



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".

Andrea Kalyn
President

First Monday at Jordan Hall

Fortieth Anniversary Season
Laurence Lesser, *artistic director*

Monday, May 5, 2025
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Fritz Kreisler – Original Pieces and Transcriptions

Fritz Kreisler
(1875–1962)

Miniature Viennese March

Berceuse Romantique

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844–1908)
arr. Kreisler

Le coq d'or

Manuel de Falla
(1876–1946)
arr. Kreisler

Danse Espagnole

Soovin Kim, violin
Pualina Lim Mei En '23 MM, '25 GD, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)

Duo in B-flat Major, K. 424

Soovin Kim, violin
Nicholas Cords, viola

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

String Quartet in C-sharp Minor, op. 131

Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo
Allegro molto vivace
Allegro moderato – Adagio
Variations
Presto
Adagio quasi un poco andante
Allegro

Borromeo String Quartet

* Nicholas Kitchen, * Kristopher Tong, violin

* Melissa Reardon, viola

* Yeesun Kim, cello

* *NEC alum*

Artist biographies

Each performance of the award-winning **Borromeo String Quartet** strengthens its reputation as one of the most important ensembles of our time. Admired and sought after for both its fresh interpretations of the classical music canon and its championing of works by 20th and 21st century composers, the ensemble has been hailed for its “edge-of-the-seat performances,” by the *Boston Globe*, which called it “simply the best.”

Inspiring audiences for 35 years, the Borromeo has been the ensemble-in-residence at New England Conservatory for over three decades, and at the Taos School of Music since 2005. The Borromeo also serves as quartet-in-residence at the Heifetz International Music Institute, where first violinist Nicholas Kitchen is Artistic Director. The Quartet has performed on major concert stages across the globe, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall, Suntory Hall, the Concertgebouw, Seoul Arts Center, and the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and performed for many years with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Highlights of the Borromeo’s 2024-25 season include performances at Korea’s Changwon Festival, Auburn University’s Gogue Performing Arts Center, Clemson University’s Utsey Chamber Music Series, Palm Beach’s Flagler Museum, UCLA’s Clark Library, Music at Kohl Mansion, Eureka Chamber Music Series, Dumbarton Concerts, Summit Chamber Music, Chamber Music Raleigh, Celebrity Series of Boston’s Neighborhood Concerts, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, where it has enjoyed a long-term relationship since 1991. Beyond the Quartet’s standalone performances, they tour this season with violist Paul Neubauer, pianist Henry Kramer, and in a new octet program with the Verona Quartet.

The Borromeo regularly engages in residencies with universities, conservatories, and educational institutions all over the world. In addition to serving as the 2024-25 Visiting Quartet in Residence at Arizona State University, the Quartet has served in recent seasons as the Hittman Ensemble in Residence at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore and engaged in residencies at the Curtis Institute, San Francisco Conservatory, UCLA, Amherst College, Colorado State University, Kansas University, University of Georgia, University of Winnipeg, and Musik-Akademie Basel. The Quartet has worked extensively as both performers and educators with the Library of Congress, highlighting both its manuscripts and instrument collections. In addition to its extensive performance and academic engagements throughout Asia, the Quartet has also conducted an extensive series of workshops with Triton Arts Network in Japan.

The Quartet has a long history performing at top festivals worldwide, including performances at Spoleto USA and Spoleto Italy, Busan Music Festival, Hong Kong Chamber Music Festival, Incontri in Terra di Siena Chamber Music Festival, Kammermusik Basel, Eisenstadt’s Haydn Festival, Prague Spring Festival, Stavanger Festival, Ravinia Festival, Tippet Rise, and a special feature by Tanglewood in 2020 celebrating Beethoven’s 250th anniversary through performance and a focus on the composer’s manuscripts. The Borromeo has collaborated with many of the most

recognized names in classical music, including Joshua Bell, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Jeremy Denk, Jonathan Biss, Leon Fleisher, Menahem Pressler, Christoph Eschenbach, Anne-Marie McDermott, Gary Graffman, Josef Suk, Peter Serkin, Kim Kashkashian, Richard Stoltzman, Laurence Lesser, Paul Katz, Michael Tree, Midori, Shmuel Ashkenazi, and even major figures beyond the classical sphere including Branford Marsalis, Christian McBride, and Audra McDonald.

The Quartet has also collaborated with some of this generation's most important composers, including Gunther Schuller, John Cage, György Ligeti, Steve Reich, Aaron Jay Kernis, Osvaldo Golijov, Jennifer Higdon, Steve Mackey, John Harbison, Sebastian Currier, Pierre Jalbert, and Leon Kirchner, among many others. In addition to regularly premiering new works, including a new quartet by composer Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol which was commissioned by the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art for the 2024-25 season, the ensemble regularly performs violinist Nicholas Kitchen's transcriptions of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and the *Well-Tempered Clavier* Books I and II, the former of which is part of the Quartet's extensive discography.

The Borromeo continues to be a pioneer in its use of technology and has the trailblazing distinction of being the first string quartet to utilize laptop computers on the concert stage, leading the way for the widespread use of iPads to perform from four-part scores. Among its wide range of approaches with mixed media, the Borromeo also paved the way for artist-led media by becoming the first classical ensemble to make its own live concert recordings and videos. The Quartet often leads discussions enhanced by projections of handwritten manuscripts, investigating with the audience the creative process of the composer as highlighted in an April 2024 feature in *The Atlantic*.

"Nothing less than masterful" (Cleveland.com), the Borromeo Quartet has received numerous awards throughout its illustrious career, beginning with top prizes at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and subsequently Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Career Grant and Martin E. Segal Award.

For more than two decades, omnivorous violist **Nicholas Cords** has been on the front line of a unique constellation of projects as performer, educator, and cultural advocate, with a signature passion for the cross-section between the long tradition of classical music and the wide range of music being created today.

Nicholas is a founding member of Brooklyn Rider, an intrepid group which NPR credits with "recreating the 300-year-old form of the string quartet as a vital and creative 21st-century ensemble." Deeply committed to collaborative ventures, the group has worked with Irish fiddler Martin Hayes, jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman, ballerina Wendy Whelan, Persian kamancheh virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor, Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, Mexican singer Magos Herrera, and banjoist Béla Fleck, to name a few. Their recent recording *Healing Modes* was lauded by the *New York Times* and received a 2021 Grammy Nomination. The quartet is celebrating twenty years together starting this August with a six concert mini-festival at Lincoln Center and special recital at Tanglewood where they will be joined by

Yo-Yo Ma for Schubert's Cello Quintet. Other anniversary plans include the release of their latest recording and commissioning project *The Four Elements* (May 23), cycles of the complete works of Philip Glass in NYC, New Haven, and Rotterdam, and the premieres of major new commissions by Gabriela Lena Frank and Nico Muhly.

In another key aspect of his career, Nicholas served for twenty years as violist of the Silkroad Ensemble, a musical collective founded by Yo-Yo Ma in 2000 with the belief that cross-cultural collaboration leads to a more hopeful world. This mission was poignantly explored by the recent Oscar-nominated documentary by Morgan Neville, *The Music Of Strangers*, which makes a case for why culture matters. In addition, Nicholas served from 2017-2020 as a Co-Artistic Director for Silkroad, and previously as Silkroad's Programming Chair. He appears on all of the Silkroad Ensemble's albums including *Sing Me Home* (Sony Music), which received a 2017 Grammy Award for Best World Music Album.

His acclaimed 2020 solo recording *Touch Harmonious* (In a Circle Records) is a reflection on the arc of tradition spanning from the baroque to today, featuring multiple premieres. A dedicated teacher, Nicholas currently serves on the viola, chamber music, and Entrepreneurial Musicianship faculty of New England Conservatory. Carrying on a thirty-year tradition started by First Monday Artistic Director Laurence Lesser, Nicholas currently teaches the Aural Heritage of String Playing each fall semester.

Soovin Kim enjoys a broad musical career, regularly performing Bach sonatas and Paganini caprices for solo violin, sonatas for violin and piano ranging from Beethoven to Ives, conducting Mozart and Haydn concertos and symphonies, and performing world premieres of new works almost every season. When he was 20 years old Mr. Kim received first prize at the Paganini International Violin Competition. Among his many commercial recordings are his "thrillingly triumphant" (Classic FM Magazine) disc of Paganini's demanding 24 *Caprices*.

Soovin Kim is the founder and artistic director of the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival (LCCMF) in Burlington, Vermont. In addition to its explorative programming and extensive work with living composers, LCCMF created the ONE Strings program through which all 3rd through 5th grade students of the Integrated Arts Academy in Burlington study violin. The University of Vermont recognized Soovin Kim's work by bestowing an honorary doctorate upon him in 2015. In 2020 he and his wife, pianist Gloria Chien, became Artistic Directors of Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, Oregon. The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center awarded Gloria Chien and Soovin Kim the Award for Extraordinary Service to Chamber Music for the more than 100 performances, lectures, interviews, and masterclasses they presented for online audiences around the world since the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Kim has immersed himself in the string quartet literature for 20 years as the first violinist of the Johannes Quartet and now performs piano trios with Gloria Chien and cellist Paul Watkins in the Chien-Kim-Watkins Trio. Soovin Kim spent summers at and maintained a close relationship with the Marlboro Music Festival for

25 years. Mr. Kim is a full-time violin faculty member at NEC and also teaches at the Yale School of Music.

Singaporean pianist **Pualina Lim Mei En** is hugely passionate about collaborative music-making and has performed in the United States, Singapore, Canada, Japan and other countries. As an avid and experienced collaborative pianist, she has appeared on Oregon's All Classical Radio and performed a recital with violinist Claire Wells at the Oregon Bach Festival 2024. She was also a Collaborative Piano Fellow at Chamber Music Northwest's Young Artist Institute 2022, 2024 and at Bowdoin International Music Festival 2023. In 2020, her trio 'WAN Trio' represented Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) at the chamber music festival Musical Chairs in Canada.

Pualina loves sharing her passion with the rest of the core team of staff pianists at New England Conservatory's Preparatory School. She has also been a part of Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' Intensive Community Program and NEC's Community Performances and Partnerships Fellowship program.

Her awards include third Prize in Singapore's 2019 National Piano and Violin Competition (Senior Category), and both second Prize as well as Best Accompanist Award in the piano category of the YST Concerto Competition 2020. She subsequently emerged as Top 3 Prize Winner across all instrument categories, culminating to her debut as concerto soloist with the YST Conservatory Orchestra. In 2022, she was also named President's Young Performer and performed with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Pualina completed undergraduate studies in Piano Performance at YST and was additionally awarded the National University of Singapore Society Medal for Outstanding Achievement. She is thankful to her teachers who have inspired and shaped her growth during her time at YST – Albert Tiu, Bernard Lanskey, Lim Yan, and Thomas Hecht among others. Pualina then pursued her passion in collaborative piano at the New England Conservatory as a student of Pei-Shan Lee and Cameron Stowe, first completing her Master of Music degree and now pursuing her Graduate Diploma. She is repeated recipient of the Francis W. Hatch, Sr. Presidential Scholarship and was also kindly sponsored by Singapore's Trailblazer Foundation.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Chirp 5: Music Technology, Lautaro Mantilla, curator

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Chirp 6: Music Technology, John Mallia, curator

Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC Commencement Concert

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

all programs subject to change

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert information

Inácia Afonso, *viola* (MM)

Student of Mai Motobuchi and Nicholas Cords

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Emelia Boydstun Torres, *soprano* (BM)

Student of Michael Meraw

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Ashly Zhang, *collaborative piano* (GD '26)

Student of Vivian Hornik Weilerstein and Cameron Stowe

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., Keller Room

Yeji Lim, *violin* (MM)

Student of Nicholas Kitchen

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room

Matthew Mihalko, *trumpet* (BM)

Student of Thomas Siders

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Pierce 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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the music playing?

Find out by visiting **necmusic.edu/givenow**.





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