

NEC Chamber Orchestra

Donald Palma, artistic director

PROGRAM

Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)

Apollon musagète (1947 version)

First tableau

Prologue: The Birth of Apollo

Second tableau

Variation of Apollo

Apollo and the Three Muses

Variation of Calliope (the Alexandrine)

Variation of Polyhymnia

Variation of Terpsichore

Second Variation of Apollo

Pas de deux (Apollo and Terpsichore)

Coda (Apollo and the Muses)

Apotheosis

Intermission

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

Serenade in E Major, op. 22

Moderato Tempo di valse Scherzo: Vivace

Larghetto Finale: Allegro vivace

The NEC Chamber Orchestra was created to provide the students with an opportunity to apply the principals of chamber music in a small orchestral setting. The participants are chosen by audition at the beginning of the academic year and remain together throughout. As the ensemble rehearses and performs without a conductor, leadership responsibilities are rotated for every work performed. This affords the students an opportunity to develop communication skills, take responsibility for musical decisions and broaden their aural and score reading capabilities. Participation in the program also allows them to explore a wide range of the incredibly rich chamber orchestra literature.

Stravinsky Apollon musagète

Apollo (originally Apollon musagète and variously known as Apollo musagetes, Apolo Musageta, and Apollo, Leader of the Muses) is a neoclassical ballet in two tableaux composed between 1927 and 1928 by Igor Stravinsky. It was choreographed in 1928 by twenty-four-year-old George Balanchine, with the composer contributing the libretto. The scenery and costumes were designed by André Bauchant, with new costumes by Coco Chanel in 1929. The scenery was executed by Alexander Shervashidze, with costumes under the direction of Mme. A. Youkine. The American patron of the arts Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge had commissioned the ballet in 1927 for a festival of contemporary music to be held the following year at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The story centers on Apollo, the Greek god of music, who is visited by three Muses: Terpsichore, muse of dance and song; Polyhymnia, muse of mime; and Calliope, muse of poetry. The ballet takes Classical antiquity as its subject, though its plot suggests a contemporary situation. It is concerned with the reinvention of tradition, since its inspiration is Baroque, Classical, or even post baroque/rococo/galant.

— Wikipedia

Dvořák Serenade for Strings in E Major, op. 22

The year 1875 was extremely productive for the young Dvořák. Recently married and with a young child, a prize from the Austrian State (Brahms was one of the three jurors) afforded him the freedom to compose without financial worries. During this period he composed the String Quartet No. 2, Symphony No. 5, Piano Trio No. 1, Piano Quartet No.1 and his opera *Vanda*. In the midst of this creative outpouring he composed his *Serenade* for string orchestra in just eleven days in May of 1875.

The *Serenade* is a charming and joyful work infused with the profound happiness and optimism pervading Dvořák's life at the time. Each of the movements has a unique character, including a lilting waltz, a playful scherzo, a passionate and lyrical larghetto and concluding with a lively folk dance in the style of those heard throughout the villages of his native Bohemia. Dvořák ties it all together by quoting themes from the previous movements and a return to very opening of the *Serenade*.

NEC Chamber Orchestra

Donald Palma, artistic director

ViolinViolaDouble BassMaxwell FairmanChao An Hsu ‡Dennis McIntyre

Carson Howell ‡‡ Peter Jablokow
Miles Huang Yeh-Chun Lin Principal players

Jeremiah Jung William Sotiriou * * Stravinsky
Yeongeun Kim † Dvořák

Alice Lee ‡ Cello

Hyunji Lee ** Hun Choi Double symbol for
Minji Lee * Jae Eun Kim * principal 2nd violin

Angeline Wang Ingrid Tverberg ‡

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Conducting

Donald Palma

Artistic Director

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

Symphonic Music at New England Conservatory

Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras Hugh Wolff is joined by Associate Director of Orchestras David Loebel, Chamber Orchestra founder Donald Palma, Head of Orchestral Conducting Stefan Asbury, and a rich array of guest conductors and coaches for dozens of FREE orchestral concerts in NEC's Jordan Hall this year.

Visit **necmusic.edu** for complete and updated concert information:

NEC Baroque Orchestra, Guy Fishman, director Monday, November 17, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Festival

NEC Symphony, David Loebel, Clancy Ellis '26 GD, conductor

Chadwick *Jubilee* from *Symphonic Sketches*; Strauss Overture to *Die Fledermaus*; Stravinsky Suite from *The Firebird*; Joplin (arr. Schuller) *Overture to Treemonisha*; Schuller *Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee*

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Opera: Jonathan Dove "Flight"

NEC opera students are joined by members of NEC Philharmonia under the direction of Robert Tweten; Joshua Major is the stage director Thursday-Saturday, November 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m. Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC New Music Ensemble, Stefan Asbury, conductor

Harvey Mortuos Plangos, Vivo Voco; Byström Rebellion in Greenery; Mallia Plexus 2; Reich New York Counterpoint for Clarinet and Tape; Murail Winter Fragments; Abrahamsen Winternacht

Monday, December 8, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Handel Concerto Grosso, op. 6 no. 4; Bartók Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta; Beethoven Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 61, Joshua Brown AD, violin Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Lab Orchestra

Clancy Ellis '26 GD, Joseph Bozich '27 GD and Leonard Bopp '27 GD conductors *Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

all programs subject to change

BSO Prelude: What I Hear - Tania León

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Williams Hall

Sonata Night 57, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Beethoven sonatas for cello and piano, a collaboration with the cello studio of Lluís Claret

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC Wind Ensemble, William Drury, guest conductor

Minakakis Vykinon (world premiere), Stephen Drury and Yukiko Takagi, piano;

Mahler Songs of a Wayfarer - Nicholas Ottersberg Enriquez, baritone;

Huling Blood Moon: Concerto for Tenor Saxophone and Wind Ensemble - Max Cannon, saxophone; Heiss/Wiese A Place in New England: Prelude for Auburndale;

Stanford Symphony No. 5 (mvt. 4)

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Paula Robison Studio Recital

"Three Sonatas, Ten Players"

Friday, November 14, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Festival: "Chamber Music + Sonatas: Schuller and the Spirit of Collaboration" Chamber works by Gunther Schuller, Ives, Schoenberg, Merula, Caroso, Anthony Coleman, and Ethan Iverson

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Festival: "Contemporary Musical Arts Today – A Global Vision Realized" Eden MacAdam-Somer and Hankus Netsky, curators Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

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

NEC Festival: "Jumpin' in the Future, The Legacy of Gunther Schuller"

NEC Jazz Orchestra, Ken Schaphorst, director

Guest artists include Fred Hersh and Carl Atkins

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.



necmusic.edu/tonight





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