



Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award Concert

The Borromeo String Quartet NEC Ensemble-in-Residence

Nicholas Kitchen, violin Kristopher Tong, violin Melissa Reardon, viola Yeesun Kim, cello

with the 2024-25 Guest Artist Award Winners

Ashley Tsai '27, violin Yeh-Chun Lin '23, '25 MM, viola Yi-I Stephanie Yang '23, '25 MM, cello

Alira Quartet, 2024-2025 Honors Ensemble
Darwin Chang '25, violin
Caroline Smoak '25, violin
Joy Hsieh '23 MM, '25 GD, viola
Jonah Kernis '25, cello

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 7:30 p.m. Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky

(1840–1893)

Souvenir de Florence, op. 70

Allegro con spirito Adagio cantabile e con moto Allegretto moderato Allegro con brio e vivace

Nicholas Kitchen, Ashley Tsai '27, violin Melissa Reardon, Yeh-Chun Lin '23, '25 MM, viola Yi-I Stephanie Yang '23, '25 MM, Yeesun Kim, cello

Intermission

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

Octet in E-flat Major, op. 20

Allegro moderato Andante Scherzo: Allegro leggierissimo Presto

Nicholas Kitchen, Kristopher Tong,

* Darwin Chang '25, * Caroline Smoak '25, violin Melissa Reardon, * Joy Hsieh '23 MM, '25 GD, viola * Jonah Kernis '25, Yeesun Kim, cello

^{*} Alira Quartet, 2024-2025 Honors Ensemble

The **Borromeo String Quartet** 'Guest Artist Award' provides students of the New England Conservatory the opportunity to perform with the Borromeo String Quartet in Jordan Hall. Awarded annually, students are chosen through a three-day audition process which includes solo playing and chamber music reading with the BSQ. Established in 2001, there have been over 80 winners to date in performances spanning over 20 years.

2024 – Yechan Min, Charles Berofsky, Hannah Goldstick, John Harry Clark, Andrew Byun

2023 – Hyunwoo Chun, Song Hyeon Kim, SooBeen Lee, Aadam Ibrahim, Macintyre Taback, Quartet Luminera: Masha Lakisova, Kristy Chen, Njord Fossnes, Davis You

2022 – Yandi Chen, Isabelle Ai Durrenberger, Dilshod Narzillaev, Cara Pogossian, Li Shan Tan

2020 - Steven Sungwoo Kim, Gabriel Martins, Mary O'Keefe, Minami Yoshida

2019 – Chih-Ta Chen, Eunghee Cho, Barret Ham, Sophia Szokolay

2018 - Deanna Badizadegan, Abigail Fayette, Jiyoung Lee, Alice Chenyang Xu

2017 - Matthew Griffith Alexander Hersh, Jesse Morrison, Wooyeon Yoo,

Stephanie Zyzak, Ravos Quartet: Gergana Haralampieva, Geneva Lewis, Zhanbo Zheng, Audrey Chen

2016 - Kate Arndt, Stelle Ye Lin Cho, Isabelle David, Marthe Husum

2015 - Eva Aronian, Kenny Lee, Sophie Scolnik-Brower

2014 - Elizabeth Burns, Joseph Gotoff, Alexi Kenney, Steven Laraia,

Yannick Rafalimanana, Adrian Sanborn

2013 - DJ Cheek, Louise Grevin, Nathaniel Martin

2012 – Rhiannon Banerdt, Ari Isaacman-Beck, Wenting Kang, Gwen Krosnick, Elizabeth O'Neil, Emely Phelps

2011 – Tony Flynt, Yoo Jin Jang, Hanna Lee, Caleb Van der Swaagh

2010 - Holgen Gjoni, Amanda Hardy, Audrey Wright

2009 – Andrei Baumann, Laura Colgate, Mary Lynch, Oleksandr Vavilov

2008 - Robin Scott, Bradford Gleim, Daniel Lee, Han Bin Yoon

2007 – Sarah Darling, Will Amsel

2006 – Jonathan Aner, Shirley Brill, Sébastien Gingras, Andrea Lee

2005 – Natalie Erlich, Tao Ni, Ethan Pernela, Tee Khoon Tang,

2004 – Alexei Gonzales, Sooyun Kim, Alexis Sykes

2003 – Alicia DiDonato, Stephanie Fong, Dina Vainshtein,

Carletti Quartet: Beverly Shin, Harumi Rhodes, Jonathan Vinocour, Cheng-Hou Lee

2002 – Ben Hoadley, Tali Morgulis, Michael Norsworthy

2001 - Ben Levy, Scott Nicholas, Heather Peterson, Melissa Reardon

The **Borromeo String Quartet**, formed in 1989, has had a rich and multi-faceted career performing all around the world. They have performed in many of the

world's great concerts halls: the Berlin Philharmonie, the Zurich Tonhalle, Dvořák Hall in Prague, Wigmore Hall in London, the Opera Bastille in Paris, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Oriental Arts Center in Shanghai and the Seoul Arts Center in Korea. They have worked extensively with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Library of Congress, and have over many years presented quartet cycles such as the complete quartets of Beethoven and Shostakovich at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. They studied for their Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music and upon graduation in 1992 they were asked to become the faculty String-Quartet-in-Residence at the Conservatory. They have fulfilled this role with great enthusiasm for over 30 years now. The Borromeo Quartet has also had a long-term involvement with the Taos School of Music and they now serve as faculty String-Ouartet-in-Residence at the Heifetz International Music Institute where first violinist Nicholas Kitchen is the Artistic Director. For many years the Borromeo Quartet performed at the Spoleto Festivals in both Charleston and Italy and they have also performed at Tanglewood and Ravinia and at each of these places they also gave special presentations about their unique research into the manuscripts of Beethoven. The Borromeo Quartet has received numerous awards. They won top prizes in the Evian International String Quartet Competition, won the Young Concert Artists Auditions, and received the Cleveland Quartet Award, the Avery Fischer Career Grant and Lincoln Center's Martin E. Siegel Award. They were Ensemble in Residence for NPR's Performance Today and have worked extensively with WGBH in Boston.

The Borromeo Quartet is known as the first professional ensemble to use computers to read music in concerts, and they started doing this in 2007 in order to always work from the full score. This use of computers also made it natural for them to bring sources such as composer's manuscripts into their rehearsal process, and this has proved very inspiring to the group in their work with many great composers - Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schoenberg and Bartók, to mention just a few.

The Borromeo Quartet invented and offered for many years a program called Living Archive where audience members could order CDs and DVDs of the live concert they just heard. Recently this initiative has transformed into CD offerings as well as Web presentations some of which delve into some of the more fascinating aspects of their work with the manuscripts of Beethoven.

Through the transcriptions of first violinist Nicholas Kitchen, the Borromeo Quartet has brought a great deal of the music of J.S. Bach into the repertoire of their quartet. They have performed and recorded both books of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* (Book 1 as a CD, Book 2 as a web presentation) and they perform the *Goldberg Variations* and numerous organ works. They have also worked with a great array of contemporary composers, including Gunther Schuller, John Cage, György Ligeti and Steve Reich.

Darwin Chang is currently a 4th year undergraduate violinist studying with Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory. He started playing the violin at the age of 4 and began to perform on various occasions at age 5. From 2014-2021, Darwin was a pupil of The Yehudi Menuhin School, where he studied with Diana Galvydyte and Ning Kam, as well as receiving weekly chamber coachings taught by Ioan Davis and David Dolan.

During his time at The Menuhin School, Darwin regularly performed a vast repertoire around London and abroad, most notably with Joji Hattori and the Menuhin School Orchestra, as well as Lelend Cheng and the Sinfonia Varsovia in Warsaw, Poland.

As a chamber musician, he has performed in venues including NEC's Jordan Hall, the Menuhin Hall, BBC Radio, Champs Hill and King's Place London, alongside pianists Charles Owen and Ashley Wass. Most recently, his quartet, the Alira String Quartet, was selected as one of the winners of the Honors Ensemble Competition at NEC. The Alira Quartet was also invited to San Antonio, Texas, for a fellowship where they were coached by the Escher Quartet and concluded with a performance of the Ravel String Quartet at the McNay Art Museum. Over the past few years, Darwin has spent his summers in Chamber Music Festivals such as Norfolk and Yellow Barn Young Artist Program, performing under the guidance of Brentano, Dover, and Parker String Quartets.

With a keen interest in historical instruments and early music, Darwin also plays Baroque violin and studies with Susanna Ogata from the Handel and Haydn Society. He was most recently part of the Connecticut Early Music Festival, as well as the Mahler Academy Orchestral Tour on Period Instruments. Outside of music, Darwin enjoys playing soccer and is an unrelenting supporter of Arsenal and Barcelona.

Joy Hsieh, violist is currently pursuing a Graduate Diploma studying with Mai Motobuchi at the New England Conservatory. Prior to her Graduate Diploma, she received her Master of Music degree at NEC as a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship. She earned her Bachelor of Music in viola performance and Bachelor of Arts in piano at the University of Georgia studying with Maggie Snyder and David Fung.

An avid chamber musician, her quartet, the Alira Quartet, recently won the Honors Ensemble competition and were invited to San Antonio, Texas for a string quartet fellowship mentored by the Escher String Quartet. They are currently coached by Paul Katz. Joy's previous chamber activities involve multiple projects including a performance of Ligeti's String Quartet No.1 in Boston Symphony Hall, performing with Hsin-Yun Huang, Wu Man, Steven Mackey, Joseph Lin, and collaborations with composers for NEC/BSO Prelude concerts, such as Caroline Shaw and Malcolm Peyton. She has been coached by Kim Kashkashian, Merry Peckham, Mai Motobuchi, and members of the Borromeo Quartet.

Joy is also active in community outreach and engagement projects. She is a fellow of NEC's Community Performances and Partnership programs and is involved with the Boston Hope Music Project, Musical Storytelling, and Teaching Fellowship where she teaches and works with diverse communities in the Boston

area.

Joy has attended chamber and orchestral summer programs, including the Heifetz International Music Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Altschuler Summer Music Institute, Brevard Music Center Festival, Credo Summer Music Festival, and Chamber Music Athens Festival.

Jonah Kernis, 21, has played cello since age three and currently studies with Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory, where he is pursuing his bachelor's degree. Previously, Jonah studied with Natasha Brofsky in Juilliard's Pre-College program and Yari Bond at the Special Music School. He has performed in masterclasses with Steven Isserlis and Zlatomir Fung and was a winner of the Kaufman Music Center's Concerto Competition, performing Shostakovich's Cello Concerto at Merkin Hall. He also performed with Face the Music's This Side UP quartet, collaborating and performing with the Kronos Quartet in Carnegie Hall. He has premiered a solo cello piece by Mario Davidovsky, and several pieces by his father, Aaron Jay Kernis. Jonah was a member of the New York Youth Symphony's HaWK Piano Trio, receiving top prizes at several national and international competitions.

As cellist of the Alira String Quartet, formed at NEC in September 2024 and coached by Paul Katz, Jonah has won the Chamber Music Honors Ensemble Competition, and will perform a full quartet recital at Jordan Hall in April. The quartet also participated in the Classical Music Institute's String Quartet Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas, where they worked with the Escher String Quartet, concluding with a performance of Ravel's String Quartet. Jonah has recently won the NEC x A Far Cry Collaborative Competition and will be performing Beethoven's Sixth Symphony in Jordan Hall on January 31, 2025.

Jonah has attended renowned summer festivals in the US, including the Tanglewood Music Center, Taos School of Music, Aspen Music Festival and School, Yellow Barn's Young Artist Program, Greenwood, Bowdoin, and Kinhaven. He has been invited to perform in the Festival Orchestra for the 2025 Shostakovich Festival in Leipzig, Germany, collaborating with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Leipzig Gewandhausorchester under Andris Nelsons and Anna Rakitina.

Taiwanese violist, **Yeh-Chun Lin** is establishing herself as an emerging chamber musician on the international stage. She has performed a lot of chamber music in the United States, Europe, Canada and Taiwan. She has attended to numerous summer festival such as Perlman Music Chamber Workshop, Yellow Barn, and Domaine Forget Chamber Orchestra. She has worked with musicians such as Molly Carr, Donald Weilerstein, Joel Krosnick, Merry Peckham, and Itzhak Perlman, and has recently performed with Vivian Hornik Weilerstein. She has performed in venues internationally, including Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall in Boston and the National Concert Hall in Taiwan.

Yeh-Chun Lin has recently won the first prize of the Les Violons du Roy Concerto Competition, Borromeo Quartet Artist Guest Awards, and A Far Cry x NEC Collaborative Competition. She also has experience participating in orchestra including the NEC Chamber Orchestra, Phoenix Chamber Orchestra, NEC Philharmonia, Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and as the viola principal of the Counterpoint Chamber Orchestra in Taiwan.

Born in Tainan, a historical city, Yeh-Chun Lin began viola at the age of 8. She is currently studying viola with Mai Motobuchi and Beth Guterman Chu, chamber music with the Borromeo String Quartet and Paul Katz at NEC, where she is a Dean's scholarship recipient.

Caroline Smoak is a fourth year undergraduate violinist studying with Ayano Ninomiya at the New England Conservatory. Her musical studies began at an early age, and she started playing the violin when she was five and the piano when she was six. Since 2016, she has soloed with several orchestras including the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra. As well as soloing with orchestras, she has performed as concertmaster in concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Symphony Hall, and the Kennedy Center. Her competition wins include the Bales Violin Competition and the Curb Concerto Competition, among others. During the past summers, she attended festivals such as the Verbier Festival, the Yellow Barn Young Artists Program, and the Perlman Music Program, where she studied and performed under the guidance of incredible musicians such as Itzhak Perlman, Catherine Cho, Klaus Mäkelä, and Sir Simon Rattle.

Most recently, her quartet, the Alira String Quartet, was selected as one of the winners of the Honors Ensemble Competition. The Alira Quartet was also invited to San Antonio, Texas, for a fellowship where they were coached by the Escher String Quartet. In addition to performing, Caroline also teaches violin, and is part of the faculty of the Sharon Music Academy, where she has taught since 2023. Apart from music, she enjoys drinking coffee, cooking, and spending time with her family and her cats.

Recognized as one of CBC Music's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" in 2023, **Ashley Tsai** has been a soloist with several prominent orchestras, including the Jenaer Philharmonie, the Casalmaggiore Festival Orchestra, and the Calgary Civic Symphony. She is a recipient of multiple awards, including the 2024-25 Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award and the Music Center of Los Angeles' Spotlight Award, and has been a prize winner at a number of competitions, including the Kloster Schöntal International Violin Competition and the Canadian Music Competition. Additionally, Ashley appeared on NPR's *From the Top* as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artists Award Recipient, and was awarded Provincial and National Gold Medals from Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music.

Ashley has attended a number of programs and festivals, including the Taos School of Music Chamber Music Festival, the Yellow Barn Young Artists Program, the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, and the Curtis Mentor Network. She has also performed with several distinguished artists, including pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and has played in masterclasses for Midori Gotō, Lukas Hagen, Petru Munteanu, Gil Shaham, Axel Strauss, Michael Vaiman, and Benjamin Zander.

Ashley is currently studying at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA under the tutelage of Miriam Fried, previously also with Paul Biss. She graduated from the Colburn Music Academy pre-college as a Kohl Scholar, studying with Henry Gronnier. She currently plays on a Giuseppe Gagliano violin and a J. Jacques Millant bow graciously provided by CANIMEX INC. from Drummondville (Quebec), Canada.

A Boston-based Taiwanese cellist, Yi-I Stephanie Yang has demonstrated her artistic talent through great sensitivity in her cello playing. Stephanie has recently made her debut with the Baden-Baden Philharmonie in 2024 with Schumann Cello Concerto, under the baton of maestro Heiko Mathias Förster in Germany. She has performed with A Far Cry chamber orchestra and in Carnegie Hall as a member of the New York String Orchestra Seminar in 2022. She received the Grand Prize in the Hsinchu City Cello Competition, as well as the Taiwan National Chamber Music competition, and was also selected as the most outstanding cellist by the Taipei Symphony Orchestra in 2018. As a chamber musician, Stephanie is currently the cellist of Trio Sponte, which recently won the Grand Prize in the Senior Division of the 2024 Coltman Chamber Music Competition, along with 1st Prize in the Strings/Piano Category. Trio Sponte was selected for the New England Conservatory's Honors Ensemble program for the 2023-24 school year and performed at NEC's Jordan Hall, Rockport Shalin Liu Performance Center, and various retirement homes in Massachusetts. Stephanie has had the chance to study with Itzhak Perlman, Merry Peckham, Vivian Weilerstein, Kim Kashkashian, Robert McDonald, Mai Motobuchi and members of the Brentano Quartet, Borromeo Quartet, Cooperstown Quartet, and Shanghai Quartet. She attended the Perlman Music Program, Carl Flesch Academy, and Lac Leman Masterclass in 2024, Taos Chamber Music Festival in 2023, and Kneisel Chamber Music Festival in 2022. She has participated in a Music For Food broadcast in 2020. Stephanie and her string quartet have been invited by the Taipei Economy and Cultural Office in Boston to perform annually on the National Day Reception since 2021. Stephanie received a B.M. in cello performance from NEC under Paul Katz, she is now pursuing a M.M. in cello performance with Laurence Lesser.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

NEC Composers' Series, Stratis Minakakis, curator Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Jazz/CMA Faculty Spotlight

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Joshua Brown, violin (AD '26) Student of Donald Weilerstein Friday, January 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Philharmonia, David Loebel, conductor

Singleton 56 Blows; Mozart Symphony No. 38, "Prague"; Hindemith Mathis der Maler Symphony Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers *Tuesday. January 28, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

NEC Symphony, Paul Biss, conductor

Verdi Overture to "La forza del destino"; Sibelius Impromptu Mozart Concerto in B-flat Major for Bassoon and Orchestra, Heejeong Jeong, bassoon; Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4 in A Major, "Italian" Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Joel Ayau, piano, with Jennifer Zetlan, soprano

Works by Mussorgsky, Rachmaninoff, Turina, Fauré, Ravel, and Ricky Ian Gordon
Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

Opera: Mozart "Così fan tutte"

Robert Tweten, director

Monday & Wednesday, February 3 & 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Piano Department Concert, Bruce Brubaker, curator of piano programming "Fauré and His Students", Part One *Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

-continued

Sonata Night 54, Pei-Shan Lee, director Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

Faculty Recital: Meng-Chieh Liu, piano Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra Residency Concert Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Liederabend LXXVI

Joel Ayau, curator Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson *Sinfonietta No. 1*; Fela Sowande *African Suite* Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Winds

Andrew McMahan, guest conductor and William Drury, conductor Weill Little Threepenny Music (Kleine Dreigroschenmusik); Husa Smetana Fanfare; Thomas Shenandoah; Mackey Aurora Awakes; Daugherty/Spede Red Cape Tango Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers *Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

Piano Department Concert, Bruce Brubaker, curator of piano programming "Fauré and His Students", Part Two *Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

Contemporary Music Arts Dept. Concert Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Composers' Series: Sid Richardson, curator Arthur Berger Memorial Concert Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

-continued

NEC Jazz Orchestra. Ken Schaphorst, director Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

First Monday at Jordan Hall, Laurence Lesser, artistic director - 40th season Works by Berio, Ravel, and Schubert Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Piano Department Concert, Bruce Brubaker, curator of piano programming "Fauré and His Students", Part Three *Tuesday, March 4*, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Undergraduate Voice Showcase

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Symphony, Hugh Wolff and Timothy Ren '25 MM conductors Wagner Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde; Debussy l'Après-midi d'un faun Strauss Dynamiden Waltz; Elgar Enigma Variations Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Symphonic Choir and Chamber Singers, Erica J. Washburn, conductor "Voices of NEC" - competition-winning works by NEC alumni Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Perkin Opera Scenes

Thursday & Friday, March 6 & 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Song and Verse, Cameron Stowe, curator Friday, March 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Black Student Union & Castle of Our Skins Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hal

Faculty Recital: Rachel Childers, French horn Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 12:00 noon, Burnes Hall

Joint Faculty Recital: Nima Janmohammadi and Davide Ianni Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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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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