



VIRTUAL  
CONCERT  
HALLS



# LAUREATE GALA WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL



**APRIL 28, 2026 @ 7 PM**



**Anna Ouspenskaya**



**Igor Zubkovsky**



**Frane Rušinović**

Welcome to the Laureate Gala, presented by Sound Espresso and Virtual Concert Halls. This evening's program features musicians from around the world who participated in our Laureates' Auditions, showcasing a rich diversity of artistic experience.

We are pleased to welcome back the Bow Lightlys Cello Ensemble, under the direction of John Kaboff, as well as Orchestra Manhattan, led by Maestro David Wroe. This marks Orchestra Manhattan's second appearance with us this season and one of many collaborations over the years. The cello ensemble is featured in the first half of the program, while Orchestra Manhattan accompanies our soloists in the second half.

Our mission is to support musicians of all ages in their artistic growth through innovative online competitions and performance initiatives. Since 2020, we have created virtual platforms that enable performers to reach global audiences, receive expert feedback, share their artistry, and gain opportunities to perform in prestigious venues. We celebrate the dedication of teachers, families, and communities, as well as the courage it takes for musicians to share their art.

Music weaves together storytelling, history, mathematics, imagery, and emotion. It reflects cultural heritage, inspires other art forms, and fosters meaningful human connection. Strong musical training — uniting expert instruction, disciplined practice, collaboration, and performance opportunities — allows individual artistic voices to flourish.

We are proud to work with an extraordinary team of professionals who educate, encourage, and recognize musicians at every stage of their artistic journey.

Thank you to our families, supporters, and contributors — this Gala would not be possible without you. We hope you enjoy the celebration!

**SOUND ESPRESSIVO**  
**AND**  
**VIRTUAL CONCERT HALLS**  
*proudly present their*

**5TH SEASON**  
**LAUREATE GALA**

**WEILL RECITAL HALL**  
**CARNEGIE HALL**

**APRIL 28, 2026 | 7PM**

**FEATURING**

**OUR SELECTED LAUREATES**  
**THE BOW LIGHTLYS CELLO ENSEMBLE**  
**ORCHESTRA MANHATTAN**

# Program

April 28, 2026, 7:00 PM  
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Bow Lightlys Cello Ensemble  
Director: John Kaboff

Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
Prelude to a Te Deum in D Major, H. 146 (1692)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Allegro moderato, from the Sonata for Viola da Gamba  
and Harpsichord in G Major, BWV 1027

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, from the Cantata  
Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147 (1723)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Legend (Christ in His Garden), Op. 54 No. 5

Georg Goltermann  
Serenade, Op. 119 No. 2

Cello Ensemble Performers: Matthew Armbruster, Helen Altenbach, Charlie Bate, Mary Gallacher, Leo Gonzalez, Jack Guthrie, Amelia Koch, Owen Koch, Carter Kunz, Ezra Loke, Carson Mitchell, Anthony Huang, Andrew Park, Vihaan Patel, Yusuke Yamazaki, Aiden Yuen, Lucas Zapata, Elijah Zhen, Finn de Vlaming

Jay Ungar  
Ashokan Farewell (©1983 Swinging Door Music, arr. John Kaboff)

Franz Schubert  
The Erlking (arr. John Kaboff)

Gioachino Rossini  
Overture to The Barber of Seville (1816, arr. John Kaboff)

Cello Ensemble (Chamber Group): Matthew Armbruster, Helen Altenbach, Mary Gallacher, Leo Gonzalez, Owen Koch, Carter Kunz, Carson Mitchell, Aiden Yuen

# INTERMISSION

Orchestra Manhattan

Music Director and Conductor: David Wroe

**Felix Mendelssohn – Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 40**

*I. Allegro appassionato*

*II. Adagio. Molto sostenuto*

*III. Finale. Presto scherzando*

**Jack Nossaman, piano**

**Robert Vandall – Concerto in G Major (I. Moderato)**

**Mijo Chang, piano**

**Greg Brown – Alpha Centauri (world premiere)**

**Greg Brown, guitar**

**Robert Schumann – Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54 (I. Allegro affettuoso)**

**Abby Nossaman, piano**

**Joseph Haydn – Piano Concerto in C Major, Hob. XVIII:4**

*I. Allegro*

*II. Menuet*

*III. Finale: Allegro*

**Cooper Ly, piano**

**Mason Ishida – Dance of Frustration (world premiere)**

**Joanna Chow, piano**

**Henryk Wieniawski – Polonaise in D Major, Op. 4**

**Amy Fetherolf, violin**

**Clara Schumann – Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 7**

*I. Allegro maestoso*

*II. Romanze: Andante non troppo con grazia*

*III. Finale: Allegro non troppo – Allegro molto*

**Christina Harnisch, piano**

# Program Notes

## Alpha Centauri

Orchestra Manhattan, Greg Brown (guitar)

Music by Greg Brown

*Alpha Centauri is a tone poem about journeying to our nearest star. It starts off quietly, then builds with excitement, followed by the guitar cadenza as we reach zero gravity. The strings enter as the next stage propels us toward Mars.*

*The 3/4 section slows slightly as we carefully cross the asteroid belt, before kicking into a 12/16 section as we continue through the rest of our solar system. The next guitar cadenza marks our departure from the gravitational pull of our star and entry into the Alpha Centauri system.*

*The key change to D major signifies our arrival, ultimately ending on an unresolved chord to suggest the unknown worlds we've now reached.*

*Hope you enjoy the journey!*



**Greg C. Brown** is an American performer, composer, and recording artist who has released over 25 albums, both as a soloist and in collaboration with various ensembles. He has performed across the United States, Canada, and Europe, including a notable appearance at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland.

With over 25 years of professional teaching experience, Greg has served on the faculty of Mary Baldwin University and several private institutions. He currently maintains a thriving private teaching studio in his hometown, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Greg holds a Master's in Music Composition from the Vermont College of Fine Arts (2022), a Bachelor's in Business with a specialty in Music Industry from City University of Bellevue, Washington, and a Music, Video, and Business diploma from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

His orchestral and chamber works have been performed by ensembles such as the Charlottesville Camerata Rotunda Chamber Orchestra, the Trio Lunaire, the Chatham Baroque Trio, the Thalea String Quartet, and Ari Streisfeld of Duo Cortona. As a guitarist, Greg has also shared the stage with acclaimed artists, including John D'Earth, Daryl Davis, and Phil Wiggins.

Greg's music has been featured in television, film, video games, and radio broadcasts worldwide — and even transcribed into Braille. His recordings are available on all major streaming platforms. Greg's sheet music is published through Les Productions d'Oz and J.W. Pepper.

# Dance of Frustration

## Joanna Chow (piano)

### Music by Mason Ishida

*“Dance of Frustration” started as a class assignment — a tonal dance in binary form for Mason Ishida’s composition studies at the New England Conservatory. Whether it truly qualifies as tonal is, by the composer’s own admission, debatable. What isn’t debatable is that it moves fast, it pushes hard, and it fully earns its title.*

*Dance of Frustration is performed tonight by pianist Joanna Chow. Both artists are based in the Northern Virginia area, and their work together reflects a shared enthusiasm for bringing new compositional voices to the concert stage.*



**Mason Kaneto Ishida** is a composer and pianist from Northern Virginia and a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied composition with John Mallia. He also attended the New York Summer Music Festival for three summers (2013–2015), studying piano performance and singing in choir alongside faculty from some of the country’s leading conservatories.

With over twenty years of piano study and performance experience, Mason draws inspiration from Beethoven, Scriabin, Bartók, and Shostakovich, as well as the creative energy of Nirvana and Radiohead.

This combination shapes a distinctive artistic voice that is emotionally direct, rhythmically fearless, and deeply committed to craft. His works span chamber ensembles, orchestra, and solo piano.

In 2025, Mason premiered “An Exaggeration” for chamber orchestra at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, as part of the Sound Espresso Gala Laureate Concert. The work has since earned major international recognition across multiple competitions.

At the Classical Stars International Music Competition (March 2026), “An Exaggeration” for Symphony Orchestra received the Gold Prize in Composition, the Gold Prize in 20th and 21st Century Composition, the Gold Prize in Own Composition, and the Special Award “Artist of the Season.” At the Global Young Musicians Competition in Gdańsk, Poland (March 2026), the work received the Gold Award for Composition. At the Mozart International Music Competition (March 2026), Mason received a Gold Award for both “Suite” for Symphony Orchestra and “String Quartet No. 2.” At the World’s Best Musicians Competition (March 2026), he received the Outstanding Laureate and 1st Prize for “An Exaggeration” for Symphony Orchestra. His String Quartet No. 2 received the Platinum Award for Composer at the Fenix Award International Music Competition (February 2026).

Most recently, on April 16, 2026, Mason received the Platinum Award and the title of Laureate at the Ravel Award International Music Competition for his piano works “Dance of Frustration” and “An Exaggeration.”

Mason’s approach balances tradition with exploration — music shaped by emotion, craft, and curiosity. He plans to pursue graduate study in composition and welcomes opportunities for commissions, performances, film and game scoring, and piano teaching.

# ORCHESTRA MANHATTAN



## David Wroe Music Director

Maestro David Wroe is Music Director of the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Principal Conductor at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, and a frequent guest conductor of L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie. From 2000–2014, he was a regular conductor with New York City Opera and has led major orchestras worldwide, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and others across Europe and Asia.

He served as Assistant Conductor to Seiji Ozawa at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, performing at Tanglewood, Symphony Hall, and on international tours. His work includes collaborations with artists such as Jessye Norman and Itzhak Perlman, and a recording debut with L'Orchestre National de Lille.

Wroe has held leadership roles with Opera der Stadt Heidelberg, Opera Delaware, and Opera Teatro Grattacielo, and has collaborated through the NJ Festival Orchestra with artists spanning classical and crossover genres. He is also active as a mentor, working with youth orchestras, leading masterclasses at institutions including Harvard and Rutgers, and serving as a competition juror, including for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

His honors include the Seiji Ozawa Fellowship at Tanglewood, a U.S. Congressional citation, and finalist status in the Bernstein International Conducting Competition. He studied at Manchester University and Northwestern University with Gustav Meier and Victor Yampolsky.

### **Orchestra Manhattan Roster**

**Flute/Piccolo: Michael Alampi**

**Oboe/English Horn: Jillian Honn**

**Clarinet: Yingcun Jin**

**Bassoon: Joe Swift**

**Horn: Blair Hamrick\*, Peter DelGrosso**

**Trumpet: Matt Bergman**

**Violin I: Suliman Tekalli\*\*, Xuan Yao, Cathy Yang**

**Violin II: Francisco Salazar\*, Benjamin Kronk**

**Viola: Bradley Bosenbeck\*, Jiawei Jan**

**Cello: Laura Andrade\*, Matt Armbruster**

**Double Bass: Carlos Barriento; Librarian: Yi Fei Xu**

\* Principal    \*\* Concertmaster

# **BOW LIGHTLYS**

## **STRING ENSEMBLE**



The Bow Lightlys have been featured guest artists at the World Cello Congress III (2000), where they participated in an internationally broadcast cello ensemble workshop with the legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma. This collaboration led to a cello choir concert at the Sixth American Cello Congress (2001), coinciding with Mr. Kaboff's appearance as a guest lecturer.

The ensemble has also performed at the Tennessee Cello Workshop (2014) and has been featured in live radio broadcasts in Washington, D.C. Their performances include concerts at the Embassy of France, the Almas Shriners Temple, and numerous local religious and cultural centers.

Committed to community engagement, the Bow Lightlys frequently perform at charity events for the American Diabetes Association and bring music to senior living communities, sharing their artistry with audiences who might otherwise be unable to attend live concerts.



**John Kaboff** studied with János Starker at Indiana University and with William Pleeth at the Holland Music Sessions and the Britten–Pears School in England. He also worked with Arto Noras at the International Academy of Chamber Music in Kronberg, Germany.

Based in the Washington, D.C. area since 1995, Mr. Kaboff has appeared as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist at venues including The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the U.S. Department of State, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and numerous embassies. He has performed at Carnegie Hall with the Manhattan Symphonie and at Strathmore, where he was praised as “beguilingly lyrical” and in “top form.”

Internationally, he has performed in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Australia. In May 2025, he performed Kaddish by Maurice Ravel in a live broadcast at the Department of Justice for the Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance Program. He has also appeared with Los AnCellos, the South Florida Symphony, and as a guest artist at the Tennessee Cello Workshop. In 2025–2026, he presents lecture-recitals exploring connections between 20th-century solo cello repertoire and the solo cello suites of Johann Sebastian Bach, alongside performances of his cello transcriptions of violin works by Ernest Bloch.

A dedicated pedagogue, Mr. Kaboff's students regularly win top prizes in competitions such as the Washington Performing Arts Feder Competition and the American Protégé Competition, leading to debuts at Carnegie Hall. His former students attend leading institutions including the Curtis Institute, Rice University, Indiana University, the University of Michigan, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and perform with major orchestras across the U.S. and Europe.

For over 30 years, his studio ensemble, the "Bow Lightlys," has performed internationally, including appearances with Yo-Yo Ma at the World Cello Congress. The group appears regularly at the Tennessee Cello Workshop, in Washington-area venues, and at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Kaboff has served as an adjudicator for major competitions, including the Johansen International String Competition and the Washington International Competition for Strings, where he also served as chairman. As a guest lecturer, he has presented master classes across the U.S., the U.K., and Australia, and has been an artist-in-residence at Appalachian State University. He holds Suzuki certification through Level 10.

His teaching has been praised by leading artists, including Yo-Yo Ma and János Starker, and he has been featured in publications such as The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun.

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**Xiaodan Helen Altenbach** is an active freelance musician for the TV and Film industry in Los Angeles, Helen is a member of the Grammy-winning LA Opera orchestra and a founding member of Los AnCellos, a cello ensemble serving the wellness-seeking population with meditation-inspired sound baths. As Xiaodan, she attended the Moscow Tchaikovsky Pre-Conservatory, the Juilliard Pre-College, LaGuardia High School for Music & Arts and Performing Arts, and the University of Southern California.

Xiaodan's awards include the Juilliard Honor Strings competition, Juilliard Concerto competition, the ASCAP Foundation Ira Gershwin Award, Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society Young Artists Award, and First prize at the Great Neck Young Artist

Competition, and second prize at Corpus Christi Young Artists Competition. Helen expanded her career with a master's degree in Psychotherapy during the pandemic and is now a CA Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Helen's therapy practice specializes in coping with the changes in the entertainment industry, multicultural relationships, and multigenerational family dynamics.

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Cellist **Matthew Armbruster** is a versatile performer, educator and concert producer. Matthew is a member of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and the Austin Ballet and has served as co-principal cellist of the Penderecki Academy Orchestra, where he collaborated closely and toured with renowned composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki.

Matthew is highly active in performing and curating new and contemporary music, and has been responsible for commissioning over 30 new works as the co-founder of Tetractys New Music. He is a member of SoundMap, a contemporary music group focused on promoting, developing, and producing creative sound projects, and has appeared as a guest artist with Hub New Music and Blackbox Ensemble.

As a chamber musician, Matthew is frequently presented by Texas Performing Arts, The Butler School of Music, Austin Chamber Music Center, The Archetype of Modern Man, Austin Camerata, Density 512, among others. Matthew holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. His previous teachers have included Bion Tsang, Amos Yang, Anthony Elliott, Janos Starker, and John Kaboff.



**Charlie Bate**, a sixth-grade student at Flint Hill Elementary in Vienna, Virginia, began studying cello in fourth grade at Mr. Kaboff's studio. Since then, he has developed a strong passion for music and is currently a member of the Debut Orchestra of AYPO. Last summer, he furthered his musical training at the Leon Fleisher Academy at American University. Most recently, he earned third place in his age group at the NVMTA Concerto Competition. He loves the cello and is deeply committed to growing as a musician, with the hope of having the lifelong privilege of sharing and performing music.

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**Finn de Vlaming** is a 6th grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. He became interested in playing cello after seeing various instruments demonstrated in elementary school. What he enjoys most about playing cello is its beautiful tone quality. He's also a voracious reader and D&D enjoyer. If you're not careful he will charm you with his sense of humor and wit!

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**Mary Gallacher**, 16, has been a cellist at the Kaboff Cello School for eight years and tonight's Laureate Gala marks Mary's third performance at Carnegie Hall. Mary is the cello section leader for the Falls Church High School Chamber Orchestra (Fairfax County, Virginia). She has also played with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra where she further expanded her repertoire. While not practicing cello, Mary is a leader in her church youth group, a swimmer, golfer, volunteer long-distance offensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles, and is active in the Northern Virginia Junior Cotillion.

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**Leo Gonzalez**, 15, has been studying cello with John Kaboff since 2020. He has been a member of the Arlington Juniors and Honors Orchestras since 2021 as principal and assistant principal cello. He has been a member of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras - String Ensemble (2024-1015), and the Concert Orchestra (2025-2026). He participates in competitions and local performances, the latest being the 2025 NVMTA Strings Concerto Competition and at the Suzuki Association of the Greater Washington Area graduation recitals.

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**Jack Guthrie**, 11, lives in Arlington, VA where he attends Williamsburg Middle School. He began studying cello with John Kaboff in the fall of 2022, and has been a member of the Arlington Junior Honors and Honors Orchestras as well as the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras since 2024. Outside of music, Jack enjoys playing lacrosse and soccer, riding and fixing his bike, and reading a good book. Jack has inspired his two younger sisters to embark on their cello journey and plans to take the Guthrie Cello Trio on the road one day!



**Anthony Huang** is a 13-year-old student at Luther Jackson Middle School. He began his cello journey in fourth grade and has shown steady dedication and growth ever since. Through his hard work, he has earned praise from both audiences and mentors. Anthony studies with John Kaboff, a well-known cellist in the DC area. He has participated in prestigious music festivals and performs both as a soloist and in orchestras throughout the region. In addition to private lessons, Anthony is a member of AYPO Orchestra. He also attended the Leon Fleisher Academy, and Regional Orchestra, where he continues to develop his musical and artistic skills.

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**Carter Kunz** is a senior at Georgetown Day School who began playing cello in the 4th grade. He has studied cello with John Kaboff and has been a member of the Bow Lightlys Cello Choir for two years. Carter has performed with the McLean Youth Orchestra and Crescendo Ensemble, and he is currently principal cello of the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and a member of the Georgetown Day School Chamber Group. He recently performed the Elgar Cello Concerto with WMYO. Outside of music, Carter is an Eagle Scout, co-captain of his school's varsity tennis team, and an award-winning photographer. Carter plans to study music and biomedical engineering in college.

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**Amelia Koch** lives in Vienna, VA where she is in 8th grade at Kilmer Middle School. She started playing cello in third grade and currently performs in her school's symphonic orchestra. She is also a member of her school's Scientific Olympiad team, as well as participating in Model UN and Get to Green. Amelia earned her Silver Award for Girl Scouts, and enjoys crafting for volunteer service. She is looking forward to high school to pursue her academic and musical interests

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**Owen Koch** lives in Vienna, VA where he is a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. He started playing cello in third grade and currently performs in his school's symphonic orchestra. He is a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society, participates in Academic Decathlon, and is a member of his high school swim team. Owen is excited for the remainder of his high school career and looks forward to pursuing a degree in engineering in college while also keeping up with cello.

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**Ezra Loke** is a cellist, pianist, drummer, marimba player, and unbeknownst to him, a talented vocalist. His parents discovered his keen ear for tunes when they were awakened on one quiet and eerie night by the sound of him plucking the bathroom vent while sitting on the potty playing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" at the age of 5. Outside of music, you can find him in his Brazilian Jiujitsu Gi grappling on the mat or in his Kung Fu attire doing flying side-kicks. Above all, he is a loving brother to two younger sisters and a sweet son.



**Carson Mitchell**, age 14, began playing in his classical school's beginning orchestra in fourth grade and has been taking private lessons with Mr. Kaboff in December of the same year (2020) He has been performing with the Bow Lightlys in 2022. He has also attended master class and workshops at the University of Tennessee in winter of 2024 and 2026. When he isn't playing cello, Carson spends time playing basketball and flag football or supporting his favorite team, the Baltimore Ravens.

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**Andrew Park** is in eighth grade and lives in northern Virginia. He started playing cello in fourth grade and has been studying with Mr. Kaboff since summer of 2024. Andrew is part of his school orchestra as well as American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras and playing cello brings him joy. He has an older and younger brother and enjoys spending time with them and his parents. He likes playing cards, tennis, and football and watching movies or shows with his family.

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**Vihaan Patel**, a cellist from Vienna, Virginia, has been playing cello for four years. An active member of his school's music community, he currently performs with the Luther Jackson Chamber Orchestra, where he continues to develop his ensemble skills and musical expression. For the past two years, he has attended the Tennessee Cello Workshop, gaining valuable experience learning from professional musicians. He is a founding member of the non-profit organization Back to Bach, reflecting his commitment to sharing music with others. He's looking forward to continuing his musical journey and sharing his passion for the cello in performances like tonight's.

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**Joseph Xu**, 16, is currently a junior at Georgetown Day School. In 2020, Joseph began participating in Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra and is currently a member of the Bow Lightlys Cello Choir. Outside of music, Joseph is involved in chemistry research and is one half of the 25th ranked debate duo in the nation. Joseph plans to study chemistry in college and then go to medical school and continue to play cello as a hobby throughout his life.



**Yusuke Yamazaki**, 9, born in Japan in 2017, has been learning cello under John Kaboff for three years since he came to the US. Thanks to John's innovative and unique teaching style—which incorporates fart jokes—Yusuke has shown remarkable improvement in a short period of time. He has won awards in local competitions even at a young age and also serves as one of the youngest members of the Junior Division of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. For Yusuke, being a lover of music, the moments spent creating beautiful harmonies in the cello choir, along with the friendships among its members, are truly cherished treasures.

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**Aiden Yuen**, 14 years old and live in Great Falls, VA. I started learning the cello at age 10, and it has become one of my favorite activities. I currently serve as an assistant principal cellist at American Youth Philharmonic Organization, which has been a meaningful experience for me. I also play the piano and attend church, where I am part of the worship team. Besides music, I enjoy playing basketball to relax and have fun. Music has helped shape who I am, and I hope to keep improving in the future.

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**Lucas Zapata**, 13, is from Northern Virginia currently in the seventh grade. Now in his fourth year of playing, Lucas has served as assistant principal cellist of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra's Debut Orchestra and has participated in the Tennessee Cello Workshop. His favorite composer is Dvořák and he cites Yo-Yo Ma as his greatest musical inspiration. Outside of music, Lucas is an avid basketball and soccer player. He is thrilled to be performing on the Carnegie Hall stage this evening.

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**Elijah Zhen**, 12, is a 7th grader at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, Virginia. He has been studying cello John Kaboff since 4th grade. He performs regularly in his school orchestra and in the American Youth String Ensemble orchestra. Elijah has won prizes in numerous NVMTA concerto and Strings Achievement Award competitions. He loves traveling with the Kaboff Cello School every year to attend the Tennessee cello workshop to perform and take master classes from outstanding cellist pedagogues. Elijah also plays piano and stays active with swimming year-round on a swim club and runs cross country.

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## *Special Thanks*

*to all the teachers and families for their endless  
nurturing and support!*

# SOLOISTS



**Jack Nossaman** (12) is a pianist from Northern Virginia who has been playing for six years and studies with Anna Ouspenskaya at the Hunter Mill Music Studio. He is a sixth grader at Nysmith School in Herndon, Virginia. Jack was awarded first place in the Northern Virginia Teachers Association Competition in 2024 and 2025.

He enjoys a wide variety of music and is especially drawn to connecting with the emotion and character of a piece.

Outside of piano, Jack spends a lot of time on the baseball field with his Vienna-based teams, where he has earned All-Star recognition. He is competitive and enjoys the challenge, but has learned that like piano, the biggest gains come from showing up each day, putting in the work, and trusting that small improvements will add up over time. Away from the piano and the field, Jack enjoys basketball, reading, travel, and time with friends.

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**Mijo Chang**, from New York, NY, is 12 years old and currently studies piano with Donna Weng Friedman at the Mannes School of Music Precollege Division. She began playing piano at age six and was accepted to Mannes Prep at age seven, where she is now part of the Clara Mannes Scholars program.

In 2026, she reached the final stage of the Mannes Prep Senior Concerto Competition. She also achieved followings: Royal Resonance International Music Competition (2026, Gold), Euro Elite International Music Competition (2026, Finalist), American Protégé International Concerto Competition (2023, 2nd Place).

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**Abigail Nossaman** (14), from Northern Virginia, has studied piano with Anna Ouspenskaya at the Hunter Mill Music Studio for 9 years. She is a ninth grader at The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia. Abby has been a finalist in the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition for four consecutive years and was a prizewinner in the International Great Composers Competition, placing in the Best Bach Performance category. In 2025, she performed as a solo pianist in the Sound Espresso Gala Concert at Carnegie Hall.

Abby enjoys exploring a wide range of music and is drawn to pieces that are expressive and full of character. She brings a thoughtful and intuitive approach to her playing and is especially interested in how music can create mood and tell a story. Outside of piano, Abby plays tennis and softball, studies Latin and Karate, and co-leads a robotics team.



**Cooper Ly** began studying piano at age five with Dr. Ji Hyun Kim of Bradley University. In 2023, he continued his training with Professor Valerie Middleton at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music.

He is a prizewinner in numerous international competitions and has performed at distinguished venues including Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, and Beethoven-Haus. In addition to the stage, Cooper regularly shares his music through community performances at retirement homes, holiday concerts, and fundraising events supporting organizations such as the Dream Center. Beyond piano, Cooper enjoys playing guitar and singing. He is an active swimmer on his school team and explores interests in robotics, coding, and engineering through Vanderbilt Programs for

Talented Youth (SAVY). In his free time, he enjoys reading and building with Legos and robotics kits.

His recent honors include First Prize at the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition in Bonn and the Golden Classical International Music Competition, as well as top awards from the London Grand Prize Virtuoso and the Gold Keys Festival at Carnegie Hall. He has also received Superior and Superior+ ratings from regional and state-level auditions, including TMTA, NAMTA, and NPAC.

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**Joanna Chow** began her musical journey at the age of four, discovering a deep connection to the piano early in life. At nine, a new passion for tennis led her to train full-time, temporarily stepping away from music to pursue excellence in sport. Yet, her love for the piano never faded.

Now 24, Joanna has returned to her first calling with renewed purpose and dedication. For nearly two years, she has been studying under the guidance of Dr. Anna Ouspenskaya, refining her artistry and preparing to share her music with audiences. Drawing on the discipline and focus developed through years of athletic training, Joanna brings a unique blend of strength, sensitivity, and creativity to her performances. She is committed to building a career as a performing artist, inspired to connect with others and to share her journey through music.

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**Amy Fetherolf** is a professional violinist who has performed as a soloist with world-renowned orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony, Apollo's Fire, and many others.

A reviewer attending Ms. Fetherolf's Sibelius Violin Concerto performances with the North Carolina Symphony under the baton of conductor Carolyn Kuan called Fetherolf's performance "easily the highlight" of the concert. "As I sat spellbound listening to Fetherolf playing the Sibelius concerto, it became for that interval my very most favorite. Fetherolf's playing was truly outstanding ... Fetherolf showed off her thrilling virtuosity with incredible trills and rapid, stylish bow work."

"On a scale of one to 10, it rated a 10-plus," another reviewer wrote of a concert featuring Ms. Fetherolf's Sarasate Carmen Fantasy. "Solo guest violinist Amy Fetherolf brought forth more varied sounds from her instrument than I'd ever heard from a violin." Fetherolf performs on a violin made in 1920 by Italian violin maker Stefano Scarampella of Brescia.



The Swiss pianist **Christina Harnisch** took her concert diploma with Franz Joseph Hirt at the Berne Conservatory and University. After working with Eduardo Vercellei, she obtained the “Prix de Virtuositè” Neuchâtel. She won several national and international prizes and study awards and subsequently embarked on further pianistic studies with Yvonne Lefébure in Paris, Louis Kentner in London, Vitalij Margulis in Freiburg/Br und Bruno Mezzena in Italy. Since then, the versatile musician has continually appeared on concert stages in Switzerland and abroad as a soloist in piano recitals, orchestra concerts (Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Berner Symphonieorchester, San Francisco Sinfonietta, Orquesta Nacional del Perú, and others), and chamber music concerts. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to contemporary music.

One main focus lies on the works of women composers (Cécile Chaminade, Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, Grazyna Bacewicz, etc.) She played in many countries and performed in the Tonhalle Zurich, the Wiener Konzerthaus in Wien, and the Purcell Room in London. She also gives masterclasses at universities and conservatories. She toured in the USA, South America, Europe, China, and Thailand.

She made a big tour through China with concerts in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, etc. In recent years, she performed in South America, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, where she played with the Orquesta Nacional del Perú in Lima and took part in the “Festival Internacional de Música Clásica Contemporánea “ in Lima.

She has a duo with Romano Pucci, first flutist of the “Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala di Milano. Recently, the Duo Pucci-Harnisch made a big tour in China, where they played with great success in Shanghai in the “Shanghai Oriental Art Center“ and later on in Bangkok for the “Festival della Lingua Italiana“.

In recent years, she has made, besides other concerts, a big concert tour in India with concerts in Bangalore, Goa, Kolkata, Pune, and New Delhi, a Thailand tour, played a solo recital in the Tonhalle Zurich, and performed with the Donauesingener Orchester the Cécile Chaminade piano concert for piano and orchestra in Zurich, Locarno (Palazzetto Fevi), and Locarno (Palazzo dei congressi).

Recently she played the Mendelssohn concert in sol minor Nr 1 in Budapest with the Donau-Symphonieorchester Budapest, took part in the festival de la Francophonie in Poland with concerts in Warschau and Torun, and made a big tour in Chile with six solo recitals in Santiago and Vina del Mar (Fundacion de Providencia, Centro Cultural de los Carabineros, Teatro Municipal Vina del Mar).

For a few years, she has had an American manager, Jack Price, with whom she was able to give two solo recitals, "Great pianists of the world" in Belleville and St. Louis, USA, IL, and Missouri. With a recital of composers and women composers (Chopin, Maria Szymanowska, Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Grazyna Bacewicz, Cécile Chaminade, Debussy). She also played the Clara Schumann concert and the Chaminade concert with orchestra in Poland in H. Wieniawskiego, and in November 2023, she performed the Clara Schumann concert in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, with the University City Symphony orchestra.

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## Mentor



*Donna Weng Friedman is an award-winning pianist, producer, filmmaker and creative visionary.*

*Her distinguished career spans dynamic performances, innovative projects, groundbreaking collaborations, and a steadfast dedication to advancing the arts through innovation, education and mentorship.*

# The Host - Steve Robinson



Steve Robinson is an American radio executive, producer, and media leader whose 50-year career spans some of the nation's most respected public radio stations. He has held senior management roles at WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network/Chicago, WBUR/Boston, WGBH/Boston, WCRB/Boston, KPFA/Berkeley, WBGO/Newark, Vermont Public Radio, and the Nebraska Public Radio Network, where he served as General Manager from 1990–2000. From 2000 to 2016, he was General Manager of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network.

Robinson has produced an extensive range of programming—from classical music documentaries to public affairs—and directed more than 100 on-air fundraising drives. In 1984, he co-founded AIR: the Association of Independents in Radio, securing its first major grants from NYSCA and the NEA.

His broadcasts have reached audiences worldwide, including live programs from Salzburg for Mozart's 250th birthday, Durban for the premiere of Princess Magogo, Quebec City for Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand, and Jerusalem for the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival. He has collaborated with leading composers such as William Schuman, Elliott Carter, Charles Dodge, Roger Reynolds, and Alan Hovhaness.

In 2003, Robinson created the acclaimed daily classical music program Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, now airing on more than 60 U.S. stations and internationally. He also established the first classical music radio exchange between the United States and China.

During his WFMT tenure, he expanded live broadcasting, broadened programming, and launched new series, including Introductions and Impromptu. In 2007, the Chicago Tribune named him "Chicagoan of the Year" in the arts.

Robinson also led major charitable broadcast campaigns in 2004 and 2010, each raising over \$3 million for global disaster relief, earning him two Wesbury Awards from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago.

His work has been recognized with numerous honors, including the ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award, the Champion Award from the Merit School of Music, and the Dushkin Award for Exploring Music.



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# **2026-2027 CONCERT SEASON**

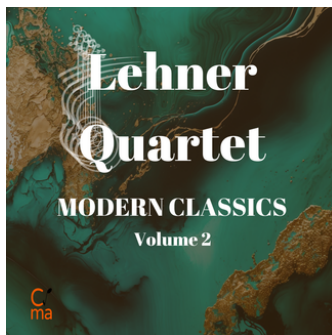
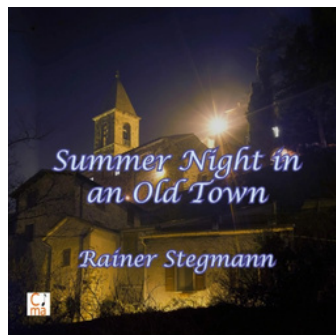
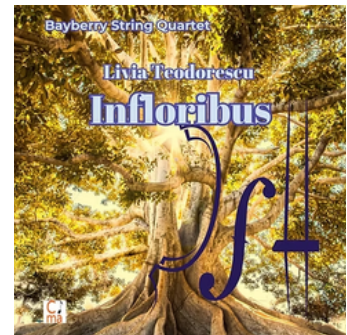
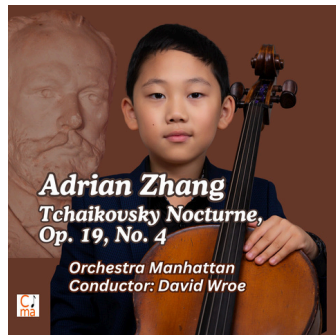
- 02.16.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall  
New York Chamber Players Orchestra (NYCPO)
- 02.19.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall;  
Orchestra Manhattan; David Wroe, conductor
- 03.07.26 Butler Philharmonic Orchestra; Kate Lee, piano; Calliope  
Smith, violin; Scott Woodard, conductor
- 04.18.26 Paducah Symphony Orchestra; Kemal Gekić, piano; Anna  
Maria Mendieta, harp; Raffaele Ponti, conductor
- 04.28.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; Orchestra  
Manhattan; David Wroe, conductor
- 04.29.26 Recording Session – Orchestra Manhattan;  
David Wroe, conductor
- 06.28.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; New York  
Chamber Players Orchestra (NYCPO)
- 06.30.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 11.23.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; New York  
Chamber Players Orchestra (NYCPO)
- 11.24.26 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; Orchestra  
Manhattan; David Wroe, conductor
- 11.25.26 Recording Session – Orchestra Manhattan;  
David Wroe, conductor
- 12.04.26 Camerata de Coahuila – concert and recording
- 02.19.27 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; NYCPO;  
Lehner Quartet
- 03.20.27 Butler Philharmonic Orchestra – concert and recording
- 04.19.27 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; Orchestra  
Manhattan
- 04.21.27 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; Orchestra  
Manhattan
- 04.22.27 Recording Session – Orchestra Manhattan;  
David Wroe, conductor
- 06.28.27 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; NYCPO;  
Lehner Quartet
- 06.30.27 Laureate Gala – Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; NYCPO;  
Lehner Quartet



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# ALBUM RELEASES



# THANK YOU CONSULTANTS



**Giacomo Franci**  
*The New York Chamber Players*



**David Wroe**  
*New Jersey Festival Orchestra*



**Raffaele Livio Ponti**  
*Paducah Symphony*



**Scott E. Woodard**  
*West Virginia State Philharmonic*



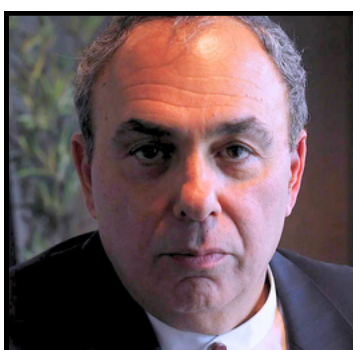
**James  
Greening-Valenzuela**  
*Vocal Arts Management*



**Nvart Andreassian**  
*Armenian Nation Opera*



**Gevorg Sargsyan**  
*Ministry of Culture Kingdom  
of Saudi Arabia*



**Dickran Atamian**  
*Price Attractions*



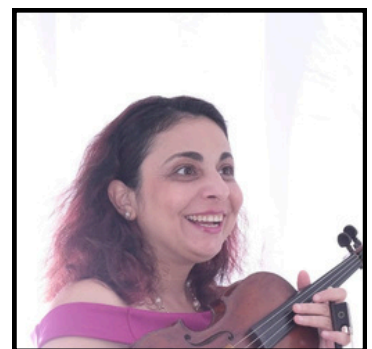
**Raymond Fawzy**  
*Clarinetist, Cairo Opera House*



**Avguste Antonov**  
*Concert Pianist & Educator*



**Ivan Violić**  
*Pianist & Composer*



**Ani Umedyan**  
*Violinist & Educator*

# OUR TEAM



**Anna Ouspenskaya**  
Sound Espresso &  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Co-Founder*



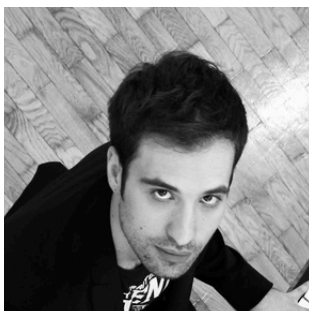
**Igor Zubkovsky**  
Sound Espresso &  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Co-Founder*



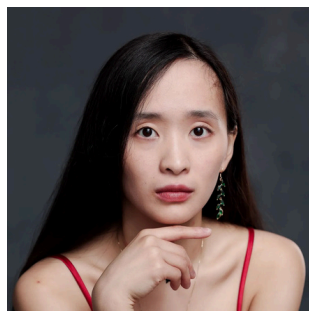
**Frane Rušinović**  
Sound Espresso &  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Co-Founder/Tech Director*



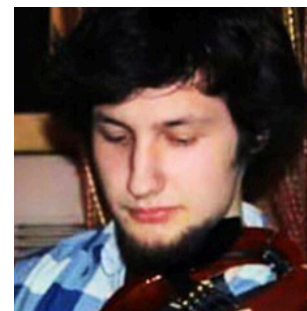
**Fedor Ouspensky**  
Sound Espresso &  
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*Co-Founder*



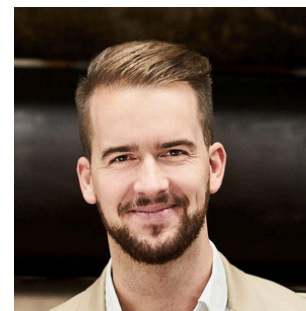
**Ante Božić-Kudrić**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Technical Producer*



**Jennifer Savage**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Assistant Director, Host*



**Marko Torre**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Assistant Director*



**Krisztian Palagyi**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Assistant Director, Host*



**Kateryna Li Khemmett**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*PR/Social Media, Graphic & Photo Design*



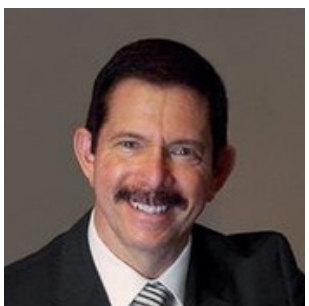
**Miro Dobrovic**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Videographer, Filmmaker*



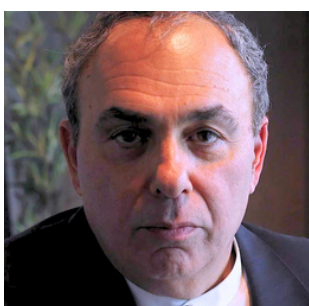
**Ann Lathan Kerzner**  
Price Attractions  
*Special Projects*



**Chris Au**  
Virtual Concert Halls  
*Host*



**James Adler**  
AdlerOaks Library  
*Audience Awards Founder*



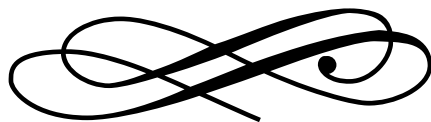
**Jack Price**  
Price Attractions  
*Artist Manager, Host*



**Gianriccardo Pera**  
Cicerone Music & Art  
*Audio Producer*



**Irma de Jong**  
iClassical Academy  
*Publishing Coordinator*



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*With gratitude,  
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