



New England  
Conservatory

# Concert Program



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# Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award Concert

The Borromeo String Quartet  
*NEC Ensemble-in-Residence*

Nicholas Kitchen, violin   Kristopher Tong, violin  
Melissa Reardon, viola  
Yeesun Kim, cello

with

Thomas Van Dyck, double bass

and  
the 2025-26 Guest Artist Award Winners

Evan Johanson '26 GD, violin  
William Sotiriou '27 MM, viola  
Thomas Lim '26 GD, cello  
Dominic Panunto '26 GD, bassoon  
Subin Lee '27 GD, harp

Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
7:30 p.m.  
Jordan Hall

## PROGRAM

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**Claude Debussy**  
(1862–1918)

*Danse sacrée et danse profane*

Danse sacrée  
Danse profane

Subin Lee '27 GD, harp  
Nicholas Kitchen, Kristopher Tong, violin  
Melissa Reardon, viola  
Yeesun Kim, cello  
Thomas Van Dyck, double bass

**Jean Françaix**  
(1912–1997)

*Divertissement for Bassoon and String Quintet* (1942)

Vivace  
Lento  
Vivo assai  
Allegro

Dominic Panunto '25 GD, bassoon  
Nicholas Kitchen, Kristopher Tong, violin  
Melissa Reardon, viola  
Yeesun Kim, cello  
Thomas Van Dyck, double bass

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833–1898)

**String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat, op. 18**

Allegro ma non troppo  
Andante ma moderato  
Scherzo: Allegro molto  
Rondo: Poco allegretto e grazioso

Nicholas Kitchen, Evan Johanson '26 GD, violin  
Melissa Reardon, William Sotiriou '27 MM, viola  
Yeesun Kim, Thomas Lim '26 GD, cello

The **Borromeo String Quartet 'Guest Artist Award'** provides students of the New England Conservatory the opportunity to perform with the Borromeo String Quartet in Jordan Hall. Awarded annually, students are chosen through a three-day audition process which includes solo playing and chamber music reading with the BSQ. Established in 2001, there have been over 100 winners to date in performances spanning 25 years.

2025 – Ashley Tsai, Yeh-Chun Lin, Yi-I Stephanie Yang, Alira String Quartet: Joy Hsieh, Darwin Chang, Caroline Smoak, Jonah Kernis

2024 – Yechan Min, Charles Berofsky, Hannah Goldstick, John Harry Clark, Andrew Byun

2023 – Hyunwoo Chun, Song Hyeon Kim, SooBeen Lee, Aadam Ibrahim, Macintyre Taback, Quartet Luminera: Masha Lakisova, Kristy Chen, Njord Fossnes, Davis You

2022 – Yandi Chen, Isabelle Ai Durrenberger, Dilshod Narzillaev, Cara Pogossian, Li Shan Tan

2020 – Steven Sungwoo Kim, Gabriel Martins, Mary O'Keefe, Minami Yoshida

2019 – Chih-Ta Chen, Eunghee Cho, Barret Ham, Sophia Szokolay

2018 – Deanna Badizadegan, Abigail Fayette, Jiyoung Lee, Alice Chenyang Xu

2017 – Matthew Griffith, Alexander Hersh, Jesse Morrison, Wooyeon Yoo, Stephanie Zyzak, Ravos Quartet: Gergana Haralampieva, Geneva Lewis, Zhanbo Zheng, Audrey Chen

2016 – Kate Arndt, Stelle Ye Lin Cho, Isabelle David, Marthe Husum

2015 – Eva Aronian, Kenny Lee, Sophie Scolnik-Brower

2014 – Elizabeth Burns, Joseph Gotoff, Alexi Kenney, Steven Laraia, Yannick Rafalimanana, Adrian Sanborn

2013 – DJ Cheek, Louise Grevin, Nathaniel Martin

2012 – Rhiannon Banerdt, Ari Isaacman-Beck, Wenting Kang, Gwen Krosnick, Elizabeth O'Neil, Emely Phelps

2011 – Tony Flynt, Yoo Jin Jang, Hanna Lee, Caleb Van der Swaagh

2010 – Holgen Gjoni, Amanda Hardy, Audrey Wright

2009 – Andrei Baumann, Laura Colgate, Mary Lynch, Oleksandr Vavilov

2008 – Robin Scott, Bradford Gleim, Daniel Lee, Han Bin Yoon

2007 – Sarah Darling, Will Amsel

2006 – Jonathan Aner, Shirley Brill, Sébastien Gingras, Andrea Lee

2005 – Natalie Erlich, Tao Ni, Ethan Pernela, Tee Khoon Tang,

2004 – Alexei Gonzales, Sooyun Kim, Alexis Sykes

2003 – Alicia DiDonato, Stephanie Fong, Dina Vainshtein, Carletti Quartet: Beverly Shin, Harumi Rhodes, Jonathan Vinocour, Cheng-Hou Lee

2002 – Ben Hoadley, Tali Morgulis, Michael Norsworthy

2001 – Ben Levy, Scott Nicholas, Heather Peterson, Melissa Reardon

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. 2025-2026 highlights residencies at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Singapore’s Yong Siew Toh Conservatory as well as a special late Beethoven project in Chicago’s Guarneri Hall and engagements in multiple venues all around the United States.

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, Larry 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.

**Thomas Van Dyck** has been a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's double bass section since January 2013. An avid chamber musician, he became a member of the Boston Chamber Music Society (BCMS) in 2021 and has played chamber music at the Mostly Mozart Festival, New York City's Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center among many others. Additionally, he is a member of the self-conducted East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) that comprises top solo, chamber, and orchestral string players from around the country. Van Dyck has played with the Borromeo, Ying, Lydian, and Parker string quartets and was a founding member of A Far Cry chamber orchestra. Van Dyck received his bachelor's degree at Rice University studying with Paul Ellison and his master's at Boston University with Ed Barker. In addition to enjoying a diverse performing career, Van Dyck enjoys and values teaching. He is on the string faculty of New England Conservatory and Boston

University. In his spare time, he likes to ride bicycles and spend time in the mountains, but most of all loves spending time with his wife and two young boys

### Guest Artist Award Winners

Violinist **Evan Johanson** made his debut with the Seattle Symphony after winning their Young Artist Award in 2015. In 2020 he performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the Colburn Orchestra, and in 2024 he was invited to participate in the recent ISANGYUN competition. From Carnegie Hall to the Teatro Nacional Sucre in Ecuador, Evan led the NYO-USA as concertmaster across two international tours in 2016 and 2017, and has since been appointed to leadership positions across different ensembles, such as the American Youth Symphony, Colburn Orchestra, New York String Orchestra Seminar, Yale Philharmonia, and New England Conservatory's Chamber Orchestra. He also performed with Seattle Symphony and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. A passionate chamber musician, Evan has participated in an array of festivals, such as Kronberg Academy's Chamber Music Connects the World, Ravinia, Yellow Barn, Olympic Music Festival, Académie Ravel, Taos School of Music, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Four Seasons Spring Workshop. Evan has also performed with renowned artists such as Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian, Lawrence Power, Juan-Miguel Hernandez, Atar Arad, Molly Carr, Miklós Perényi, Clive Greensmith, Marcy Rosen, Jonathan Biss, Enrico Pace, Amy Yang, Fabio Bidini, and Janine Jansen. Evan completed his bachelor's degree at the Colburn Conservatory as a student of Robert Lipsett, his master's degree at the Yale School of Music under Ani Kavafian, and he is currently pursuing his Graduate Diploma at NEC with Miriam Fried.

Harpist **Subin Lee** actively performs in both South Korea and the United States, having appeared in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Seoul Arts Center, and Kumho Art Center. Recognized for her creative art and positive impact, she was named to the Forbes Korea "30 under 30" list in 2025.

An award-winning harpist, she has won first prize at the Italy International Harp Competition, Lyon&Healy Awards, and Padova International Music Competition. She is also a prizewinner of Hong Kong International Harp Competition, Korea International Harp Competition, Szeged International Harp Competition, Germany International Harp Competition, and more.

She is an avid chamber musician and has been invited to perform with her trio at the Essex Winter Series Philadelphia Athenaeum, Yale Vista Concert Series, and more. She has also been invited to perform at the Rendez-vous de la Musique Chamber Music Festival in 2024 and was the guest artist of the 2024-2025 season of the Dolce Suono Ensemble.

Subin began harp studies at the age of eleven in South Korea. She received her bachelor's degree at the Curtis Institute of Music as recipient of the Marylin Costello Fellowship. During her undergraduate studies, she was awarded the Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award for musical and academic excellence, demonstrated

leadership, and contribution to an inclusive community. She received her Master of Music degree at the Yale School of Music and is currently studying with Jessica Zhou at New England Conservatory.

Cellist **Thomas Lim** frequently brings performances to audiences across the world including recent performances of concerti by Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, and Haydn. He has played in venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jordan Hall, and has been invited to the Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, and Kneisel Hall, among others. A passionate chamber musician, Thomas received the Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award, the A Far Cry Fellowship Award, and an Honors Chamber designation at NEC. In addition, he has performed alongside and worked closely with esteemed artists including Kim Kashkashian, Itzhak Perlman, Robert McDonald, and Donald Weilerstein. Currently a student of Laurence Lesser at the New England Conservatory, his teachers include Natasha Brofsky, Darrett Adkins, Jonathan Koh, Minja Hyun, and additional studies with Lynn Harrell, Mischa Maisky, Frans Helmerson, Joel Krosnick, and Hans Jorgen Jensen. He holds an MM degree from Juilliard and BA and MS degrees from Columbia University.

**Dominic Panunto** is a bassoonist based in Boston. He holds positions with the Greenville Symphony, York Symphony, and Arcana New Music Ensemble. His collegiate studies began at Temple University where he studied with Angela Smith and William Short. During his time at Temple, he enjoyed experiences such as playing on a GRAMMY nominated orchestra recording and performing Bach cantatas with Helmuth Rilling. He now pursues a graduate diploma at New England Conservatory and studies with Richard Svoboda. Dominic plays as a frequent substitute with Cape Cod Symphony, New Bedford Symphony, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Princeton Symphony, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and Reading Symphony. He also has a passion for contemporary music and chamber music which has led to some of his most unique performance experiences: a complete performance of Mario Davidovsky's *Synchronisms* and the first ever complete performance of Karlheinz Stockhausen's *KLANG* as originally intended, within the span of one day. Some of Dominic's hobbies are reading, juggling, cycling, and garment making.

**William Sotiriou** is a Boston-based violist currently pursuing his Master of Music degree as a student of Wenting Kang at the New England Conservatory. He began his musical studies with Gillian Rogell at NEC Prep before attending The Juilliard School, where he received his bachelor's degree under the guidance of Carol Rodland. An active chamber musician, William has worked closely with chamber music pedagogues including Merry Peckham, Donald Weilerstein, Itzhak Perlman, and the Takács String Quartet and is scheduled to perform alongside A Far Cry as a winner of the 2025 NEC & A Far Cry Collaborative Competition. William is also passionate about serving his communities through teaching, working with young musicians in New York City public schools and sharing his enthusiasm for music at

the Immigrant Family Services Institute in Boston. During recent summers, William has attended the Perlman Music Program's Chamber Music Workshop, Music Academy of the West, Aspen Music Festival, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival. William is a proud recipient of the Francis W. Hatch, Sr. Presidential Scholarship at NEC.

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June 30, 2025.

## Corporate Partners

### **\$25,000+**

Bain Capital

The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation

### **\$15,000 - \$24,999**

M. Steinert & Sons Co., Inc.

### **\$10,000 - \$14,999**

Loews Corporation

Strategic Investment Group

AECOM Tishman

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Eastern Bank

East Meets West

NFP

### **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Atlantic Elevator Service Inc.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Clarion Associates Inc.

USENTRA Security

### **\$1,000- \$2,499**

ACIS / Encore Tours

Brown Advisory

Collegiate Press Co.

EMCOR Services Northeast, Inc.

HUB International

Nixon Peabody

Sweetwater Sound, Inc.

This list reflects  
those who  
contributed to  
The NEC Fund  
and our annual  
scholarship  
appeal between  
July 1, 2024 and  
June 30, 2025.

*\*Indicates membership in the Tourjée Society. Named after NEC's founder, Eben Tourjée, the Tourjée Society recognizes those who have made a planned gift to NEC. Learn more by contacting Aaron McGarry, Planned Giving Officer, at [aaron.mcgarry@necmusic.edu](mailto:aaron.mcgarry@necmusic.edu) or 617-585-1356.*



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