchestras in Mexico, performing a vast symphonic repertoire with conductors such as Jan Latham-Koenig, Avy Ostrowsky, Massimo Quarta, Ronald Zollman, among others. His interest in chamber music has taken him to collaborate with several ensembles performing in Mexico, USA and Italy.

**Allion Salvador** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Benedict Sin** (3<sup>rd</sup> year), a native of Hong Kong, obtained his bachelor's degree in Violin Performance and Music Education at the University of Missouri. While studying with Dr. Irina Mureșanu, he earned his master's degree at The Boston Conservatory. Benedict is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Maryland.

Benedict enjoys traveling and photography. He has been to most of the American states, Central and Eastern Europe, Oceania, and East Asia. After attending the Monteux School in 2011 and 2013, Benedict is excited to be back for the repertoire, Acadia, Maine ice-cream, and lobsters.

**Isaac Suarez** (1<sup>st</sup> year) was born in Monterrey Nuevo Leon. He began studying music at the age of 9 under the tutelage of Professor Lilia Naydenova. Later it was accepted in the Superior School of Music and Dance of Monterrey, beginning its formal studies at the age of 16 years under the direction of the Master Bozhidar Stoykov.

He has performed in many parts of the city, has won the internal contest of high school soloists in 2011 and in 2013, in 2015 he acted as soloist with the ESMDM Orchestra in the National Conservatory and is currently a concertmaster of the ESMDM Orchestra; Is the principal of the ESMDM quartet, with this quartet being presented at chamber music festivals in and out of the country, was the winner of the recognition of a better interpretation of the Obligatory Work in the National Quartet Contest of the Latin American Quartet in 2017

## VIOLA

**Waldo Caballero** (4<sup>th</sup> Year), a native of Bolivia, completed his musical studies at the National Conservatory of La Paz, Bolivia. He was a member of the viola section in the Bolivian National Symphony, and later, the Municipal Theater Chamber orchestra. Currently, he is a member of the BSO in Bangor, Maine. He attended the Pierre Monteux School in 1982, 1983, and 2015. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the University of Maine.

In addition, Waldo is also a conductor, having served from 1991-2001 as the assistant conductor of the Northern Chamber Orchestra Society and Music director from

2002-2012. Currently, he is also orchestra director at the Regional School Unit 26 in Orono, Maine.

**Hayden Denesha** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Tonatiuh Garcia** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Evelyn del Carmen Magaña Vazquez** (1<sup>st</sup> year), 21 years old, was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. She started musical studies at the age of 8 playing the violin; at age 13, she began viola studies with Alicher Kamilov at the School of Music and Dance of Monterrey (ESMDM), from which she recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Viola Performance.

At the age of 17, Evelyn began to participate as an extra musician in the Symphony Orchestra of the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon (OSUANL) under the direction of Jesus Medina. In the summer of 2013 she was accepted to the OSIM (Youth Symphony of Mexico), which she also attended the following summer.

For the past four years Evelyn has also been a member of a string quartet, which in February 2017 received Honorable Mention at the National String Quartet Competition. Recently, Evelyn also performed solo with the Youth Symphony of the ESMDM.

**Wayland Whitney** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## CELLO

**Ryan D. Farris** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Samantha Flores** (1<sup>st</sup> year), a native of Tijuana, Mexico, began her musical studies in voice at age 7, but began learning cello soon after. She has toured with orchestras and chamber music ensembles around the United States, Latin-America, and Europe from a young age. Aside from performing, Ms. Flores is dedicated to teaching music, and has given clinics and classes in cities of the Midwest, Southern California and the Washington D.C. area.

Ms. Flores served as cellist of the President's International String Quartet at Western Illinois University, a position she earned on a full scholarship and holds a B.M. in Cello Performance from the same institution.

Samantha is pursuing her master's degree in cello performance at the University of Maryland, College Park and she is a student of Dr. Eric Kutz.

**John Norine, Jr.** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Bridget Pasker** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a passionate chamber musician and performer. She was a founding member of the Thalea String Quartet, who were awarded the first Graduate Quartet Residency at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she earned her Master's degree, and continues to perform throughout the Bay Area with many different ensembles. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Bonnie Hampton and Darrett Adkins.

Bridget has performed in many countries of the world, including the US, Canada, Italy, and France. While in Italy, Bridget was very excited to receive a scholarship from the Cini Foundation to perform and record the works of Gino Gorini, a 20th century Venetian composer at the Teatro La Fenice. The recording can be found on Naxos or ordered at [bridgetpasker.com](http://bridgetpasker.com).



**Natalia Vilchis** (1<sup>st</sup> year) began musical studies at the age of 5 in Monterrey, Mexico; at 14 she entered the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey. She was first place winner in each of the three consecutive editions of the Concurso Nacional de Violonchelo de Monterrey (2010, 2012, and 2014), and was also awarded Best Interpretation of a Mexican piece. She has taken master classes with internationally renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Zvi Plessner, Tanya Carrey, Alvaro Bitrán, Karla Hamelin and Claire Bryant (the Juilliard Music School). Natalia has been selected for three consecutive years to perform as a soloist with the Orquesta Juvenil de la ESMDM. She has also performed as a soloist at the Festival Santa Lucía 2015 in Monterrey city and the Festival Internacional de Música in Morelia. She is in the eighth year of undergraduate studies in Cello Performance studying with Marieta Ivanova.

## CONTRABASS

**Ian Michael Elmore** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Ross Gullo** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a bass professional currently based in Chicago. In addition to teaching, Mr. Gullo has played professionally with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Kankakee Valley Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, as well as quite a few other various orchestras and chamber ensembles. He has often participated in summer music festivals including the Pacific Music Festival, National Orchestral Institute, and Eastern Music Festival to name a few. Mr. Gullo graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Colorado and a Master's in Orchestral Performance from Manhattan School of Music. His most notable teachers include, Orin O'Brien, Timothy Cobb, and Paul Erhard. In addition to orchestral music, Ross enjoys writing folk songs on guitar.

**Wesley Jones** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a double bassist from Bowling Green, Kentucky. He began studying music and the double bass at the age of ten as one of the first student members of Western Kentucky University's pre-college string program under the tutelage of Dr. Bill Scott. Jones continues to pursue a career in the double bass under the study of Sidney King at the University of Louisville, where he will finish his Bachelor of Music in double bass performance in May of next year. Jones has participated in a number of music festivals, master classes, and lessons under the study of prominent double bassists such as Alex Hanna, Paul Ellison, Ira Gold, and Joel Reist.

## NOTES