

Concert Program

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NEC Festival

*Jazz Without Borders:
Schuller's Bold Experiment at NEC*

NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, conductor

with
Carl Atkins, guest conductor

Fred Hersch, piano
George Schuller, drums
Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, ney, zurna, voice
George Lernis, percussion

Thursday, November 20, 2025
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

NEC Festival 2025

This performance is part of the NEC Festival, which will celebrate the legacy of Gunther Schuller, president of NEC between 1967 and 1977 with a week-long series of concerts and discussions. In addition to reflecting on his work as a composer, conductor and scholar, the legacy of Gunther Schuller's influence on NEC will be demonstrated through a range of collaborative presentations.

Learn more about the NEC Festival [here](#).

As president of NEC between 1967 and 1977, **Gunther Schuller** loved bringing together students and faculty from all departments to perform and discuss music related to a single unifying theme. So it seems only fitting that we honor Schuller on his 100th Birthday with a Conservatory-wide Festival reflecting on his legacy as an administrator, educator, composer, conductor, performer, advocate and scholar.

Gunther was a prodigiously talented musician, playing principal French horn with the Cincinnati Symphony at the age of 17, followed by a 15-year stint with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. For some musicians, that might be considered a satisfying career. But Schuller had much more ambitious goals. He started composing in his teens, performing his own First Horn Concerto with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19. And he was curious about older and newer music that wasn't represented in the programs of the symphony orchestras of his time. He became a fierce advocate for new music, producing a landmark series of concerts in New York entitled "Twentieth Century Innovations." He also started working with jazz musicians in the 1940s and 1950s, playing horn on Miles Davis's legendary *Birth of the Cool* and *Porgy and Bess* recordings. In 1957 he coined the term "Third Stream Music" to describe the hybrid music that he and his contemporaries were creating.

When he became President of New England Conservatory in 1967, Schuller continued to pursue many of these interests, hiring faculty who shared his expansive view of music. He conducted music that was rarely heard, including music by Duke Ellington, Scott Joplin, Kurt Weil and Paul Whiteman. In 1969, he started the first fully-accredited Jazz Studies Department in a conservatory together with Carl Atkins.

Tonight, the NEC Jazz Orchestra celebrates Schuller's revolution in music education by reflecting on over 50 years of transformational teaching and learning, performing Schuller's composition *Jumpin' in the Future* as well as his arrangement of *Blue Moon*. The group will also perform music by Ran Blake, Jaki Byard and George Russell, three of the artists that Schuller hired to teach at NEC. We will also hear music by some of Schuller's favorite composers, Duke Ellington and Charles Mingus, as well as a piece by NEC alum and faculty member, Mehmet Sanlikol, reflecting Schuller's commitment to music from around the world.

PROGRAM

Gunther Schuller
(1925–2015)

Jumpin' in the Future

George Schuller, drums

Duke Ellington

Reminiscing in Tempo

Billie Holiday, Arthur Herzog Jr.
arr. Jaki Byard

God Bless the Child

Bogata Orban Ducos, voice

Ran Blake
arr. Ken Schaphorst

Vanguard

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

Temmuz

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, ney, zurna, voice
George Lernis, percussion

Charles Mingus
arr. Sy Johnson

Boogie Stop Shuffle

Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart
arr. Gunther Schuller

Blue Moon

George Schuller, drums

George Russell

All About Rosie

Fred Hersch, piano

Carl Atkins, conductor

NEC Jazz Orchestra
Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Winds

Max Cannon, alto saxophone, flute, clarinet
Teddy Goldman, alto saxophone, clarinet
Max Strong, tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, clarinet
Jett Gonzalez, tenor saxophone
Shuhan Wang, baritone saxophone

Trumpets

Charlie Watson Nicholas Abraham
Ben Kilpatrick Woody Pierre
Max DeForest

Trombones

Zixuan Weng Angel Salinas
Julian Quinones Jonas Ventrescas, bass trombone

Rhythm

Peter Vasquez, *piano* Oscar Peterson, *bass*
Oliver Turner, *guitar* Brett James-Halter, *drums*

Guests

Bogata Orban Ducos, *voice*
Chris Mavrogian, *oboe*
Mauricio Martinez, *French horn*
Flynn Ewer, *French horn*

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

all programs subject to change

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

NEC Festival: “Of Reminiscences and Reflections – Celebrating Gunther Schuller’s 100th Birthday” - Live performances, recorded audio, projected images, and commentary featuring Gunther Schuller and others, celebrating Schuller’s deep effect on numerous musicians and the path of 20th and 21st century music
Friday, November 21, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Festival: Faculty Recital: Kenneth Radnofsky, saxophone

Gunther Schuller 100th Birthday Concert

Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

Song and Verse, Brett Hodgdon, curator

An evening of German Lieder

Monday, November 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Joint Faculty Recital: **Cameron Stowe, piano** and **Corey Gaudreau, baritone**

“Homage: Works Inspired by Legendary Singers”

Barber Three Songs; Britten Winter Words; Ravel Histoires naturelles

Poulenc Hommage à Edith Piaf; La fraîcheur et le feu

Monday, November 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Saxophone Ensemble, Kenneth Radnofsky, director

Bach The Art of the Fugue (1-5); Rivier Grave et Presto;

Villa-Lobos Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

First Monday at Jordan Hall, 41st season

“Divine Arcana” - von Biber *“Mystery”* sonatas; Lang *Glory* (2014);

Mozart (arr. Schuller) *Sinfonia Concertante*; and works by Hildegard von Bingen, Pärt, and Messiaen

Monday, December 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Chamber Music Gala

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

NEC Opera: Handel Scenes and Shakespeare Monologues

Wednesday, December 3 & Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC Percussion Group, Will Hudgins, director

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds, Navy Band Northeast

“Into the Holidays”

Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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 Jazz Composers’ Workshop Orchestra, Frank Carlberg, director

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds, Navy Band Northeast

“Into the Holidays” (repeat) - Audio streamed on [wicon](#)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 12:00 noon, Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Liederabend LXXVIII Cameron Stowe and Tanya Blaich, curators

All-Ravel program

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams 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

Sonata Class Recital, Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, faculty

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Conductors’ Choir

Works by Chatman, Gilkyson, Hazzard, Parry, Poulenc, Trumbore, and Victoria

conducted by Estel Haejin Park, Noah Scecina-White, and Louis Shriber,

all '27 MM students of Erica J. Washburn

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

Faculty Recital: Paula Robison, flute with Paavali Jumppanen, piano

“An Hour of Bach and Mozart”

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams 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

Borromeo String Quartet Seminar Recital

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown 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.

Stay connected



necmusic.edu/tonight



Welcome to NEC!

I am thrilled to welcome you to New England Conservatory's 2025–26 concert season — a celebration of the power that music has to inspire and connect us to one another.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Kalyn
President

A large orchestra is performing in a grand, ornate hall. The conductor, wearing a bright yellow jacket, stands in the center of the stage, facing the orchestra. The musicians are seated in rows, playing various instruments including violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The hall has a high ceiling with decorative moldings and is lit with warm, golden light. The audience is visible in the foreground, seated in rows of chairs.

How can **you** keep the music playing?

Learn more at necmusic.edu/givenow

N | E | C

A woman in a graduation gown and a headpiece made of many thin sticks with stars at the ends, has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. She is wearing a dark gown over a sequined dress. The background is a blurred image of a building with large windows.

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who remain committed to
elevating the NEC experience
and who make it possible for our
students to continue their artistic
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