

N|E|C

New England
Conservatory

Concert Program

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Welcome to NEC!

I am thrilled to share New England Conservatory's 2024-25 concert season—a celebration of the power of music to connect and inspire one another.

Whether you are seated in one of our concert halls or watching online, we hope you are uplifted by the performances of our students, faculty, and guest artists.

Above all, we thank you for your support of our students as they cultivate their artistry and contribute to the world through music.

Andrea Kalyn
President

First Monday at Jordan Hall

Fortieth Anniversary Season
Laurence Lesser, *artistic director*

Monday, March 3, 2025
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Luciano Berio
(1925–2003)

Naturale (1985)

Kim Kashkashian, viola
* Robert Schulz, percussion
recorded voice of a Sicilian folk singer

Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

La Valse

Alexander Korsantia, piano 1
* HaeSun Paik, piano 2

Intermission

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)

Octet in F Major, D. 803

Adagio – Allegro
Adagio
Allegro vivace
Andante: Variations
Menuetto: Allegretto
Andante molto – Allegro

* Barret Ham, clarinet
Evan Judson '25 GC, bassoon
Jason Snider, French horn
Donald Weilerstein,
Joshua Brown '26 AD, violin
Yeh-Chun Lin '25 MM, viola
* Annie Jacobs-Perkins, cello
Donald Palma, bass

* *NEC alum*

Upcoming First Monday at Jordan Hall concerts

Kreisler *Recitative and Scherzo; Scherzo in the style of Dittersdorf;*
Schon Rosmarin; Liebesfreud
Schubert *Divertissement à la hongroise*, D 818
Shostakovich *Piano Trio No. 2*
Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Arrangements and works by Fritz Kreisler
Mozart *Duo in B-flat Major*, K. 424
Beethoven *String Quartet in C-sharp Minor*, op. 131
Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Artist biographies

Violinist **Joshua Brown** has been praised by audiences and critics worldwide for his “richness of sound, elegance of reading...commitment of every moment at the service of the work...” (*La Libre*). Joshua gained international attention after winning the 2nd Prize and both Audience Awards at the 2024 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Other international competition successes include the 1st Prize at the inaugural 2023 Global Music Education International Violin Competition in Beijing, China, as well as the 1st Prize and Audience Award at the 2019 International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart in Augsburg, Germany.

Joshua was first recognized for his debut performance with the Cleveland Orchestra and has gone on to perform regularly with orchestras around the world, including the Munich Radio Orchestra, MDR Sinfonieorchester, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Civic Orchestra, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra, and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liege, among others, continually garnering praise from critics.

A passionate recitalist and chamber musician, Joshua has also appeared regularly in series such as Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Festival Musiq3 in Brussels, the Tchaikovsky Festival in Moscow, the ProMusica series in Mexico, the Matinée Musicale series in Cincinnati, the Jupiter Chamber Players series in New York City, and the North Shore Chamber Music Festival in Chicago. Joshua received the Kronberg Academy's 2023 Manfred Grommek Prize, and has been named a Pirastro Artist, Yamaha Young Performing Artist, and Luminarts Fellow, among other awards. Upcoming highlights of the 2024/25 season include a recital tour of Taiwan and South Korea, as well as a series of performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto with the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra in Japan.

Joshua is currently pursuing his Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music studying under Donald Weilerstein after also earning his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees there. Before his time at NEC, Joshua studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago. Joshua is grateful to be playing an outstanding Nicolo Amati violin from Cremona, circa 1635-1640, on extended loan through the generosity of the Mary B. Galvin Foundation and the efforts of the Stradivari Society, a division of Bein & Fushi, Inc. The Mary B. Galvin Foundation, Inc. and the Stradivari Society support the very highest level of string playing by loaning precious antique Italian instruments to artists of exceptional talent and ability.

Barret Ham, a native of Macon, Georgia, joined the New York Philharmonic as clarinet / bass clarinet in the 2023–24 season. He previously served as acting second clarinet / bass clarinet for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra for three seasons, and has performed as a guest musician with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the Boston, Dallas, and Utah symphony orchestras. Recent summer festival appearances include Yellow Barn, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and Spoleto Festival USA. An avid chamber musician, Ham has performed

for Tertulia San Francisco and as a guest with the Borromeo String Quartet. He has worked directly with composers such as Shulamit Ran, Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, and Enno Poppe and is a proponent of the works of living composers. Ham received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory and his master's degree at the University of Southern California. His primary teachers include Michael Wayne and Yehuda Gilad. He is a lecturer at Boston University and bass clarinet instructor at The Juilliard School.

Praised for anything from "hypnotic lyricism, causing listeners to forget where they were for a moment" (Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*) to "delightfully pluck[ing] and slapp[ing] her cello like a rockabilly upright bassist," cellist **Annie Jacobs-Perkins** is 1st prize winner of the 2024 Buchet International Cello Competition ("Prix Buchet") and 2023 Pierre Fournier Award.

She is the Artist-in-Residence of the Austin Chamber Music Center in Texas as well as the cellist of the Berlin-based piano trio, Trio Brontë, winner of the 2025 Schubert und die Musik der Moderne Competition (1st prize and special prize), 2023 Ilmari Hannikainen International Piano Chamber Music Competition (1st), and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Competition (2nd). Annie regularly participates in festivals such as Krzyżowa Music, Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Yellow Barn, and Marlboro Music, where she has collaborated with artists such as Miriam Fried, Nobuko Imai, Anthony Marwood, Donald Weilerstein, and members of the Brentano, Doric, Juilliard, and Kuss Quartets. Her performances have brought her to venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Konzerthaus Berlin, het Concertgebouw, Musikverein Graz, and Wigmore Hall.

In the 2024-25 season Annie is a regular guest cellist with Frankfurt's Ensemble Modern. She has worked with many living composers, including Thomas Adés, Timo Andres, Brett Dean, Konstantia Gourzi, Stratis Minakakis, Jessie Montgomery, Jeffrey Mumford, Dan Temkin, Paul Wiancko, and Jörg Widmann.

Annie holds an Artist Diploma from the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin, master's degrees from the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler and New England Conservatory, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California. Her primary teachers are Frans Helmerson, Troels Svane, Laurence Lesser, Ralph Kirshbaum, and Kathleen Murphy Kemp.

Evan Judson is a Minnesota-born, Boston-based bassoonist with wide-reaching musical passions. Especially passionate about opera and vocal music, he has played with opera orchestras around the world including Berlin, Boston, Minneapolis, and Baton Rouge. In 2020, he worked with Pulitzer-finalist composer Alex Weiser to create and premiere a bassoon version of Weiser's song cycle in a dark blue night. Evan's work in new music has also led to commissions and premieres of works from Amanda Harberg, Thomas Van Dun, and Quinn Rosenberg, among others. Evan studies at New England Conservatory of Music under Suzanne Nelsen and Richard Svoboda. He previously studied with Fei Xie, John Miller, and Norbert Nielubowski. Away from the music stand and the reed desk, he loves cooking global foods and

walking around Boston's Jamaica Pond.

Hailed as "an artist who combines a probing, restless intellect with enormous beauty of tone," **Kim Kashkashian** has forged a unique path as a performing and recording artist.

Kim Kashkashian made history when she won the coveted Grammy Award - the first ever given to a violist – for her ECM recording of Ligeti and Kurtág solo viola works.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Royal Academy of Music.

Ms. Kashkashian performed as viola soloist with the orchestras of Berlin, London, Vienna, Milan, Amsterdam, New York and Cleveland in collaboration with Eschenbach, Mehta, Welser-Moest, Kocsis, Dennis Russel Davies, Blomstedt, and Holliger.

She is a member of Trio Tre Voce, and the long-standing duo partner of pianist Robert Levin in the great halls of Vienna, Rome, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Tokyo, Athens, London, New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia. Ms. Kashkashian worked closely with György Kurtág, Krzysztof Penderecki, Alfred Schnittke, Giya Kancheli, and Arvo Pärt and commissioned compositions from Eötvös, Ken Ueno, Betty Olivero, Thomas Larcher, Lera Auerbach, Tigran Mansurian, and Toshio Hosokawa.

More than 25 solo albums on ECM label have garnered a Grammy, a Cannes Classical Award, the Edison Prize and the Opus Klassik Prize.

Ms. Kashkashian is Founder of "Music for Food", a musician-led hunger relief initiative that offers a model for all musicians who wish to act as artist -citizens in their home communities. Music for Food has created more than one and a half million meals for people in need.

To learn more, please go to musicforfood.net or kimkashkashian.com

Dubbed "a major artist" by the Miami Herald and a "quiet maverick" by the *Daily Telegraph*, pianist **Alexander Korsantia** has been praised for the "clarity of his technique, richly varied tone and dynamic phrasing" (*Baltimore Sun*), and a "piano technique where difficulties simply do not exist" (*Calgary Sun*). The *Boston Globe* found his interpretation of his signature piece, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, to be "a performance that could annihilate all others one has heard." And the *Birmingham Post* wrote: "his intensely responsive reading was shot through with a vein of constant fantasy, whether musing or mercurial." Ever since winning Gold Medal at the Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition and the First Prize at the Sidney International Piano Competition, Korsantia's career has taken him to many of the world's major concert halls, collaborating with renowned artists such as Vadim Repin, Christoph Eschenbach, Gianandrea Noseda, Valery Gergiev, Paavo Järvi, Dan Ettinger and Carlos Prieto with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, Kirov Orchestra, RAI Orchestra in Turin, The City of Birmingham Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Israel Philharmonic and A Far Cry.

Bel Air, Hänssler Classics and Piano Classics are among the recording labels Mr. Korsantia has worked with. The most recent release is Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto with Dan Ettinger and Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra on Hänssler. His solo piano transcription of Ravel's *La Valse* has been published by Sikorski Musikverlage in 2018. His last big project was an arrangement of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* for solo piano and bass drum to be performed by a single soloist.

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, Alexander Korsantia began his musical studies at an early age moving with his family to the United States in 1991. In 1999, he was awarded one of the most prestigious national awards, the Order of Honor, bestowed on him by then-President Eduard Shevardnadze. He is a recipient of the Golden Wing award (2015) and Georgia's National State Prize (1997). Korsantia resides in Boston where he is a Professor of Piano on the faculty of the New England Conservatory. Mr. Korsantia is the artistic adviser of the annual music festival "From Easter to Ascension" in Georgia.

Taiwanese violist **Yeh-Chun Lin** is establishing herself as a passionate chamber musician on the international stage. She has performed extensively across the United States, Europe, Canada, and Taiwan, collaborating with world-class artists and ensembles. Deeply committed to the art of chamber music, she thrives in intimate musical dialogues, bringing sensitivity and depth to every collaboration.

Yeh-Chun has been recognized for her artistry with numerous accolades, including first prize in the Les Violons du Roy Concerto Competition, the Borromeo Quartet Artist Guest Award, and the A Far Cry x NEC Collaborative Competition. Her performances have taken her to renowned venues such as Boston's Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall, as well as the National Concert Hall in Taiwan.

Her dedication to chamber music extends beyond performance, as she continuously seeks to deepen her craft through mentorship and collaboration. She has participated in prestigious festivals, including the Perlman Music Program Chamber Workshop, Yellow Barn, and Domaine Forget Chamber Orchestra, where she worked closely with esteemed musicians such as Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, Joel Krosnick, Merry Peckham, and Molly Carr.

In addition to her chamber music endeavors, Yeh-Chun has experience performing with orchestras such as the New England Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, Phoenix Chamber Orchestra, and NEC Philharmonia, and she has served as principal violist of the Counterpoint Chamber Orchestra in Taiwan.

Yeh-Chun began playing the viola at the age of eight and is currently studying at the New England Conservatory under the guidance of Mai Motobuchi and Beth Guterman Chu. She has also worked closely with the Borromeo String Quartet and is a proud recipient of the NEC Dean's Scholarship.

Internationally acclaimed pianist **HaeSun Paik** has captivated audiences worldwide through her solo recitals, performances with leading orchestras, and collaborations as a chamber musician. She has also won top prizes at prestigious international competitions, including the Queen Elisabeth, Leeds, William Kapell, and

Tchaikovsky competitions.

Ms. Paik has recently performed all five Beethoven Concerti and the Triple Concerto with the New York Classical Players, and also performed both Brahms Concerti, in a single concert. Additionally, she recorded the complete works by Beethoven for cello and piano with Laurence Lesser, a collection released by Bridge Records. Her debut and subsequent solo recordings are available on the EMI label.

A much-sought-after pedagogical influence in Korea, Ms. Paik was the youngest pianist of her generation to be appointed as a music professor at Seoul National University. Currently, she serves as the co-chair of the piano department at the New England Conservatory, following several years of teaching at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has also been invited as a guest artist to numerous summer festivals and has served as a juror in many prestigious international competitions.

In 2019, she received the Music Award from the Korean National Academy of Arts, the nation's highest honor for Korean artists, and in 2023, she published her life-essay book, *Master of My Own Frustrations*, in Korea.

She graduated from the New England Conservatory and Walnut Hill School for the Arts under the guidance of Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun. Her artistic development was further enriched through studies at the International Piano Foundation in Lake Como, Italy.

Donald Palma has an active career as double bassist, conductor, and educator. A native New Yorker, Don attended 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, at the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, the White Mountains Festival, the Atlantic Music Festival and is Music Director of the Symphony-by-the-Sea in Beverly, MA.

Percussionist **Robert Schulz** is widely regarded as one of the finer all-around percussionists working today. With an expertise extending across a broad range of musical styles and instruments, he collaborates with an eclectic variety of artists, on local, national, and international stages. For 20 years he has served as principal percussionist for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and has managed the innumerable percussive complexities for more than 50 commercially released recordings and hundreds of concerts. He is principal percussionist for the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Musica Viva, and Dinosaur Annex New Music Ensemble. He is active as a timpanist in both classical and period performance styles, performing, touring, and recording with Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music, Cantata Singers, Odyssey Opera, Monadnock Festival Orchestra, the Boston Chamber Music Society, and the Bach, Beethoven & Brahms Society. As a percussion soloist, he has performed concerti by Lukas Foss (multi-percussion), Tan Dun (water percussion), Eric Moe (drum set), Gail Kubik (cartoon percussion) and, most recently, Philip Glass (timpani).

Schulz has been a featured soloist with the Boston Celebrity Series and the Boston Chamber Music Society numerous times, playing anything from dinner plates to African drums. In 2004, Schulz received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Small Ensemble Performance on Yehudi Wyner's *The Mirror* (Naxos) and gave the Boston premiere of Tan Dun's *Water Concerto* with BMOP. He tours nationally and internationally with pipa virtuoso Wu Man and was the featured soloist for the 2006 CrossSound Festival in Juneau, Alaska. Recent releases of *Play* by Andrew Norman (BMOP) and *Seeing* by Christopher Rouse (Albany Symphony) were nominated for Grammy Awards in 2015.

Jason Snider joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops as fourth horn in March 2007. Prior to his appointment here, he held positions as second horn with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and associate principal horn of the San Antonio Symphony.

During Snider's time at Northwestern University, he performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for two seasons. After graduating with honors, Snider pursued graduate work at Rice University, studying with Roger Kaza and William Ver Meulen.

He has played with various music festivals such as Grant Park, Grand Tetons, Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería in Mexico City, National Repertory Orchestra, Jerusalem International Symphony Orchestra, and the Pacific Music Festival in Japan. Snider has also performed with the Atlanta, Chicago and Houston Symphonies, the Houston Grand Opera, and the Chicago Chamber Musicians. He currently performs chamber music with the Boston Chamber Music Society, West Stockbridge Chamber Players, and Collage New Music. Together with his BSO horn colleagues, he has performed Schumann's *Konzertstück* in Boston and at Tanglewood. In the spring of 2024, Snider performed for three months with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, touring Europe under the direction of Andris Nelsons.

He joined the New England Conservatory faculty in the fall of 2007. He is former

faculty of University of Texas at San Antonio.

Violinist **Donald Weilerstein** has concertized extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the world. He was a member of the Young Concert Artists as well as a winner of the Munich Competition for violin and piano duo. For twenty years (1969-1989) Mr. Weilerstein was the first violinist of the renowned Cleveland Quartet, with whom he toured the world. His recordings with the quartet on the RCA, Telarc, CBS, Phillips, and Pro Arte labels earned seven Grammy nominations and won Best of the Year awards from *Time* and *Stereo Review*.

Mr. Weilerstein has taught and performed at such major American and European music festivals as Tanglewood, Aspen, Marlboro, Mostly Mozart, Banff, Salzburg, Luzern, Verbier, Ishikawa, and Keshet Eilon, among many others. He regularly teaches and performs at Ravinia, Yellow Barn, and the Perlman Music Program.

The Weilerstein Duo, pairing Donald with pianist Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, has performed across the United States and in many other countries. Their discography includes the works of Bloch and the sonatas of Janáček, Dohnányi, and Enescu (Arabesque) and the Schumann sonatas (Azica). Mr. Weilerstein is a member of the highly acclaimed Weilerstein Trio. The trio's widely noted first CD, featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, is devoted to the music of Dvořák. Their second Koch release features music of Schumann and Janáček.

Recently featured in *The Strad* and *Strings* magazine, Mr. Weilerstein serves on the faculties of New England Conservatory and the Juilliard School. His students, many of whom have been prize winners in major international competitions, including first prizes in the Indianapolis, Naumburg, Washington, and Hanover competitions, can be heard as soloists, as well as in today's leading orchestras and chamber ensembles. During the past year Joshua Brown, currently an Artist Diploma candidate, won 2nd prize and the audience prize in the Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition, and Angela Chan (Graduate Diploma in '24) shared the first prize at the Hannover International Violin Competition. Donald Weilerstein was awarded "Artist Teacher of the Year for 2011" by the American String Teachers Association. His first appearance on the First Monday series was in 2004.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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

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 Tianyi Ren '25 MM conductors

Wagner *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*; Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*; Kerr ('25 MM) *Desolate Void, Ecstatic Flight*; 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:

Berofsky *Thou art my Lute*; Bosba *this is the garden*; Cohen *Street Haunting*; Hahn *I Can't Breathe*; Oberoi *Telescope*; Rindfleisch *Salmo de Alabanza*; Siegfried *One Heart*; Sussman *Higaleh Nah*; Yee-Paulson *Song of Hope*

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Perkin Opera Scenes

Performances by graduate students in the NEC Opera Department

Thursday & Friday, March 6 & 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.,

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Jason Moran Concert

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Coretta Scott King Tribute Concert: "One Soul. One Dream"

Co- curated by the NEC Black Student Union & Castle of Our Skins

Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Rachel Childers, French horn,

with Ann Sears, piano and Mike Roylance, tuba

Works by Beethoven, William Grant Still, Damase, Messiaen, Burleigh, and Alec Wilder

Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 12:00 noon, Burnes Hall

Faculty Recital: Nima Janmohammadi and Davide Ianni

Works by Ianni, Janmohammadi, and classical Persian improvisations

Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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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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This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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