



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrea Kalyn". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Kalyn
President

First Monday at Jordan Hall

Fortieth Anniversary Season
Laurence Lesser, *artistic director*

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

PROGRAM

Fritz Kreisler
(1875–1962)

Recitative and Scherzo-Caprice, op. 6

Scherzo in the Style of Dittersdorf

from *Three Old Viennese Dances*

III. Schön Rosmarin

I. Liebesfreud

* Ayano Ninomiya, violin

* Motti Fang-Bentov, piano

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)

Divertissement à la Hongroise, D. 818

* Wha Kyung Byun, * Minsoo Sohn, piano

Tonight's performance is dedicated to the memory of Russell Sherman.

Intermission

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906–1975)

Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor, op. 67

Andante

Allegro con brio

Largo

Allegretto – Adagio

* Ayano Ninomiya, violin

Andrew Byun '25 GD, cello

* Minsoo Sohn, piano

* *NEC alum*

Upcoming First Monday at Jordan Hall concert

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

1st prize winner of the 2024 Windsor International String Competition, Canadian cellist **Andrew Byun** has been praised for his “electrifyingly energetic, room-commanding combination of musicality, theater, technique, tone,” and “a world of thought and sound.” (*The Strad*) He has performed at Windsor Castle, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and Jordan Hall and has been featured on the WFMT, WQXR, NPR radio stations, and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts. This season featured his debut with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and next season will feature performances with the Orpheus Sinfonia, a concerto tour with the Royal Philharmonic, recitals across Europe, and his debut album released with Champs Hill Records.

A passionate chamber musician, Byun has shared the stage with artists such as Erin Keefe, Hagai Shaham, Paul Neubauer, Paul Huang, and members of the Hagen Quartet and has appeared at festivals worldwide including: Verbier Festival Academy, La Jolla Music Society’s SummerFest, Music@Menlo, Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Taos School of Music, Prussia Cove, and L’Académie Musicale de Villecroze. From 2024 to 2025, he was invited to be an artist-in-residence at Music@Menlo’s Winter Residency and in summer 2025, he will attend the Ravinia Festival Steans Music Institute.

In 2015, Byun won the Gershwin International Music Competition and was named a Jack Kent Cooke Artist on NPR’s program, “From The Top.” In 2024, he was awarded the Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award, thus performing alongside the Borromeo String Quartet. He has been a laureate at other competitions including the Sejong Philharmonic Competition, American Protégé International Competition, and was a semi-finalist at the 2022 Isang Yun International Competition.

A native of South Korea, Byun is currently pursuing a Graduate Diploma at New England Conservatory with Laurence Lesser. He graduated from Milton Academy, Northwestern University (BM/BA) studying Philosophy/Cello Performance, and The Juilliard School (MM). Beginning in the fall of 2025, he will begin an artistic residency at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel under the mentorship of Gary Hoffman. He has studied with Natasha Brofsky, Hans Jorgen Jensen, and Myung-wha Chung.

Wha Kyung Byun was born and educated in Korea, where she won several major competitions and was chosen as one of the most talented young artists in the country. After she made her debut recital at the age of 15, she appeared as soloist with major orchestras and performed throughout her homeland. She graduated from Seoul National University and was awarded the Presidential Gold Medal. Since coming to the United States, Byun studied piano at New England Conservatory with Russell Sherman and chamber music with Rudolf Kolisch. Her playing has been described by the *Boston Globe* as “rapturous” and “poetic.”

Since 1979 she has taught at New England Conservatory and dedicated herself to helping numerous students in their development as both musicians and human beings. She is widely renowned as one of the most successful teachers in America. Over the years, her students have been prize winners in major national and international competitions. Many of Wha Kyung Byun's students are recipients of prestigious awards, including the Gilmore and Avery Fisher Career Grant Awards, among others.

Born in Beijing, China, and raised in Tel-Aviv, Israel, pianist **Motti Fang-Bentov** hails from a multicultural, east-west background. His past performances include appearances as a soloist with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra; the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; the Israeli Symphonic Orchestra; and the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, collaborating with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Vakhtang Kakhidze and David Loebel. He has given solo performances in Heichal Hatarbut, Tel-Aviv; Jordan Hall, Boston; Sala dei Notari, Perugia; and the Rose Theatre at the Lincoln Center, New York. Motti is also the winner of numerous prizes and competitions: the NEC Concerto & Honors Competition ('18); the Pnina Zaltsman Piano Competition ('12, '15); and the Ashdod Piano Competition ('12, '15).

In addition to solo work, Motti is a passionate chamber musician and collaborator, and is the pianist of the Boston-based Trio Rai, with whom he has won the bronze medal at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition ('21). He also attended Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and the Perlman Chamber Music Workshop. Recent collaborations include performances with Itzhak Perlman, cellist Laurence Lesser and violinists Tessa Lark and Maria Ioudenitch.

Motti completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the New England Conservatory in Boston, under the guidance of Alexander Korsantia and Wha-Kyung Byun. In addition to music, Motti loves cooking and works as a line cook at Sarma, a James Beard nominated middle-eastern restaurant in Somerville. He now resides in Boston with his partner Nadia, and their 4 pound teacup poodle, Boba.

Winner of numerous prizes including the Walter Naumburg International Competition, Tibor Varga International Competition, Astral Artists National Auditions, Young Performers Career Advancement, and Lili Boulanger awards, **Ayano Ninomiya** has performed with orchestras across the U.S., Switzerland, Bulgaria, and most recently in Carnegie Hall. Praised for her "deeply communicative and engrossing" (*The New York Times*) performances, recent and upcoming teaching and performance festivals include Yellow Barn's Young Artist Program, Ravinia's Steans Institute, Portland Chamber Music Festival, Skaneateles Music Festival, Colorado College Music Festival, Kingston Chamber Music Festival, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival. She has been featured on Musicians from Marlboro tours in the U.S. and France, and has given a TEDx talk at the University of Tokyo. She was first violinist of the Ying Quartet and was Associate Professor at the Eastman School of Music until 2015 when she joined the violin faculty of New England

Conservatory. As a recipient of the Beebe Fellowship, Ayano studied in Budapest, Hungary, at the Liszt Academy after graduating from Harvard University and The Juilliard School.

Minsoo Sohn is a Korean-American pianist known for his musical intelligence and masterful virtuosity. Described by the *New York Times* as “a genuine artist, with a thoughtful and poetic interpretation,” and by the *Boston Globe* as “born to play the piano,” Sohn continues to expand his reputation as one of the foremost pianists of his day. Sohn has toured extensively throughout North and South America, Europe, Israel, and Korea, appearing in important venues and festivals.

Sohn is particularly noted for his interpretation of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*, and the *New York Times* praised his Honens label recording of the work as a “beautifully articulated, radiant interpretation,” placing it as one of the top classical recordings of 2011. His recordings also received critical acclaim from *New Yorker Magazine*, *Plain Dealer*, *Gramophone*, *Calgary Herald*, and *Toronto Star* among others.

In 2020, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, Mr. Sohn concluded his four-year immersion in the composer’s music, which included a concert series, recordings, and writings. Over the course of his Beethoven project, Mr. Sohn performed and recorded the composer’s thirty-two sonatas in a series of recitals at Seoul Arts Center and recording sessions at Tongyeong Concert Hall. The recital series also included Beethoven’s monumental *Diabelli Variations and Bagatelles*. Sony Classical released the highly anticipated nine-album set of “Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas” in the Fall of 2020.

He held positions at Michigan State University and Korean National University of Arts before joining his alma mater, New England Conservatory, in the Fall of 2023. He is indebted to Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun for guiding him to follow his bliss.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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

NEC Honors Ensemble: *Elisa String Quartet*

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director

Say *Chamber Symphony*, op. 62: Haydn *Cello Concerto in C Major*, Hob VIIb:1

Claire Park, cello; Honegger *Symphony No. 2*

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Sonata Night 56, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Ravel's Violin and Piano Works

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

[nec]shivaree, Stephen Drury, director

"The Music of Christian Wolff"

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Song and Verse 3, JJ Penna, curator

"Where I Lived: Writers and Composers from the Asian Diaspora"

Friday, April 11, 2025 at 6:00 pm., Burnes Hall

NEC Honors Ensemble: *Alira String Quartet*

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Marion Rubin Berman '31 Piano Honors Concert

Music of Ravel

Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Honors Ensemble: *Calandra Quartet*

Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Joseph Bozich

Bozich *From the Valley of Dry Bones*; Rossini *Overture to Eduardo e Cristina*;

Sibelius *Jungfrun i tornet* (American premiere)

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC's world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence.

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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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