

A young woman with a white hair bow, wearing a black strapless dress, is playing a violin. She is in the foreground, slightly to the left. In the background, other musicians are visible, some wearing face masks. The setting is a grand concert hall with wood-paneled walls.

N | E | C

EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ARTISTRY AT

New England Conservatory

necmusic.edu

NEC Chamber Orchestra

Donald Palma, artistic director

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Gerald Finzi
(1901–1956)

Prelude, op. 25

Frank Bridge
(1879–1941)

Suite for String Orchestra, H. 93

Prelude
Intermezzo
Nocturne
Finale

Intermission

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, op. 10

Introduction and Theme
Adagio
March
Romance
Aria italiana
Bourée classique
Wiener Waltz
Moto perpetuo
Funeral march
Chant
Fugue and Finale

For our final program of the season, I've chosen to highlight a few extraordinary works from the rich tradition of English string music. Gerald Finzi's poignant *Prelude*, composed in the 1920s, was to be the first movement of a chamber symphony entitled *The Bud, the Blossom and the Berry*. A great lover of nature, apple orchards, and the countryside, Finzi's works never fail to reach the listener in a most intimate way.

Frank Bridge was an eminent figure in the musical life of post-Victorian England. A composer, a conductor and a violist, Bridge was one of the first English composers to inspire a young Benjamin Britten. He was Britten's teacher, mentor, sometime tennis partner and life-long friend. The *Suite for String Orchestra*, composed in 1909-10 and typical of his earlier style, combines several light-hearted romps through the English countryside offset by forays into the deep recesses of human emotion.

As a tribute to his mentor, Britten took a theme from Bridge's *Three Idylls* for string quartet and created one of the finest string orchestra compositions of the 20th Century. Composed in 1937 and premiered at the Salzburg Festival, *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge* brought Britten international attention. The work includes an introduction, the theme and ten variations with each variation being a nod to a specific quality in Bridge's personality.

– Donald Palma

NEC Chamber Orchestra

Donald Palma, artistic director

Violin

Cameron Alan-Lee

Bowen Chen **

Hannah Goldstick

Harin Kang §§

Hyun Ji Lee ‡

Nikki Naghavi ‡‡

Liyuan Xie

Mitsuru Yonezaki §

Helen Yu *

Cello

Yuri Ahn

Bennet Huang §

Soobin Kong ‡

Shannon Ross *

Bass

Misha Bjerken

Daniel Slatch

Viola

Chiau-Rung Chen

Corley Friesen-Johnson *

Joy Hsieh ‡

Aadam Ibrahim §

Principal players

§ Finzi

‡ Bridge

* Britten

Double symbol for principal 2nd violin

Hugh Wolff
Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras

Marjorie Apfelbaum
*Director of Large Ensemble
Administration*

David Loebel
*Associate Director of
Orchestras*

Yuri Ahn
Student Librarian

Donald Palma
*Artistic Director of
Chamber Orchestra*

Andrés Almirall
Performance Librarian

Matthew Heldt
Stage Crew

The NEC Chamber Orchestra was created to provide the students with an opportunity to apply the principals of chamber music in a small orchestral setting. The participants are chosen by audition at the beginning of the academic year and remain together throughout. As the ensemble rehearses and performs without a conductor, leadership responsibilities are rotated for every work performed. This affords the students an opportunity to develop communication skills, take responsibility for musical decisions and broaden their aural and score reading capabilities. Participation in the program also allows them to explore a wide range of the incredibly rich chamber orchestra literature.

Donald Palma
Artistic Director

Donald Palma has an active career as double bassist, conductor, and educator. A native New Yorker, Don attended at the Juilliard School and at the age of nineteen joined Leopold Stokowski's American Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the newly formed contemporary music ensemble, Speculum Musicae, he went on to win the Naumburg Competition and secure management with Young Concert Artists. A founding member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Don has toured the globe and recorded over fifty compact discs for Deutsche Grammophone, including the Grammy Award winning Stravinsky CD, *Shadow Dances*. Don has also been a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and played Principal Bass in the National Arts Centre Orchestra under Trevor Pinnock. He played principal bass for Leonard Bernstein on his recording of *West Side Story* and was a featured artist on Kathleen Battle's recording, *Grace*. As a performer devoted to contemporary music, he has played and conducted dozens of premieres and recordings of important works. Elliott Carter's *Figment III*, Mario Davidovsky's *Synchronism No. 11*, and Charles Wuorinen's *Spin-Off* are among the many works composed for him. He has conducted three critically acclaimed CDs of American music with the Odense Symphony in Denmark. Don has conducted the Xalapa Symphony, the Bridgeport Symphony, at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. He recorded Stravinsky's *L'histoire du soldat* with Rogers Waters

narrating which was released by SONY in 2018. Don also appears with Orpheus on Wayne Shorter's *Emanon*, which won a 2018 Grammy. He frequently performs with Mistral, the Walden Chamber Players, at the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, the White Mountains Festival and is Music Director of the Symphony-by-the-Sea in Beverly, MA.

Symphonic Music at New England Conservatory

Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras Hugh Wolff is joined by Associate Director of Orchestras David Loebel, Chamber Orchestra founder Donald Palma, and a rich array of guest conductors and coaches for dozens of FREE orchestral concerts in NEC's Jordan Hall this year.

Visit **necmusic.edu** for complete and updated concert information:

NEC PHILHARMONIA & SYMPHONIC CHOIR, Hugh Wolff, conductor
Brahms *Tragic Overture*; Gabriela Lena Frank *Conquest Requiem*;
YeonJae Cho '24 AD, soprano and Libang Wang '23 MM, baritone; Lutoslawski
Concerto for Orchestra
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Symphony Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit **necmusic.edu** for complete and updated concert information:

NEC JAZZ ORCHESTRA, Ken Schaphorst, conductor
"Groove Merchant: The Music of Thad Jones"
Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONG & VERSE: "The World is not Enough"
Christina Wright-Ivanova, coach
Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: BRIAN LEVY, jazz saxophone
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONG & VERSE: "Diva! Romance, Peril, Dream, and the Feminine Eternal"
JJ Penna, coach
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

MARION RUBIN BERMAN '31 PIANO HONORS CONCERT
Monday, April 24, 2023, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

– continued

JAZZ COMPOSERS' WORKSHOP ORCHESTRA, Frank Carlberg, director

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 46, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Music for Piano Four Hands by Franz Schubert

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE: ZEPHYR WIND QUINTET

Yechan Min, flute; Sojeong Kim, oboe; Hyunwoo Chun, clarinet; Andrew Brooks, bassoon; Yeonjo Oh, French horn

Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, Erica J. Washburn, conductor

"Something Old, New..." – Part One

works by Aleotti, Byrd, des Prez, Dowland, Lotti, Morley, Ockeghem, Palestrina, Pearsall, Weelkes, de Wert

Friday, April 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

LIEDERABEND LXVI

Friday, April 28, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, Erica J. Washburn, conductor

"Something Old, New..." – Part Two

Improvisational electronic dance music, recycling selected Renaissance works from the 7:30 concert, guest artist, DJ Lenox

Friday, April 28, 2023 at 10:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FIRST MONDAY IN JORDAN HALL, Laurence Lesser, artistic director

Kurtág *Hommage à Schumann*; Ligeti *Quartet No. 2*; Schumann *Quintet in E-flat Major*

Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE: QUARTET LUMINERA

Masha Lakisova and Kristy Chen, violin; Njord Fossnes, viola; Davis You, cello

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

– continued

PRATT RESIDENCY CONCERT

Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

CHAMBER MUSIC GALA

Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CMA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10:00 am -10:00 pm, Eben Jordan

ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL: Changyong Shin, piano

Changyong Shin '24 AD studies with Wha Kyung Byun

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

HONORS ENSEMBLE 7

Joshua Brown and Thompson Wang, violin; Cara Pogossian, viola; Claire Park, cello

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Support the musical journeys of NEC students!

Contributions to The NEC Fund directly support the musical journeys of our extraordinarily talented NEC students and help keep our concerts free. From student scholarships and faculty support to exceptional student resources and learning opportunities, your gift makes the unparalleled NEC experience possible. Learn more at necmusic.edu/give.



Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.
Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.
Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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