

## Celebrating 75 Years of NEC Prep!

Each performance in New England Conservatory's 2025–2026 concert season reminds us that music has the power to connect people to one another. This year, as we celebrate 75 years of NEC's Preparatory School, which, since 1950, has helped shape the lives of generations of young musicians, we look forward to a future made brighter by tomorrow's musical artists, and we thank you for supporting all of the students who have found and developed their unique voices here at NEC.



Andrea Kalyn President

As we celebrate NEC Prep's 75th anniversary, we want to honor the moments, teachers, performances, and friendships that have shaped generations of musicians.

We invite NEC Prep Alumni to share your story and join us in building a living legacy that connects today's NEC Prep to its past and to its future.

<u>Click here</u> to share your NEC Prep story.









# Dear NEC Prep students, faculty, alumni, families, and friends,

It is my great honor to mark this moment in celebration of New England Conservatory Preparatory School's 75th anniversary. We gather as a community of musicians, educators, and families to reflect on our shared history and recognize the extraordinary people who have made our beloved NEC Prep what it is today.

To chart a path for the next 75 years, we must look back and remember the significant contributions of those who have made the Prep School such a remarkable pillar in Boston and beyond. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants, starting with Frances Brockman Lanier and Virginia Bacon, whose co-founding of Music for Children in 1950 planted the earliest seeds of our program.

Within several years of its founding, the program was renamed the Preparatory Department, and Lanier went on to serve as director until 1974. She passed away in 2000, just after NEC Prep celebrated its 50th anniversary; her daughter Betse recently wrote, "Mom would be so happy to know that the Preparatory School is still training people to learn and to appreciate wonderful music after 75 years!" In 1982, the Prep School established the Frances B. Lanier Award for outstanding students, an honor that is still presented annually at the Prep Graduation and Award Ceremony.

Also among those giants are two longtime faculty members whose impact continues to shape our community. In 1974, Lanier appointed Angel Ramón Rivera as director of the Preparatory School. A pianist and educator, Rivera graduated from NEC in 1965 and has inspired generations of young musicians with standards of excellence that endure to this day. In 1981, Mark Churchill succeeded Rivera as director. Churchill was instrumental in expanding the Prep School's ensembles, elevating NEC Prep's national profile by deepening its commitment to community engagement, (Cont.)

And eventually becoming NEC's first dean of the Division of Prep and Continuing Education. Both continue to serve on our faculty today, and their vision, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to students embody the heart of NEC Prep.

In the years that followed, tireless Prep School directors like Linda Granitto (beginning in 1994), Elisabeth Christensen (in 2005), and Rebecca Bogers (in 2012) carried the mission forward. Each guided the school through times of growth and renewal, expanding programs and strengthening access to exceptional musical training. Their work, along with that of dedicated faculty and staff, continues to champion our vibrant musical community.

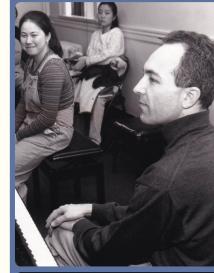
At this November 15 celebration, many departments across the Preparatory School will recognize their former chairs and leaders, honoring the individuals whose dedication and creativity built the foundation on which we now stand. This shared act of reflection reminds us that our future is inseparable from the legacy of those who came before. It speaks volumes that so many of our current faculty have been with NEC Prep for several decades.

Who knows what the next 75 years may hold for NEC Prep and the future of music education? What we can say with certainty is that we will continue to follow our most important mission: to serve students and to use music and education as the keys to guide future generations of leaders in our society.

Thank you for being part of this milestone celebration, for your belief in the transformative power of music, and for the vital role you play in our shared story.

La Shar

Sean Buchsbaum
Executive Director of the Preparatory School
New England Conservatory







### Summer Programs

#### Experience the magic of music this summer.

Our programs invite passionate musicians from across the globe to immerse themselves in an unparalleled summer music experience.

#### **Youth Programs**

Discover exceptional on-campus programs for musicians ages 13–18, led by NEC's renowned faculty.



#### Summer Orchestra Institute

Session 1: June 28 – July 11, 2026 Session 2: July 12 – July 25, 2026

A full symphony orchestra program for intermediate and advanced string, brass, wind, and percussion students.



#### **Jazz Lab**

June 28 - July 4, 2026

An intensive weeklong program in which young jazz musicians refine their skills through workshops, master classes, and ensemble performances.



## Summer Chamber Music: Young Artist Program August 8 – August 16, 2026

A tuition-free chamber music program for advanced violin, viola, cello, and piano students focusing on collaboration and performance.



#### Summer Vocal Institute

August 2 – August 15, 2026

A program in which young singers expand their technical and interpretive skills through the study of acting, vocal health, and musicianship.

Learn more about these programs and additional opportunities for college-aged and professional artists this summer at NEC.

necmusic.edu/summer



## NEC Prep 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

Saturday, November 15, 2025 6:00 PM New England Conservatory - Jordan Hall

#### **PROGRAM**

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Ruhan Iyer

(b. 2008)

Fanfare for an Unparalleled Preparatory

School

Senior Massachusetts Youth Ensemble Brass and

Percussion

Lesa Longay

(b. 1955)

Snowflakes, Wind, Mist, Moon

Suzuki Ensembles

Gaspar Sanz (1640–1710)

arr. Winifred Crock

Canarios

Suzuki Ensembles

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Trio No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 1

IV. Finale. Presto

CHIPS Ensemble

The Brisa Trio

Lillian Arnold Mages '27 Prep, violin

Gabriel Jojatu '28 Prep, cello Maggie Bai '29 Prep, piano

CHIPS is generously supported by the Robert and Jane Morse Endowed Chamber Music Fund at NEC

#### **David Zoffer**

#### Preppin' for Miles of MonkFunktion

(premiere performance)

Jazz Ensemble
Sam Childs '22 Prep, '24, tenor saxophone
Steven Feifke '09, piano
Rhiannon Hurst '21 Prep, voice
Ethan Liu '26 Prep, alto saxophone
Sammy McQuaid '26 Prep, electric guitar
Emmett Price IV '21 Prep, drums
David Zoffer '96, electric bass, instructor
Oskar Zoffer '27 Prep, voice

#### INTERMISSION

#### YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Juliano Aniceto, Director

#### **Gunther Schuller**

(1925-2015)

#### Music for a Celebration

#### Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

#### **Choral Fantasy**

Featuring

George Li '13 Prep, '19, '22 AD, piano

Corinne Luebke-Brown '24, '27 MM, soprano

Sarah Cooper '05 Prep, soprano

SarahAnn Duffy '17, mezzo-soprano Michael Gonzalez '12 Prep, '16, tenor

Henri Youmans '25, tenor

Corey Gaudreau '16, '19 MM, bass

NEC Prep Youth Chorale NEC Chamber Singers

#### TEXT AND TRANSLATION

#### **Choral Fantasy**

Schmeichelnd hold und lieblich klingen unsers Lebens Harmonien, und dem Schönheitssinn entschwingen Blumen sich, die ewig blühn. Fried' und Freude gleiten freundlich wie der Wellen Wechselspiel; was sich drängte rauh und feindlich, ordnet sich zu Hochgefühl. Wenn der Töne Zauber walten und des Wortes Weihe spricht, muss sich Herrliches gestalten, Nacht und Stürme werden Licht. Äuss're Ruhe, inn're Wonne herrschen für den Glücklichen. Doch der Künste Frühlingssonne lässt aus beiden Licht entstehn. Großes, das ins Herz gedrungen, blüht dann neu und schön empor; hat ein Geist sich aufgeschwungen, hallt ihm stets der Widerhall. Nehmt denn hin, ihr schönen Seelen, froh die Gaben schöner Kunst. Wenn sich Lieb' und Kraft vermählen. lohnt dem Menschen Göttergunst.

Flatteringly, sweetly, and lovely sound the harmonies of our life, and from our sense of beauty arise flowers that eternally bloom. Peace and joy advance in friendship, like the changing play of waves; all that was pressing, rough, and hostile turns into sublime emotion. When music's magic reins, and the sacred word is spoken, splendid things must take shape, night and tempest turn to light. Outer calm and inner bliss reign for the fortunate one. Yet the spring sun of the arts let both (light and bliss) arise. Greatness that has entered the heart blooms anew and beautifully forth; when a spirit has soared upward, its echo always resounds back. Therefore accept, you fair souls, joyfully the gifts of fair art. When love and strength join, divine grace rewards mankind

## SENIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH ENSEMBLE BRASS AND PERCUSSION

Michael Mucci, Director Allison Lacasse, Assistant Director

French HornTromboneTubaHillary CruzJackson GosuleRyan KimJane Geyer\*Vianka KyleRobert LowranceOwen Veith\*Jakob Nguyen Tran\*

Elliott Shoemaker Percussion

Trumpet Hibiki Yoshikawa\* Grady Barber
Peter Aloisio Stella Ovcharova

Eli Gewurz\* August Petterson
Jinyu Gu\* Oren Waxman
Tyler Kim
Patrick Naughton\*

Maddy Sjoblom

\* Also performs in Schuller

Ben Nugent Toby Shrenker\*

#### **SUZUKI ENSEMBLES**

 Heifetz (Violin)
 Oistrakh (Violin)
 Hindemith (Viola)

 Angela Leidig, Instructor
 Laura Rabideau, Instructor
 Rachel Fabulich, Instructor

Chloe Gong Ming Tai Chu De Jong Avelina Aliberti

Linda Ho Niav DeBarros Catherine Gurtan Ryne Kim MG Eudaly Gabriele Tosato Bea Leka Charly Ey

Rachel Lin Ginny Goldenheim
Iris Liu Shirley Guan Rostropovich (Cello)

Ari Salmon Hansen Elizabeth Loui-West Jenny Fan, *Instructor* Lea Robinson

Elliot Wu Overbaugh Ethan Dobinski Lisa Wang Matthew Nguyen

Abigail Zhao Eliot Oglice Francisco Sanchez-Soto

Solomiya Savych Kabir Subbaraman Alex Zhang Zhongshu Yang

#### YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Juliano Aniceto, Director

First Violin Viola Cont. Bassoon

Cello

Viviette Hong

Yijia Ma

Meilin Sha

Avelet Abramowitz Hanna Shimbori Marcus Krueger\* Lilian Arnold Mages++ Oliver Subramaniam William Simpson^ Fischer Biederman Jessica Tao Ellie Stevens Michelle Chudnovsky Abigail Tsai

French Horn Chloe Dimmick Sophie Veader Nadia Hackbarth-Davis^ Samuel Ding Brianna Yang Maximilian Zhang\* Kai Waynen+ Jiayi (Jenny) Yang Shuaishuai Zhao Rebecca Gansner Jaden Rudnicki\*\* Sarah Guo Elyse Schlesinger\*\*

Ayaan Iyer John Avery Trumpet Benjamin Choi-Schattle Mari Kang Gaven Finon Daniel Geho^ Laura Licata Ruhan Iver Gabriel Jojatu^\* Clarice Ma Oscar Lewis\* Isabel Metz Diane Kang+ Maddie Sjoblom

Thomas Parr Cole Katz Victoria Rosenthal Stefan Ladendorf Trombone Yi Ling Sha Lucas Li Timothy Han Jihye Yun Sophia Li Timothy Lai^ Elliott Shoemaker Eric Zhang Yuchen Luo

Jovana Zivanovic Madeline Lytton Sascha McHugh Tuha Second Violin Colin Oft Benjamin Box^

**James Palmer** 

Gavin Armstrong Ronni Chang Andrew Ouinn Timpani Kieran Eichler Nikolas Reuning August Patterson^\* Elyse Flynn Andrew Xia

Yuxiao Huang Percussion Yining Xiu Elyse Hychong Iulie Yan Iin Cho\*\* Charlotte Jeong^\* Kendall Flovd\*\* Olivia Zlabys Lauren Kim Reynaliz Herrera\*\*

Kvuri Lee Double Bass Sam Kerr\*\* Alfred Bull^\* Alice Li Chris Koo\*\* Nileya Liu Theo Kelman+

Harp

Celesta

Cara Nishino Owen Boyd\*\* Szu-ning Tai\*\* Annabelle Senatori

Luka Rozgic

Flute

Yen-Ching Chen Joey Um Peng Le\*\* Jacob Wu Angela Jin\* Ziyue Wu+ Michelle Sun^ YPO Personnel Manager

Dylan Yang Ziyan (Mobius) Xiong Annie Jung\*\* Julia Zhou

Oboe YPO teaching fellow Viola Aden Hwang^ Evan Johanson\*\* Aritro Chatterjee+ Aine Scanlan\*

++ Concertmaster Hsuan-Wei (Allison) Chen Alicia Wen Teagan Imberman Zhihan Zhang (Rex) + Assistant Principal Sabrina Lang^\* ^ Principal: Schuller Ella Li Clarinet \* Principal: Beethoven

Lauren Lin Kevin Han^ \*\* NEC Guest Musician Aidan Lee Leila Mostaghimi\*

Ivan Mejia

#### YOUTH CHORALE

Erica Washburn, Director

Arthur Chen Alla Petrosyan
Vivian Cain Weingram Hanna Suzuki
Lindsay Kwon Chloe Trejo
Zayde Martinez Liana Tolu
Michelle Li Sophie Xia
Jincheng Liu Antian Zhao
Claire Park

#### **NEC CHAMBER SINGERS**

Erica Washburn, Director

Zihan Zhang

Ryan Carpenter Estel Park
Gia Cellucci Geling Peng
Angel Dai Cecily Rea
Haijie Du Noah Scecina-White

Taitem Johnson Rafe Schaberg Donghwi Kang Louis Shriber Haruki Takeuchi Amy Li Geneva Lindsay Matthew Tirona Victoria Marques Eduard Treshchev Robert Moorman Valentine Umeh Grace Navarro Hannah Wang Olivia Nelson Sunny Wang Alakananda Nuthalapati McLain Weave Ogechi Okoye Ivy Jiayue Yin

Kaier Pan

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Ruhan Iyer** is 16 years old and currently a Junior at Lexington High School. Ruhan has been learning cello with Ms. Allison Eldredge since he was 11 years old. Additionally, he has been studying composition with Dr. Rodney Lister at the New England Conservatory for four years. He also learns Indian Classical vocal music from Tara Bangalore at Anubhava School of Music.

As a cellist, Ruhan has won the Rivers Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition. He has also played in many orchestras, including New England Conservatory Preparatory School's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Rivers Youth Symphony, and Lexington High School Chamber Orchestra. He has attended many summer programs for both composition and cello, including Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), Altschuler Summer Music Institute (ASMI), and Greenwood Music Camp.

In addition to NEC Prep, Ruhan was commissioned by the Newton Cultural Alliance in April of 2025. His compositions have been performed locally in Tanglewood, New England Conservatory, and Greenwood Music Camp, as well as in international festivals in Italy.

**David Zoffer** has chaired the Jazz Department in New England Conservatory's Preparatory and Adult Education programs since 1996 and has taught in the college Contemporary Musical Arts program since 2009. An active member of Boston's jazz community, he performs regularly with the Monkfish Jazz Orchestra and has worked with artists such as Luciana Souza, Eddie Gomez, Béla Fleck, Bob Moses, Don Alias, Don Byron, Paul Bley, David Liebman, Jeremy Udden, Roger Humphries, Stan Strickland, and Oscar Stagnaro.

A graduate of NEC with a Master's degree in Jazz Composition—and a proud NEC Prep Jazz parent—Zoffer has released several recordings as a pianist and with his band *The Differential*. He performs on keyboards, guitar, vocals, and bass, and teaches all of these instruments as well as composition, arranging, and production. He co-founded NEC's Summer JazzLab Intensive and developed the curriculum for NEC's Expanded Education Jazz Certificate Program, whose graduates have earned numerous Grammy, DownBeat, YoungArts and ASCAP awards.

As a composer, Zoffer has been commissioned by the Handel and Haydn Society and featured as a jazz soloist with the Boston Philharmonic. Zoffer has appeared at jazz festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe, presented clinics for students and educators, and received honors including NEC's Stackhouse Teaching Award, a Faculty Grant in Music Technology, Berklee's Faculty Fellowship, and the Boston Jazz Society Award.

Zoffer is co-producer and audio engineer of *Earth To Boston*, a live music YouTube channel highlighting New England musicians performing original music across genres.

Steven Feifke is a GRAMMY Award-winning bandleader, composer and arranger that has been featured on prominent news and television outlets including NBC, FOX, and CBS. His impressive resume includes collaborations with jazz icons such as Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Christian Sands and Veronica Swift, as well as renowned ensembles like the Metropole Orkest, New York Pops, Juilliard Jazz Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony. As a Yamaha Performing Artist, an Avid Sibelius Artist, Feifke has appeared on over 45 albums to date. Feifke has previously held a professorship of Harmony and Jazz Composition at Berklee College Of Music, and he has also been invited to give guest lectures and Artist in Residencies at institutions including Juilliard, Yale University, Jazz At Lincoln Center, New York University, UT Austin, Northern Illinois University, and more. In 2022, Feifke and co-leader, trumpeter Bijon Watson, released "Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra," — an album with a mission of showcasing and celebrating generational diversity to strengthen the tradition of mentorship that has shaped and defined the jazz idiom since its earliest beginnings. The album went on to win a GRAMMY in 2023 for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album; Feifke is the youngest winner in this category in GRAMMY history.

Praised by the *Washington Post* for combining "staggering technical prowess, a sense of command and depth of expression," pianist **George Li** possesses an effortless grace, poised authority, and brilliant virtuosity far beyond his years. Since winning the Silver Medal at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition, Li has rapidly established a major international reputation and performs regularly with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors, such as Dudamel, Gaffigan, Gergiev, Gimeno, Honeck, Orozco-Estrada, Petrenko, Robertson, Slatkin, Temirkanov, Tilson Thomas, Long Yu, and Xian Zhang.

Recent concerto highlights include performances with the Los Angeles, New York, London, Rotterdam, Oslo, St. Petersburg, and Buffalo Philharmonics; the San Francisco, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dallas, Tokyo, Frankfurt Radio, Sydney, Nashville, New Jersey, New World, North Carolina, Pacific, Valencia, Montreal, and Baltimore Symphonies; as well as the Philharmonia, DSO Berlin, Orchestra National de Lyon, and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège in Belgium. His eight-concert tour of Germany with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra included performances at the Berlin Philharmonie, Philharmonie am Gasteig Munich, and the Stuttgart Liederhalle. His collaboration with the Mariinsky Orchestra included performances at the Paris Philharmonie, Luxembourg Philharmonie, New York's Brooklyn Academy of Music, Graffenegg Festival, and in various venues throughout Russia.

In recital, Li has previously performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Davies Hall in San Francisco, Symphony Center in Chicago, the Mariinsky Theatre, Elbphilharmonie, Munich's Gasteig, the Louvre, Seoul Arts Center, Tokyo's Asahi Hall and Musashino Hall, NCPA Beijing, Shanghai's Poly Theater, and Amici della Musica Firenze, as well as appearances at major festivals, including the Edinburgh International Festival, Verbier Festival, Ravinia Festival, Festival de Pâques in Aix-en-Provence, and the Montreux Festival. An active chamber musician, Li has performed alongside Benjamin Beilman, Noah Bendix-Balgley, James Ehnes, Daniel Hope, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, and Kian Soltani.

Li is an exclusive Warner Classics recording artist, with his debut recital album released in October 2017, which was recorded live from the Mariinsky. His second recording for the label features Liszt solo works and Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, which was recorded live with Vasily Petrenko and the London Philharmonic and released in October 2019. His third album

with the label, which will include solo pieces by Schumann, Ravel, and Stravinsky, is scheduled for release in the spring of 2024.

Li gave his first public performance at Boston's Steinway Hall at the age of ten, and in 2011 performed for President Obama at the White House in an evening honoring Chancellor Angela Merkel. Among Li's many prizes, he was the recipient of the 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant, a recipient of the 2012 Gilmore Young Artist Award, and the First Prize winner of the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. George began his piano studies at age 4 with Dorothy Shi, before continuing with Wha Kyung Byun at New England Conservatory beginning at age 12. In 2019, he completed the Harvard/New England Conservatory dual degree program, with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and a Master's degree in Music. He subsequently graduated with an Artist Diploma at New England Conservatory in 2022. When not playing piano, George is an avid reader and photographer, as well as a sports fanatic.

Corinne Luebke-Brown, a Boston-based soprano, is celebrated for her rich, dulcet tone and expressive musicality. She is currently pursuing graduate studies at the New England Conservatory, where she has recently appeared as Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel* and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Other notable performances include Luisa in *Les Fantastiques* with Opera Bastide and recitals across Italy with the Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti. Corinne has worked with distinguished artists including JJ Penna, Tanya Blaich, and Roger Vignoles, and studies under Carole Haber, whose mentorship has been central to her artistic development.

Sarah Joyce Cooper is an award-winning soprano known for her "meltingly beautiful" (*Opera News*) singing and "passionate power" (*Parterre Box*). Recent highlights include her debut with the Seattle Opera as Minnie Tate in the world premiere of Tazewell Thompson's *Jubilee*; a return to Carnegie Hall as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble; and the title role in James Kallembach's *American Jezebel: The Trial of Anne Hutchinson*, a world premiere opera commissioned by Harvard University that tells the story of theologian, midwife, scholar, and co-founder of Rhode Island, Anne Hutchinson. Performances for the 2025-2026 season include her highly anticipated return to the Rochester Oratorio Society as the soloist in the Rochester premiere of Will Todd's *Mass in Blue*, a solo recital with the Opera Guild of Rochester, an appearance with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra as a soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and the role of Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* with the Bar Harbor Music Festival.

Other recent performances include the roles of Eva and Gabriel in Haydn's *The Creation* with the MIT Concert Choir and Handel and Haydn Society Chamber Choir and her debut with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra in Strauss's *Vier letzte Lieder*. Operatic credits include Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* (Opera Western Reserve), Adina in *L'Elisir d'amore* (Geneva Light Opera), Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* (Syracuse Opera), Violetta in *La Traviata* (MassOpera) and La Charmeuse in *Thaïs* (Maryland Lyric Opera). Ms. Cooper holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French studies from Princeton University and Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. In addition to performing, Ms. Cooper serves as Executive Assistant for Help!ComeHome!, a nonprofit dedicated to meeting the needs of under-served communities throughout the US in Jesus' Name.

Praised for her "liquid gold" mezzo (*Opera Today*) American Mezzo-Soprano, **SarahAnn Duffy**, is quickly establishing herself as an exciting communicator of repertoire spanning the baroque to the present day.

Upcoming events include a return to Carnegie Hall for her debut as the Mezzo-Soloist in Beethoven's Sinfonia No. 9. Recent performances of the 2025 season include debuting at Carnegie Hall with Mid America Productions and the New England Symphonic Ensemble in Notareschi's Climate Mass as well as in Sunday in the Park with George as Celeste 2 and Elaine at the Glimmerglass Festival. Her 2024 season includes the debuts of Mercédès in Carmen and Laura in Luisa Miller, both with Sarasota Opera, as well as the role of Endimione in Cavalli's La Calisto with The Glimmerglass Festival for a jump in performance.

Events of the 2023 season include her role and company debut as Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera NEO, and her return to Sarasota Opera as Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* where she was awarded the Helen Jepson Dellera Fellowship Award for an outstanding Studio Artist. Other recent events included joining Chautauqua Opera where she workshopped LOVE, LOSS AND THE CENTURY UPON US commissioned by Chautauqua Opera with music by Rene Orth and libretto by Jerre Dye. SarahAnn is a proud alumna of New England Conservatory of Music and a passionate educator at New England Conservatory of Music's Expanded Education program.

**Henri Youmans** (M.M. '25) is a tenor, educator, and conductor dedicated to fostering musical excellence and community through performance and teaching. He currently serves as a Pre-K through 8th-grade music teacher in Peabody, as well as the conductor of the Connecticut College Singers in New London.

Tenor **Michael González** has been praised as "visually and sonically stunning" and celebrated for his "beautiful tenor voice," described as "the aural equivalent of silk" (*Boston Music Intelligencer*). Known for his bright, forward tone and exceptional diction, González is rapidly emerging as a distinguished artist in opera, solo, and choral performance.

Recently, González captivated audiences at the National Opera Center in New York, where his recital earned acclaim from *New York Concert Review*, which hailed him as "one of the evening's best" and "an emerging artist destined to go far." He also served as Tenor Soloist for the world premiere of Richard J. Clark's *Te Deum*, a five-movement work for orchestra, soloists, and choir commissioned for the fiftieth anniversary of Francis Bardot's Chœur d'Enfants d'Île-de-France. The premiere took place at the stunning L'Église Saint-François de Sales in Paris, France.

As Lead Tenor of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, González can be heard on the 2021 album "From the Bell Tower", recorded with the Boston Cathedral Singers. The album was listed "For Your Consideration" in five Grammy categories and is available on iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon Music.

González has received recognition in several prestigious competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Boston and Puerto Rico Districts), the Schmidt Vocal Competition (First Prize/Gold Medal), the Classical Singer Competition (Finalist), and the YoungArts Awards (Silver Medalist).

His performance career spans the United States and abroad, with appearances at the American Institute of Musical Studies (Graz, Austria), Artes Italia (Florence, Italy), and the Berlin Opera Academy (Berlin, Germany). Notable operatic roles include Samson (Samson), Fritz (L'amico Fritz), Colonel Fairfax (The Yeomen of the Guard), Frederic (The Pirates of Penzance), Satyavān (Savitri), Barigoule (Cendrillon), Aeneas (Dido and Aeneas), Albert (Albert Herring), Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni), the Huntsman (Venus and Adonis), and Monostatos (The Magic Flute).

In addition to his operatic work, González maintains an active performance schedule with Boston Lyric Opera, Odyssey Opera, Opera Saratoga, Dee Opera, Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, South Florida Symphony Orchestra and several other ensembles across the United States.

A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, González earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Vocal Performance with a concentration in Opera. His primary teachers include Michael Meraw, Angela Gooch, Carol Caselle, Gustav Halle, Wayne Rivera, and Lawrence Brownlee (Masterclass). His notable coaches include Tim Steele, Damien Karzyzek, Felix Jarrar, and Timothy Hoekman.

Baritone **Corey Gaudreau** is a singer and teacher who is frequently praised for his mastery of language and style, especially in French and German song. He is the chair of the voice department with New England Conservatory Expanded Education, where he founded the Vocal Theatre Lab, a theatre training program for young singers, and through which he established an ongoing collaboration with Voice at Peabody Preparatory Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

As a performer, Gaudreau has worked with opera companies throughout the United States. He has sung and understudied a variety of roles including Sid in Benjamin Britten's Albert Herring, Des Grieux in Massenet's Le Portrait de Manon, Figaro in Rossini's The Barber of Seville, Aeneas in Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Billy Bigelow in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel, Yamadori in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Masetto and Don Giovanni in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Alvaro in Daniel Catàn's Florencia en el Amazonas, and Hannah Before in Laura Kaminsky and Mark Campbell's As One. Gaudreau was a Bonfils-Stanton Studio Artist and Apprentice Artist for two seasons with Central City Opera, and Artist-in-Residence with both Pensacola Opera and Opera on the James. Gaudreau is a staff singer at Trinity Church in the City of Boston. Formerly, he sang at Calvary-St. George's Parish in New York.

As a guest artist, Gaudreau has sung Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*, and Schumann's *Spanische Liebeslieder* in two installments of the First Monday Concert Series at Jordan Hall and recorded Pavel Haas' *Four Songs on Chinese Poetry* for an NEC Liederabend. In a repeat performance of Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures* at Symphony Hall in Boston, Corey was hailed by *Boston Music Intelligencer* as a baritone with "vitality and precision," offering "a fascinating study of shifting sonorities and sonic possibilities."

A versatile singer with flexibility in various styles, Gaudreau has been heard in concert and oratorio in the United States and Europe. He is a proponent of new music, jazz, and musical theatre, and the intersections of these styles. He has sung a program of the Great American Songbook at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and performs prolifically as a song recitalist and concert artist. This season, he joins pianist Cameron Stowe in presenting a recital program of Barber, Britten, Ravel, and Poulenc, inspired by legendary singers.

**Michael Mucci** retired from the Longmeadow Public School System, in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 2013, where he taught for thirty-five years, and was Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Instrumental Music at Longmeadow High School.

Mr. Mucci's Longmeadow ensembles performed at the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall, the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana, and at the International Association of Jazz Educators Convention. Under his direction, the Longmeadow High School Symphony Orchestra received the 2010 American Prize for Secondary School Orchestral Performance and the Longmeadow High School Music Department was awarded three Grammy Signature Awards by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Mucci is currently in his twenty-eighth season as Director of the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble at the New England Conservatory of Music. Under his leadership, MYWE has performed in the National Band Festival at Carnegie Hall, and was featured as part of "Winds Across the Century," a nationwide wind symposium held at the New England Conservatory of Music. MYWE has also shared the stage with the Metropolitan Winds and the Boston College Wind Ensemble, performed at the National Music Educators All-Eastern Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and toured Italy, performing concerts in Florence, Naples, Rome, and the Vatican City, where they played for Pope John Paul II. Under Mr. Mucci's leadership, MYWE has also performed in Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, and Wales.

Mr. Mucci serves as an adjudicator for the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association and has appeared as a guest conductor with festivals throughout New York and New England. He and his family reside in Longmeadow, MA, where the Longmeadow High School Concert Hall was named in honor of Mr. Mucci on November 24, 2015.

Allison Lacasse's passion for music is only matched by her deep commitment to the students she serves. As the Band Director at Belmont High School in Belmont, Massachusetts, she creates a space where students discover the power of connection, creativity, and community. Allison believes wholeheartedly that every student deserves a place to express themselves freely, to grow, and to be seen not only as musicians but as people. Her classroom is a place where artistry and humanity are equally valued; her students are held to high standards, but are also surrounded by warmth and understanding.

Beyond her work at Belmont High School, Allison is deeply engaged in the music education community. She proudly serves as the Honor Band Chairperson for the Western International Band Clinic (WIBC) in Seattle, Washington, and as part of the operational staff for the American Band College (ABC) in Ashland, Oregon. Her dedication to connecting with the greater Boston community of youth musicians extends to the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, where she serves as Assistant Conductor for the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble program. Allison joined the faculty as an assistant professor at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the Fall of 2024, where she teaches Woodwind Pedagogy. Allison is also an active leader in various professional organizations, including her roles as Past Chairperson for the Northeastern District of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association and Secretary for the Servant Leadership Association for Music (SLAM). Additionally, she is the founder and Artistic Director of the University of Rhode Island Summer Music Academy, where she brings together young musicians from Southern New England to learn, perform, and grow.

Allison's educational journey reflects her unwavering dedication to both her craft and her students. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Performance from the University of Rhode Island, followed by a Master of Music in Music Education from the American Band College of Central Washington University. In recognition of her teaching, she was named a semifinalist for the 2017 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year and was honored with the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Advocacy Award in 2018. In 2025, Allison was presented with the MMEA Lowell Mason Award.

Angela Leidig is a dedicated Suzuki violin teacher and Alexander Technique educator based in the Boston area. She has been a member of the Suzuki faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory School since 2013, where she teaches private lessons and group classes. Angela also maintains a thriving private studio in Somerville, MA. From 2008 to 2013, she was a faculty member at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA.

Angela brings warmth, clarity, and enthusiasm to her teaching. She is passionate about guiding children and their families through the beginning stages of their musical journey and fostering a strong foundation of technique, musicality, and joyful practice. She values the deep sense of connection and community at the heart of the Suzuki method and enjoys collaborating closely with families, faculty, and fellow students to create a nurturing and high-level learning environment.

Her students participate actively in group classes, NEC and BYSO orchestras, and have earned recognition at events such as the Bay State String Competition and MTNA. In 2025, she received the Clara Slater Award for Teaching Excellence from NEC Prep.

Angela is also a certified Alexander Technique teacher, committed to helping young musicians develop ease, balance, and freedom in their playing from the start. She works closely with parents to build healthy, mindful practice habits at home. In the summers, she teaches Alexander Technique alongside Robyn Avalon at the Meadowmount School of Music, supporting advanced string players ages 13–30.

Angela holds a Master of Music from Boston University and a BA in Music from Roanoke College. She pursued three years of doctoral study in violin performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder. A lifelong Suzuki violinist, Angela began studying in a Suzuki public school program in Pennsylvania at age five and began teaching in high school. She has completed teacher training in Suzuki Books 1–10 with renowned pedagogues including Kimberly Meier-Sims, Ronda Cole, Linda Fiore, Alice Joy Lewis, Ed Kreitman, and Ed Sprunger. She remains deeply committed to continuing her education, regularly attending pedagogy courses to grow as a teacher and mentor.

**Laura Rabideau** (formerly Williamson) began her graduate studies at New England Conservatory in 2016 and, in her second year, joined the faculty of NEC's Preparatory School, where she teaches private violin and viola lessons, violin ensembles, and Suzuki Early Childhood Education.

In addition to teaching, Laura enjoys playing contemporary music. Most recently she can be found on the soundtrack of John Alyward's 2023 Chamber Opera Film, "Oblivion" for Soprano, Tenor, Baritone, Viola, Cello, Bass, Electric Guitar, and Acoustics, which won the award for "Best Musical Film" at the 2025 Cannes World Film Festival.

While a graduate student at NEC, Laura took pedagogy under Magdalena Richter. She has taken Suzuki training with Judy Bossuat-Gallic, Teri Einfeldt, Linda Fiore, Kirsten Marshall, Carol Smith, and Lynn McCall. She has registered Suzuki teacher training in Violin Units 1 through 10, and in Suzuki Early Childhood Education.

Laura endeavors to prioritize working with young musicians for the duration of her career and to be a "life-long learner" in furthering her pedagogical awareness. Laura frequently attends workshops and SAA conferences and loves learning from and observing her colleagues.

When she's not at NEC, Laura can be found tending her plot in the Fenway Victory Gardens, or in her kitchen cooking!

B.A., Vanderbilt University Majored in both Music Performance and Sociology; M.M., New England Conservatory. Her most influential teachers include Aaron Janse, Kathryn Plummer, and Marcus Thompson.

**Rachel Fabulich**, an alumna of the conservatory division at NEC, Rachel has been a member of the Suzuki faculty at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School since 2016, where she teaches viola and early childhood lessons and group classes. In addition to her work at NEC, Ms. Fabulich has a thriving private studio in the MetroWest area.

A dedicated teacher, Ms. Fabulich has been a clinician at programs, institutes, and workshops around the country. She was a viola coordinator for the Suzuki Association of the Americas 2014 and 2016 Conferences and has served on the board of directors for the Suzuki Music Association of California, Los Angeles. She has additionally been on the faculties of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music and Westridge School in Pasadena, CA, as well as the Music Institute of Chicago. Though focusing most of her time on education, Rachel currently enjoys playing in the viola section of the Wellesley Symphony and with her chamber group, Trio Pastorale.

Leveraging her extensive performance experience, Rachel inspires her students to develop their musical abilities to the fullest. Guided by Dr. Suzuki's philosophy of "character first, ability second", she cultivates not only musical talent but also essential life skills in her students. This comprehensive approach has led many to achieve notable success, performing with organizations like the NEC Prep, BYSO, and Rivers orchestras, along with chamber music groups, MMEA District and All State orchestras, and music festivals across the country. Furthermore, the strong foundation built through this method has equipped some students to pursue successful careers in music, gaining admission to respected conservatories, including NEC, The San Francisco Conservatory, the University of Southern California, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, among other leading music institutions.

Ms. Fabulich has a Bachelor of Music degree in viola performance with a concentration in Music in Education from the New England Conservatory of Music. She earned a double Master of Music degree from Northwestern University School of Music in viola performance and string pedagogy. Rachel's primary teachers have been Roland Vamos, Marcus Thompson, Lewis

Rosove, and Ann Montzka-Smelser. As a lifelong learner and Suzuki pedagogue, Ms. Fabulich has spent countless hours in pedagogy courses, workshops, and discussions with renowned Suzuki teachers like Elizabeth Stuen-Walker, Edward Kreitman, Edmund Sprunger, Alice Joy Lewis, and Gilda Barston, among others.

Cellist **Jenny Fan** is a dedicated music educator based in the Boston area. She maintains a vibrant cello studio in Natick and has been a member of the Suzuki faculty at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School since 2015, as well as a faculty member for Project STEP since 2018.

Jenny's students begin their musical journey as early as age four in Suzuki group classes and go on to become members of youth orchestras throughout the Greater Boston area, including the New England Conservatory, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO), Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (BPYO), and Rivers Symphony Conservatory (RSC). Her students have also been featured on the national radio program From the Top and have earned recognition at events such as the Massachusetts All-State Festival, the Rivers School String Competition, and the Bay State String Competition.

In addition to private teaching, Jenny has extensive experience leading group and string classes. She has served as a teaching artist in the Arlington Public Schools and held faculty positions with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra Intensive Community Program (ICP), the Suzuki School of Newton, Dana Hall School, and the Wellesley Performing Arts Department.

Jenny holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Cello Performance from Boston University, where she studied with Michael Reynolds, cellist of the Muir Quartet. As a Suzuki educator, she has completed teacher training with renowned pedagogues including Nancy Hair, Sally Gross, Pamela Davenport, Carey Beth Hockett, and Zachary Sweet.

Committed to lifelong learning, Jenny continues to enrich her teaching through professional development, pedagogy courses, and conferences, fostering in her students the same curiosity, discipline, and joy that music has brought to her own life.

#### **Education and Training**

B.M in Cello Performance, Magna Cum Laude, Boston University; M.M. in Cello Performance, Boston University; Piano and Cello Performance, National Taiwan Academy of Performing Arts. Suzuki Pedagogy Training: Books 1-10.

Cellist **Laura Blustein** studied with Gabor Rejto, Laurence Lesser and Timothy Eddy. She was awarded the Piatigorsky Prize for outstanding cellist at the Tanglewood Music Center in 1979 and she was subsequently awarded an English Speaking Union Fellowship to attend master classes at the Britten Pears School of Advanced Musical Studies with William Pleeth. She earned her Bachelor's Degree at New England Conservatory and her Master's and Doctoral Degrees at SUNY Stony Brook.

To her amazement, it has been 50 years since she began her relationship with NEC when she transferred as a sophomore to study with Laurence Lesser in 1975. After spending seven years in graduate school and freelancing in New York she returned to Boston in 1987 and was invited by Mary Lou Speaker Churchill to join the string department at NEC Prep. Since then, much of

her career has been spent teaching, coaching and performing in the NEC community. She was appointed Chair of Chamber Music at the Prep in 2002 and served as chair until 2024. Most recently in 2018, she along with Merry Peckham of the college, created the chamber music program called CHIPS: Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar. CHIPS offers the most advanced students across New England a program of in depth study of the chamber music repertoire, masterclasses with world famous artists and many opportunities to perform. Each year, students audition for spots in three string quartets and three piano trios. This is the seventh year of the CHIPS program which she now co-directs with violinist Soovin Kim.

Along with her husband, harpsichordist John Gibbons, she enjoyed many years performing as a continuo team, playing on First Monday concerts with many of Boston's finest musicians. This is her 38th year on the Prep Faculty.

Conductor and mezzo-soprano Erica J. Washburn has been Director of Choral Activities at New England Conservatory since 2009. Known for her student-centric approach to classroom and rehearsal instruction, and commitment to the performance of new music, she is the recipient of several outstanding alumni awards, including the distinguished honor of induction to the Westminster Choir College Music Education Hall of Fame, and the 2025 recipient of the New England Conservatory Louis and Adrienne Krasner Teaching Excellence Award.

As a conductor, Washburn has worked with Kansas City, MO based Cardinalis, the Yale Schola Cantorum, the East Carolina University Women's Chorale, the Eastman Women's Chorus. and the Cornell University Cornell Chorus. She is a sought-after guest clinician who frequently leads state and regional festival choruses, and spent five summers as a conductor and voice faculty member for the New York State Summer School of the Arts School of Choral Studies. Under her direction the NEC choirs have been featured on several live and pre-recorded broadcasts, including the North Carolina based station WCPE Great Sacred Music, WICN Public Radio, and WGBH Boston. The choirs can also be heard in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project on the BMOP/Sound recording Paul Moravec: The Blizzard Voices and, most recently, with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the Boston Symphony Orchestra on their Deutsche Grammophon recording of Shostakovich Symphony No. 13.

Washburn's stage credits include appearances as Madame Lidoine in Francis Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites, Rebecca Nurse in Robert Ward's The Crucible, Mother/Allison in the premiere of Lee Hoiby's This is the Rill Speaking and others. Her recital and orchestral solo credits are numerous, and her live premiere from Jordan Hall of the late Richard Toensing's Night Songs and Evening Prayers with the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds can be heard on Albany Records.

A rising star among his generation of Latin-American conductors, **Juliano Aniceto** is known for his versatile musical depth and passionate stage presence. Director of Orchestras at the New England Conservatory Preparatory, and Music Director of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Aniceto is also Artist-in-Residence at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where he is currently a doctoral candidate under the mentorship of conductor Marin Alsop. Aniceto also serves as assistant/cover conductor for the Ravinia Festival, the summer residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

With an equal devotion to opera and symphonic music, Aniceto has conducted musical theater, operas, film scores, and symphonic music. He has appeared as a guest conductor with such distinguished organizations in the United States and South America as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, São Paulo State Youth Orchestra, São Pedro Opera House, Peabody Symphony, Peabody Concert Orchestra, East Carolina University Symphony Orchestra, among others. Juliano collaborated with Marin Alsop, serving as the assistant conductor for the Concert of the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in 2021. In addition, he participated in the idealization of the Amazon Concert, performed by Marin Alsop and the São Paulo Symphony, at Carnegie Hall in 2022.

A champion of music education and its ability to connect people of all ages and backgrounds, as well as provide opportunities for growth and self-confidence, Juliano's artistic vision focuses on establishing personal connections through music-making. Mr. Aniceto has served as music director of the Peabody Youth Orchestra, Assistant Conductor Teaching Fellow at the Peabody Institute, and conductor/co-founder of Old Bay New Music – the resident contemporary music ensemble at the Peabody Institute. Juliano Aniceto was also the Freeman Conducting Fellow with the Chicago Sinfonietta, under the mentorship of Mei-Ann Chen.

In addition to his performance activities, Juliano was awarded the Hugh Hawkins Research Fellowship, where he investigated the path of diversity in the Peabody Institute Ensembles history. Juliano received the Artistic Excellence Scholarship from Johns Hopkins University. When not traveling to conduct, Mr. Aniceto resides in Boston and loves reading and cooking.

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank all of the students, faculty, families, and staff whose artistry and dedication have brought tonight's 75th Anniversary concert to life, offering just a glimpse into the depth of our programs and demonstrating that it truly takes a village to sustain the vibrant community that is NEC Prep.

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