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SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

- 2025 -
CONDUCTOR &
INSTRUMENTALIST
BIOGRAPHIES

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INSTRUMENTALIST
BIOGRAPHIES

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— FLUTE —



Colleen Welsh

is a flutist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received her Bachelors in Music Performance at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she studied with Dr. Therese Wacker. It was while studying under Dr. Wacker, that she found an interest in Body Mapping and injury prevention. Wanting to continue the work and interest, she moved to Columbus, Georgia, and attended Columbus State University, Schwob School of Music, to pursue her Masters in Music Performance under the tutelage of Dr. Andree Martin.

Colleen has performed as principal flutist of the Schwob Philharmonic, Opera, and Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Paul Hostetter and Jamie Nix. Throughout her studies, Colleen was a finalist at the West Shore Symphony concerto competition in 2022, and has also performed in numerous masters classes and worked with notable flutists including Christina Smith, Todd Skitch, Jessica Petrasek, Alberto Almarza, and Mary Matthews. Recently graduating with her Masters, Colleen has returned to Pittsburgh to start her orchestral journey back home.



Katherine Marx

is a budding performer with a passion for orchestral playing as well as solo performance. She has appeared as a soloist with orchestra on two occasions and has held principal positions in the Purdue University Fort Wayne Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, Idaho All-State Band, MasterWorks Festival Orchestra, and the Boise Philharmonic Youth

Orchestra, among others. She has regularly performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and recently performed with the Artosphere Festival Orchestra in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Katherine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Flute and Vocal Performance from Purdue University Fort Wayne, where she studied with Luke Fitzpatrick (flute) and Ashlee Bickley McCrory (voice). She is attending the Eastman School of Music in pursuit of an Artist's Diploma in flute performance followed by a Master of Music. She is in the studios of Bonita Boyd (flute), Anne Harrow (piccolo), and Kathryn Cowdrick (voice).



Angelina Lim,

a Korean-born flutist raised in Maryland, received her B.M. and Performance Certificate at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Bonita Boyd and Anne Harrow. This fall, she will pursue her M.M. at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, studying with Marianne Gedigian. Angelina recently performed with the Rochester

Philharmonic Orchestra and Syracuse Orchestra, and was principal flute on Eastman Wind Ensemble's recording of Stravinsky's Piano Concerto. Her achievements include concerto performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Music Festival Orchestra, and Peabody Youth Orchestra. Angelina has won numerous prizes in competitions, such as the Flute Society of Washington Collegiate Soloist and National YoungArts Classical Music Divisions. Notably, she won the 2024 Tallon Perkes Competition and performed at the 2023 National Flute Association Convention as a winner of the Orchestral Masterclass Competition. Angelina has been privileged to perform in masterclasses with distinguished musicians from major orchestras.



Allison Schultz

is a flutist from Rochester, New York. She is currently an undergraduate student at the Eastman School of Music studying classical performance under her professor, Bonita Boyd. She also studies piccolo under Anne Harrow. Previously, she studied with Sophia Gibbs Kim at the Eastman Community Music School, where she graduated with

a diploma in flute with honors. She participates in many of Eastman's ensembles, including the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and the Eastman Wind Orchestra. She is also experienced in chamber ensembles and is currently a part of a woodwind quintet, The Aunra Winds. Last summer Allison participated in the Sewanee Summer Music Festival.

— OBOE —



Noa Weinreb

is an oboist from Raleigh, North Carolina. She recently earned her Bachelor of Music in Oboe Performance from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where she studied with Linda Strommen. This fall, she will begin her Master's degree at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, studying with Melissa Hooper.

During her time at Indiana University, Noa performed in a wide variety of ensembles, including symphonies, operas, ballets, and recording projects. She also served as a substitute with the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra. In addition to performing, Noa is deeply passionate about teaching oboe and the art of reedmaking. When she's not working on reeds, Noa enjoys cooking, playing board games, and playing video games that involve cooking, a lovely combination of the two hobbies.



Natalie Myers

is a freelance oboist, composer, and educator based in Manhattan, Kansas. Natalie is passionate about composing and premiering new works for the oboe, and her oboe quartet recently premiered her composition at the International Double Reed Society conference. She was recently appointed adjunct professor of oboe at Friends University in

Wichita, Kansas, and a member of the Tower Wind Quintet. She enjoys performing with the Wichita Ballet, and Topeka and Salina symphonies as a substitute oboist. Natalie served as her oboe professor's sabbatical replacement this spring, teaching the oboe studio and oboe methods at Kansas State University, while maintaining her own private studio. She previously taught aural skills and choral conducting as a TA, as well as aural skills and music theory at the University of Illinois where she completed her master's degree. Natalie is excited to be returning for her second year at the Monteux School.



Phillip Larroque

Conductor and oboist Phillip Larroque resides in New Orleans. He teaches musicianship, music theory, and oboe at Tulane University, where he was also assistant orchestra director. In 2016, he co-founded the New Orleans Chamber Orchestra, conducting numerous premieres from a diverse array of composers as well as a concert series in

prisons. Larroque also teaches at the Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans and maintains a private piano and oboe studio.

On oboe and English horn, Larroque appears with orchestras throughout the Gulf Coast region, including the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Shreveport, Baton Rouge, Acadiana, Rapides, Jefferson, Lake Charles, Meridian, and Gulf Coast Symphonies.

Larroque has degrees in Oboe Performance from Tulane and University of Akron and will begin a DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Louisiana State University in the fall. He is thrilled to return for a fourth summer at Monteux!

— CLARINET —



Kevin Jin

is a clarinetist based in Rochester, New York. Jin has performed with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, New York State Ballet Orchestra, Orchestre de la Francophonie, and has performed in several masterclasses by Mark Nuccio, Joaquin Valdepenas, Lin Ma, and

more. Jin notably performed as Principal Clarinet with the Empire Film and Media ensemble in their production of *Titanic*. Jin also performs regularly with the Eastman School of Music's large ensembles. Jin has performed numerous masterworks under the direction of Dr. Mark Scatterday and Maestro Neil Varone. Alongside his orchestral experience, Jin has extensive chamber music experience, having performed with a woodwind quintet during his summers at Interlochen, Michigan, his former woodwind quintet, the A710 Quintet, and his piano trio at the Eastman School of Music.

Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Jin studied with Dr. Justin Stanley of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and Georgia Symphony Orchestra before going on to study for his Bachelor of Music Degree in Clarinet Performance from the Eastman School of Music. As a D. Stanley Hasty and John D. Haldane Jr. scholarship recipient, Jin currently studies under the tutelage of Michael Wayne.



Andrew Robertson

is a third-year undergraduate clarinetist at the Eastman School of Music studying under Michael Wayne. Andrew graduated high school from the Alabama School of Fine Arts under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Janssen. During high school he received multiple honors such as 1st Place in Winds

and Brass at the Lois Pickard Concerto Competition, 1st Place in Winds and Brass at the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs Competition, and 1st chair honors in All-State Band, Orchestra, and Jazz. Andrew has also performed in a masterclass with Anthony McGill. During past summers Andrew has attended Brevard Music Center and Sewanee Summer Music Festival. Outside of music, Andrew has a passion for working out and reading.



Martín Alexander Arellano

is an award winning conductor and composer of Nicaraguan & Mexican descent, from California, USA currently based in Tampa, FL. He is a triple laureate of the 2024 American Prize—winning in Opera Conducting, taking

2nd place in Community Orchestra Conducting, and 3rd place in Musical Theater Conducting—and in 2023, received the second jury prize at the Opéra de Baugé International Conducting Competition in France. Alex is the founder and current Music Director of the North Bay Chamber Orchestra in Tampa, FL as well as the Central California Wind Ensemble based in Turlock, CA. Alex holds conducting degrees from the Strasbourg Conservatoire in France and the University of Iowa in the US.

Alex is a native Spanish and an advanced French speaker.

Alex is an alumnus of the Monteux Festival in 2024 and is excited to be returning to make music in Maine!



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.



Julien Rollins, bassoonist and proud Montanan, has performed with the Billings Symphony Orchestra since he was seventeen years old, currently as their tenured Third/Contrabassoonist. In fulfilling his Magnum Opus for his high school honors program, Mr. Rollins founded the Magic City Winds, a woodwind trio that has presented several “wonders of classical music” programs to local Boys and Girls Clubs. From 2021 to 2024, Mr. Rollins performed on multiple recitals in Boston, and on contrabassoon with the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, conducted by Benjamin Zander. In 2023, he was runner up in the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras Young Artists Concerto Competition and soloed with the Billings Symphony in 2024. He studied at the New England Conservatory and at Tufts University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in bassoon performance at NEC and a bachelor’s degree in history at Tufts. He is currently pursuing his Artists Diploma at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Mr. Rollins enjoys fly-fishing, biking, and skiing in his native state.



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.



Ed Senn From Massachusetts’ North Shore, Ed serves as an adjunct instructor of bassoon at South Carolina State University and is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the University of South Carolina. Prior to current appointments they held the position of second bassoon at the West Valley Symphony in Surprise, Arizona. You can see them at a myriad of orchestras in the southeastern US such as the Aiken, Augusta, Rock Hill, and Beaufort Symphonies.

Their research interests focus on music for bassoon by transgender composers and conducting oral histories of transgender musicians. When not playing music you can find them taking care of their neighborhood cats.



Ryan Zych My name is Ryan Zych, and bassoon has been a part of my life for 9 years now. I live in Chicago, and I currently study bassoon under Professor George Sakakeeny at the Eastman School of Music, where I perform regularly in the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Eastman Philharmonia, and my chamber group, the Centripetal Quintet.

In 2023, I was a fellow of the National Symphony Orchestra’s Summer Music Institute. During this program I had the opportunity to speak to elementary students about my love for music and my instrument, the bassoon. For me, I was drawn into classical music when I heard the bassoon solo in Tchaikovsky’s fourth symphony for the first time, and I hope I can make that same impact on others.



Jackson Cadengo is a horn player from Houston, Texas, currently studying at the Eastman School of Music under the tutelage of Peter Kurau. A passionate orchestral and chamber musician, Jackson is a founding member of the wind quintet No Strings Attached. Outside of music, Jackson has a strong interest in history and enjoys traveling to historic locations across the United States.



Abigail Konopik studies french horn under Peter Kurau, as a rising junior at the Eastman School of Music. Before going to Rochester, she lived in St. Louis MO, studying under Tod Bowermaster and Rebecca Braun. These mentors have encouraged Abigail to push herself, and been nothing but a wonderful support network. Outside of horn, Abigail enjoys reading memoirs, writing poetry, and spending time with her three younger siblings. When listening to music, she takes inspiration from Chet Baker, Sophie Hunter, Billy Joel, and Ella Fitzgerald.



Ryan Peterson is a French horn performance major pursuing his Master’s of Music at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland, studying with Robert Rearden. Ryan received his Bachelors of Music in French Horn Performance at Pennsylvania State University where he studied with Dr. Sarah Schouten and Lisa Bontrager.

While Ryan attended the Penn State School of Music, he had the honor to win the Fall 2023 Orchestra Concerto Competition where he performed Richard Strauss’s *Horn Concerto No. 1 in Eb major*. Outside of academics, Ryan has performed in the Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Nittany Valley Symphony, Greenspring Valley Orchestra, and has been on the sublist of the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra. Ryan had the privilege to attend the Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival in the 2023 season and is thrilled to be returning to Maine for another summer of music making and expanding his knowledge of the standard orchestral repertoire.



Nora Lemmon is a rising senior pursuing a Bachelor of Music Performance at The Ohio State University, where she studies horn under the tutelage of Bruce Henniss. At Ohio State, she performs under the direction of Miriam Burns and Russel Mikkelson in the Symphony Orchestra and the Wind Symphony. With the Wind Symphony, Nora recently completed a two-week residency in Japan. In addition, Nora studies piano as a secondary instrument with Lynn Singleton. Under the supervision of Scott Jones, she works at the Barnett Center for Integrated Arts & Enterprise, where she has acted as the student lead for several artistic residencies. Nora has also attended the Eastman Horn Institute, where she received lessons from Peter Kurau, Liz Freimuth, Mark Houghton and Nikki LaBonte; and Summer Music in Tuscany, where she studied and performed with the Adelante Winds. Nora also enjoys arranging and composing as music director of Scarlet and Grace Notes, an all-treble a cappella group at Ohio State.



Maxwell (Max) Liber is a hornist and composer from Libertyville, Illinois. He is a student at Boston University where he is pursuing a Master of Music in Horn Performance. He recently graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Music in Horn Performance & Music Composition; he also completed a co-major in Arts Management and a minor in Emerging Technologies in Business and Design.

His primary horn teachers have been Hazel Dean Davis, Molly Norcross, and Tom Sherwood. While in Boston, Max has performed with the New Philharmonia Orchestra and the New England Film Orchestra. He is interested in both the performance and administrative sides of orchestras and ensembles and hopes to both perform and work administratively in the future. He is also very passionate about new music and finding ways to bridge the gap between frequently played works and works by lesser-known composers.

– TRUMPET –



Jesse Hamilton

is a dynamic and talented up-and-coming musician currently based in Columbia, Missouri. Originally from Rochester, New York, he completed his bachelor's degree in Music Education at Penn State University and his master's degree in Trumpet Performance at the University of Missouri – Columbia. While studying for his degrees, Jesse has performed

with many orchestras, including the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra and the Penns Woods Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Gerardo Edelstein, and the Missouri Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Wilbur Lin. As a soloist, Jesse is just as avid a performer, participating in masterclasses taught by Otto Sauter, Douglas Lindsey, Julian Kaplan, and Steven Franklin. He has also won multiple competitions, including the 2024 Missouri Music Teachers Association Brass Graduate Competition and the University of Missouri's 2024–25 Concerto Competition.

Jesse's notable teachers include Dr. Langston J. Fitzgerald III and Dr. Iskander Akhmadullin. In the Fall of 2025, he will move to Chicago to begin studying with Esteban Batallán and Stephen Burns at DePaul University.



Mason Kibble

is a trumpet player based in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Mason recently earned his undergraduate degree in Music Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music studying under the tutelage of Mr. Phil Collins, principal trumpet of the Cincinnati Symphony from 1975-2007.

Mason will begin his masters degree as a Graduate Assistant studying with Dr. Nairam Simoes. Mason has performed with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Butler Philharmonic Orchestra, Delta Symphony Orchestra, Mason Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Philharmonic, Miami Valley Symphony, Oakwood Brass, and served as principal trumpet of the CCM Concert Orchestra his last two years at CCM.



William Parrack

Hailed by adjudicators as having “a tone as smooth as liquid gold,” trumpet player William Parrack takes an interdisciplinary approach to musical performance rooted in authenticity, tradition, and musicianship. In his Bachelor's at Vanderbilt University studying with Jose Sibaja, Parrack capitalized on his concentrations,

Musical Integrated Studies and Brass Pedagogy in order to craft a degree path pursuant to orchestral performance and education. He plans to continue this curriculum while pursuing his Master's at the New England Conservatory studying with Benjamin Wright.

As a recipient of the Blair School of Music's Del Sawyer Scholarship as well as the NEC Dean Scholarship, William considers himself as much an academic as a performer. With this unique perspective, Parrack hopes to help usher in a musical generation raised with a holistic and multi-faceted education. In his free time, William enjoys dressing up as his musical persona W.G.P Bach and giving lecture-performances on the organ.

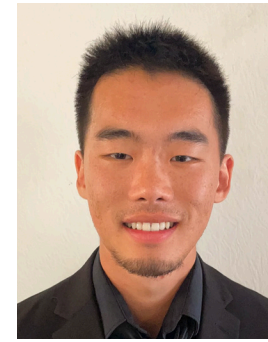


Thomas Green

is the conductor in residence with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. Since graduating as a music major from UC Berkeley in 2021, he has led both the Philharmonia Orchestra and Summer Symphony on campus under the guidance of David Milnes. As an undergraduate, he studied trumpet with Adam Luftman, completed an honor's

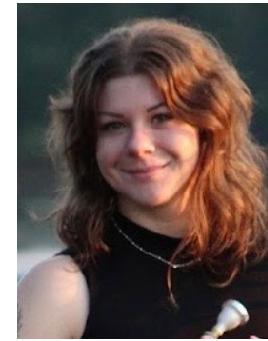
thesis on climate change music with faculty advisor James Davies, and took advantage of the rich scope of the humanities at Berkeley, which included a poetry writing seminar with John Shoptaw. He will begin his graduate studies at the University of Oregon next fall.

– TROMBONE –



Ryan Liu

has obtained a bachelors in trombone performance from the Jacobs School of Music and plans to study at SFCM for his masters this fall. He currently performs with the Golden Gate Park Band and has performed with the San Jose Symphony. Outside of music, he enjoys football and disc golf.



Lilli Bailey

is a trombonist hailing from Grenada, Mississippi. She recently received her Bachelor's in Music Education at the University of Mississippi. In the fall, Lilli will attend the University of Texas at Austin to pursue her Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance. She will also be serving as the trombone instructor at Kealing Middle School, also located in Austin, Texas.

Lilli has played trombone in ensembles worldwide. She served as the principal trombonist of the University of Mississippi's Wind Ensemble and the LOU Symphony Orchestra for the past three years. She was also the lead trombonist for the world-traveling Mississippians Jazz Ensemble, and most recently visited France and Spain to attend jazz festivals. Lilli has attended many music festivals (including the Monteux School and Music Festival) such as the International Trombone Festival and the Southeast Trombone Symposium.



Andrei Parrish

Andrei's music journey began at Rice Middle School in Plano, Texas, 6th grade. Since 8th grade, his first time playing in an orchestra for his middle school, he knew he wanted a career as an orchestral musician.

In high school, he got to play trombone with the GDYO Wind Symphony his senior year, and was regularly in his high school's wind ensemble, jazz band and orchestra. His musical journey continues into college at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he has gotten to play in their Wind Ensemble, as well as University Orchestra as second trombone for one semester, and principal trombone for another two.

In addition to this he has performed in a brass trio, trombone quartet, brass band and trombone choir. During his summers he has participated in brass or trombone workshops such as the Festival of Trombones, the Third Coast Trombone retreat and the Rafael Mendez Brass Institute. He just completed his junior year and is a rising senior this coming school year, hoping to continue his musical journey and education further beyond undergrad!

— TUBA —



Jacob DuPont

is a graduate student at the University of Missouri at Kansas City under the tutelage of Jarrett McCourt. Prior to his studies in Kansas City, he completed a Bachelor's degree at Vanderbilt University, studying with Gilbert Long and Bethany Wiese. During his time at Vanderbilt, Jacob appeared as soloist with the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony, playing Anthony Plog's

Three Miniatures. Jacob has performed with the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera, Ann Arbor Symphony, Topeka Symphony, and Texas Music Festival Orchestra. Jacob has also enjoyed musical engagements in Latin America, performing with the Orquesta CubanoAmericana de Vientos in Havana, Cuba and the Banda Sinfónica del Nus in San Roque, Colombia. Jacob's other teachers include Chester Schmitz and Dave Kirk.

— PERCUSSION —



Gabriel Levy

Dubbed a conductor of "poise, passion, and maturity" (Manhattan School of Music's Dean of Orchestral Studies J.T. Kane), Gabriel Levy is breaking into the symphonic and opera scene. In February 2025 he conducted a sold-out performance of Mahler's 6th Symphony at the Manhattan School of Music, and other recent

appearances include as Music Director of Verdi's *La Traviata* at PASS Snug Harbor Opera, of Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony with the Manhattan Symphony and Song Orchestra, and as Assistant Conductor of the Toronto Summer Music Festival Orchestra. He is also an avid composer, improviser, and piano accompanist, and has had music premiered by the 3-time Juno Award winning Gryphon trio, and broadcast on National Canadian Radio. Gabriel's first love was rock music, and he performs regularly as lead guitarist in "The Risky Businessmen", a band he started with his two brothers.

Gabriel is currently completing his Bachelors degree in Classical Percussion at the Manhattan School of Music.



Allison Olds

is an emerging performer and educator currently pursuing her Master's degree in Percussion Performance at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Allison recently completed her undergraduate studies at Southeastern University's School of Music in Lakeland, Florida, where she honed her skills in both percussion performance and

conducting. Passionate about music education, she served as the drum-line technician for the George Jenkins High School and taught private percussion lessons to local students. She looks forward to continuing to grow as both a performer and teacher through future collaborations and performances.

Aidan Frank

(Photo & Bio unavailable)



Christopher Boxall

is a percussionist based in the DMV. He is a second year master's student 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.

He currently studies with well renowned percussionist Karlyn Viña. 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 and premieres of new works by student composers at the conservatory's annual ShenCoLab festival. Other memorable performance opportunities include collaborating with MIT student Tatsuya Daniel on his 2022 album *Sounds of Percussion* and getting to study at the 2023 Sandbox Percussion Seminar. He also has experience performing in rock and jazz, and he will be playing in Shenandoah Conservatory's production of *On the Town*.

— 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 and chamber 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 Denver Chamber Orchestra, various ensembles at the Lamont School of Music, and the Tri-State Community Orchestra where she was principal harpist from 2020-2022. Recent engagements include performances with the Brevard Summer Festival and the National Music Festival, and she was recently an honorable mention in the Jefferson Symphony's 2025 Young Artist Solo Competition.

Anastasia is currently earning her Bachelor of Music in Performance under the tutelage of Courtney Hershey Bress at the Lamont School of Music. 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. For the past two years, she studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music with renowned harpist Yolanda Kondonassis, and will continue her studies at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance studying with Joan Holland. 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.

— 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.

Ana Vashakmadze

(Photo & Bio unavailable)

— VIOLIN —



Misaki Hall

is a conductor and violinist based in Louisville, Kentucky. She currently serves as rehearsal assistant of the Louisville Orchestra and conductor of the Kling Chamber Orchestra, one of Kentucky's string orchestras. As a guest conductor, Misaki has shared performances with the Louisville Civic Orchestra, Louisville Youth Symphony

Orchestra, and Orchestra Northern Arizona. In the fall semester of 2023, she served as lecturer and sabbatical replacement for the University of Louisville Symphony Orchestra and graduate orchestral conducting program.

As an instrumentalist, Misaki enjoys playing in various ensembles and genres of music. She has performed as a solo jazz violinist with the Count Basie Orchestra as well as the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic and plays as section violinist in regional orchestras of Kentucky, Illinois, and Tennessee. She also performs synthesizer in her psychedelic-rock band, DOOM GONG.



Zongheng Zhang

is a second-year Doctoral student in Orchestral Conducting at Michigan State University, studying under Octavio Mas-Arocas and Kathrine Kilburn. He holds a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin, where he served as Assistant Conductor of the UT Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the UT University Orchestra.

An active conductor in orchestral and operatic repertoire, Zhang has worked with Austin Opera, the Butler Opera Center, and the Berlin Opera Academy, leading productions like *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, and *La Cenerentola*. He also conducted the premiere of the rediscovered Baroque opera *Le Falcon* by Dmitry Bortniansky (2024).

Previously, Zhang was Concertmaster of The Orchestra Now and the Bard Conservatory Orchestra (2016–2021), performing under esteemed conductors. His dual expertise as a violinist and conductor shapes his dynamic, insightful musicianship.



Juan Florez

is a violinist and conductor from Miami, Florida. He has completed his degree in Violin Performance from the University of Florida and is currently doing a Masters of Science in Management geared towards Arts Administration at the Hough Graduate School of Business. Simultaneously, he is completing a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting under the direction of Dr. Tiffany Lu at UF.

Juan is currently a violinist for the Ocala Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, 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. He started building a robust conducting presence for himself by being named the principal conductor of the Collective Chamber Orchestra. Recent engagements include leading the Tegucigalpa Symphony Orchestra in performance, the ensemble of the capital of Honduras, as well as the Orquesta Filarmónica de Honduras.



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.



Hannah Reitz

enjoys a varied career as violinist, violist, conductor, and educator. Committed to working with the next generation of musicians, Hannah is in-demand as a clinician and coach, having worked with various youth orchestras and honors ensembles around the country, most recently guest conducting the 2024 Rhode Island Senior All-State Orchestra.

As a new transplant to Washington, she joins the Spokane Symphony having previously served for three years as music director of Illini Strings at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and assistant director of the University of Illinois Philharmonia Orchestra, a coordinator and lead teacher with the Illinois Community Music Academy, and Assistant Director of the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. Prior to her time in Illinois, Hannah was a Resident Artist of Violin/Viola and Lecturer at the University of New Hampshire, Assistant Director of the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestra, cover conductor for Symphony New Hampshire, and Adjunct Professor at Doane College in Nebraska. As a violinist and violist, Hannah has performed with the Pierre Monteux School Festival, AIMS in Graz Festival Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Lincoln Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Symphony New Hampshire, Sinfonia da Camera, and Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra.

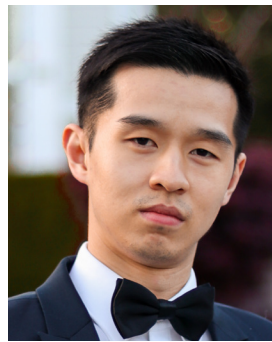


Adrian Rogers

Hailing from New York City, Adrian Rogers is an avid orchestral conductor. Adrian is currently pursuing a masters degree in conducting at the Juilliard School with Maestro David Robertson. At Juilliard, Adrian has had the opportunity to thoroughly explore both the classical and new canon of music and is honored to assist for visiting artists such as Daniela Candillari, Ruth Reinhardt, and Louis Langrée.

Fostering his love of new music, Adrian also regularly works closely with Maestro David Alan Miller, composer Chris Theofanidis, and the Albany Symphony as part of the 2024 and 2025 American Music festival.

Adrian also is the recipient of the New York Youth Symphony's David Alan Miller Fellowship and serves as the orchestra's assistant conductor. Recently, he made his Carnegie Hall Debut with the orchestra, and he will return with the orchestra in fall of 2025 to perform Chris Theofanidis' Rainbow Body.



Jeremy Ho

is a conductor, violinist, and pianist known for his musical integrity, disciplined excellence, and passion for interpretive depth. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Violin Performance from the University of British Columbia and a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from McGill University.

He began his musical career performing with the UBC Symphony Orchestra for six seasons, where he held leadership roles as principal player and concertmaster under Jonathan Girard. As a soloist, Jeremy received multiple accolades, including first prize in the Surrey Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, finalist recognition in the UBC Concerto Competition, and the Kiwanis Fraser Valley Music Festival's Provincial Delegate Scholarship Award. He also participated in the VSO Institute and the UBC Chamber Orchestra Festival.

Jeremy began formal conducting studies in 2021 with Jonathan Girard and Otto Tausk. In 2022, he served as substitute conductor for the Brock House Orchestra and led sessions with the UBC Symphony Orchestra. In 2023, he participated in the *And Other Duties* conducting program in Manchester, working with students from Chetham's School of Music.

That same year, Jeremy began his Master's in Orchestral Conducting at McGill University under Alexis Hauser, where he conducted multiple ensembles including the Beethoven Orchestra, the Conductor's Concert Orchestra, and the Contemporary Orchestration and Research Ensemble, and served as assistant conductor for the McGill Symphony Orchestra. He completed this degree in 2025.

His summer festival experience includes dual roles as violinist and conductor at the Monteux School and Music Festival in 2024, with a return engagement scheduled for 2025. Most recently, he attended the University of Oregon Conducting Institute in June 2025, studying with Maestro Neil Varon, Dr. Jonathan Girard, and Dr. David Jacobs.



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.



Justin S Kinchen

is a Miami-based violinist, trumpeter, conductor, and composer from Indianapolis, Indiana. Under the tutelage of Professors Scott Flavin and Brian Lynch, Justin continues to develop his diverse gifts at the Frost School of Music. Through his breadth of experience in both the jazz and classical worlds, he seeks to combine his influences into a unique musical voice present in each of his works.

Beginning his violin studies at the age of four and trumpet at nine, he has been committed to his lifelong passion ever since. He was a leader in the Indianapolis Youth Orchestra during his decade-long involvement, including as concertmaster in his senior year. Currently pursuing double Master's degrees in violin performance and studio jazz writing, he devotes his time to writing and performing with the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra as well as with other national organizations as a guest soloist.



Katie Cox

Based in Dallas, Texas, Katie Cox is currently a second-year Masters student at Baylor University studying Violin Performance under Dr. Eka Gogichashvili. Growing up in the world of Classical music, Jazz, and Texas style fiddling, Katie has found ways to incorporate such unique genres into her musical life. Being a founding member of

the revamped Baylor Jazz String Quartet, AKA Fifty Cent Quartet, Katie and her group have had the chance to introduce the vibrant world of Jazz Strings to several notable figures such as renowned conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya and Grammy winning group Time for Three. Katie has also had the opportunity to perform as a fiddler for her school's Broadway style productions and for her local theatre. Katie currently holds a Sub position with the McKinney Philharmonic, a student internship with the Waco Symphony Orchestra, and serves as the concertmaster for her church's orchestra.



Yixuan Lai

is a dedicated violinist currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Arizona, studying with Dr. Elena Chernova-Davis. She holds a Master of Music from Mannes College of Music and a double degree in Violin Performance and Communication from South China University of Technology. An active performer, she has

appeared with the Atlantic Music Festival Orchestra, Texas Festival Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Orchestra, and Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra, and performed alongside Midori Goto in 2024.

Yixuan also specializes in Baroque violin, having studied with Nancy Wilson and performed with the University of Arizona Baroque Ensemble. Passionate about new music, she has collaborated with composers and performed at the 2023 Asian Classical Music Initiative Conference.

She has participated in masterclasses with artists such as Mark Kaplan and Stefan Jackiw and worked with quartets including the Jasper and Ulysses String Quartets.



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.



Cornelia Di Gioia

is a violist and violinist from Evanston, Illinois. She began violin at age six, primarily studying with Sheila Hanford, and continued at Grinnell College with Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn. She studies viola with Charles Miranda, and recently studied with Mathias Maurer for a semester in Vienna, Austria. Throughout her youth, Cornelia

was a member of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory, where she played in the orchestras and chamber ensembles. She has also soloed multiple times in a chamber orchestra run by retired principal violist of the Chicago Symphony, Charles Pikler. As a member of the Io Quartet, she participated in multiple competitions, as well as having the opportunity to perform in masterclasses given by the Lincoln Trio, Risus Quartet, Jupiter String Quartet and the Cavani String Quartet. Cornelia is also very interested in music history and early music, and plays baroque violin, viola and viola da gamba.



Emma Welsh

is a violist based out of Kansas City, Kansas. As an active member of the KC classical music community, she has served as principal violist for the KU Symphony Orchestra numerous times, as well as substitute violist for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the Lenexa Community Orchestra. In prior years, she has been invited

to perform Verdi's Requiem at the Conservatorio di Milano. In addition, she recently went on a tour of Italy 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. In 2024, she was the winner of the Kansas MTNA Young Artists State Competition. She is currently a rising senior pursuing a BM in Viola Performance at the University of Kansas, studying under Professor Boris Vayner and Ming-Yu Hsu, principal violist of the Kansas City Symphony.



Noah Stevens

Based in the NJ/NYC Metropolitan Area, Noah Stevens is in demand as a violist. Notable engagements include his debut performance of Telemann's viola concerto, a collaboration with the Attacca String Quartet, and playing electric viola with several New Jersey bands. His playing has been broadcast on EWTN, an international television network with over 400 million daily viewers.

Noah serves as principal viola for various ensembles, such as the NYC Project Orchestra and the underStaffed Chamber Orchestra.

He has composed music for film and dance, and his concert music has been read by critically acclaimed ensembles like Time for Three and the Cavani String Quartet.

He recently completed his undergraduate studies at Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music, studying viola with Kathryn Lockwood and conducting with Kyle Ritenauer. In his free time, Noah enjoys hiking, public speaking, and playing the tuba.



Brynn McKay

began her training on viola at age eight, where she attended the UNC Greensboro Summer music festival, Western Wake Music Festival, and the Junior Eastern Regional Orchestra. She was then accepted to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school program for viola performance. While at this institution, Brynn participated

in various ensembles and outreach programs including the Winston Salem Philharmonic Association, UNCSA Symphony, and the Triangle Philharmonic Association.

Brynn is currently an undergraduate student at UNC Asheville, where she studies under Dr. Claudia Malchow. She is a violist for the Blue Ridge Symphony Orchestra, and participates in chamber groups including student-led groups and the UNCA Chamber ensemble. After graduation from her undergraduate studies she plans to continue her education and attend a masters program.



Abby Sliwinski

Hailing from Cedar Falls, Iowa, Abby Sliwinski is a rising sophomore at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music where she pursues degrees in Cello Performance and Computer Science under Professor Kivie Cahn-Lipman. An enthusiast of new music, Abby frequently premieres new works for the Lawrence University composition

studio and with the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra. Her musical interests also span early music, as she studies both the five-string cello and viola da gamba. Recently, Abby enjoyed performances with her string quartet and recordings for the upcoming Lawrence University Cello Ensemble album. Beyond her musical pursuits, Abby enjoys tap dancing, reading, knitting, and unicycling.



Liam Reilly

is a highly motivated classical musician and educator from Clifton, New Jersey who has studied cello since he was nine years old. He has studied cello under Christine Sweet and currently Noelle Grand. In his younger years, he was a part of the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra as a member of their Academy Orchestra under the

baton of José Luis Domínguez. Currently, he is a rising Senior Music Education Major and Music Performance Minor studying at The College of New Jersey, where he performs as the Principal Cellist under the baton of orchestra director Uli Speth. As a part of his undergraduate experience, he also participates in solo recitals, and as a member of multiple chamber groups. Previously, Liam has taken part in the Henry Lewis Concerto Competition when he was a member of the NJSYO and has also competed in the TCNJ concerto competition.



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.



Micah Christiansen

is a cellist based in Minneapolis, MN, with over 13 years of experience performing in both symphonic and chamber music settings. A recent graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, they earned a BA in Music, Psychology, and Social Work, and served as principal cellist of The Concordia Orchestra. Micah has performed with ensembles

such as the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, and was a returning participant and competition winner at the Oracle Chamber Music Festival. Passionate about music education, they've taught privately and held leadership roles in Concordia College's chapter of the American String Teachers Association. In addition to their musical pursuits, Micah is currently pursuing a graduate degree in social work at the University of Minnesota and has spent the past year working as a school social worker in a K-8 charter school, where they integrate music and care into community support. They are excited to continue developing their artistry this summer at Monteux!



Garrett Clay

is a conductor, cellist, and music educator from Atlanta, Georgia. He is currently a graduate student at Georgia State University studying orchestral conducting under Dr. Tamara Dworetz. At GSU, he is a conducting assistant for both the Symphony Orchestra as well as the Campus Orchestra, and he also participates in chamber playing with fellow

graduate students. Prior to pursuing his master's degree, Garrett held the position of orchestra and chorus director at Peachtree Middle School in Dunwoody, Georgia. In 2022 he received his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Kennesaw State University where he was a principal cellist of the Symphony Orchestra as well as a member of the Cooke Scholarship String Quartet. Garrett has also been a section cellist in the Georgia Philharmonic since 2021, and he is an active freelance cellist and conductor in the Atlanta area.



Sean Muller

An adventurous spirit defines cellist Sean Muller's musical journey, as he constantly seeks fresh and revitalizing experiences. Prior to his university studies, he was assistant principal cellist with the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra for summer tours, which included performances on three continents. At the University of Florida, where he will graduate

in May 2026, he currently studies cello with Dr. Steven Thomas. He is an active member of the chamber music program and the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra, serving as the 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. Outside of cello, Sean enjoys playing piano, rock climbing, mountain biking, and SCUBA diving.

— BASS —



Maria Gramelspacher

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Maria Gramelspacher is a double bassist, studio teacher, and arranger based in Louisville, Kentucky. Maria has a bachelor's degree in music performance from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in music performance with a concentration in string pedagogy from the University of Louisville.

Maria has performed with orchestras including the Jackson Symphony, Illinois Symphony, and Huntsville Symphony. Maria is also a founding member of the Nashville chamber collective, Blueprint Ensemble.

Maria has a studio of around twenty bass students. She has presented sessions for and is published by American String Teachers Association. Maria has been a guest lecturer for Illinois Wesleyan University, University of Louisville, and the annual University of Louisville Bass Day.

Maria has a great love for arranging. She has several arrangements for bass ensembles of various sizes that have been performed nationally and internationally at conferences, workshops, festivals, and universities.



Michael Scott

is a Class of '27 BA Music Major in the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University, and a recipient of the prestigious Clara Luper Presidential Leadership Scholarship. He has done Masterclasses with, Brian Perry, Ben Havendin-Williams, Tyler Shepherd and more. Michael plays in the OCU Symphony, OCU Wind Ensemble, OCU Early Music

Ensemble, and OCU Pit orchestra, and regularly works with the Oklahoma Community Orchestra, Oklahoma Metropolitan Orchestra, and surrounding churches. He has performed in many recording projects, including but not limited to, Anthem recording for the 2024 United Methodist Church Conference, Project 21 original composition recordings, and conducting portfolio recordings for Katie Crim, Samuel Brady, Stephanie Keegin-Moring and more. In 2023, Michael won the Putnam City North concerto competition. In 2025, Michael advanced to the finals of the Oklahoma City University, and Sewanee Summer Music Festival Concerto Competitions.

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