

# Concert Program



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Enchanted Circle presents

# Callithumpian Consort

Stephen Drury, artistic director and conductor

Thursday, January 15, 2026

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall



## PROGRAM

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**Christian Wolff**  
(b. 1934)

***Look She Said*** (1991)

- I.
- II.
- III.
- IV.
- V.

Alyssa Peterson, double bass

***What If*** (2023)

The Callithumpian Consort

**Tristan Murail**  
(b. 1947)

***Lachrymae*** (2011)

*Commissioned by the Callithumpian Consort and the  
Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice*

Shion Suzuki, flute  
Lilit Hartunian, Emma Burge, violin  
Sam Kelder, viola  
Stephen Marotto, cello

**Christian Wolff**

***Hold the Line*** (2025)

*World Premiere*

The Callithumpian Consort

*Intermission*

**John Cage**  
(b. 1934)

*Concert for Piano and Orchestra with Aria* (1958)

Joseph Kubera, piano  
Chihiro Asano, voice  
The Callithumpian Consort

*The Callithumpian Consort*

Shion Suzuki, flute  
Gleb Kanasevich, clarinet  
Adam Smith, bassoon  
Neil Godwin, French horn  
Wes Hopper, trombone  
Lilit Hartunian, Emma Burge, violin  
Sam Kelder, viola  
Stephen Marotto, cello  
Edward Kass, double bass

NEC faculty Stephen Drury created the **Callithumpian Consort** in the belief that new music should be an exciting adventure shared by performers and listeners alike, and that the brand-new masterpieces of our day are beautiful, sensuous, challenging, delightful, provocative, and a unique joy.

Callithumpian's repertoire is the new and unusual, encompassing a huge stylistic spectrum from the classics of the last 100 years to works of the avant-garde and experimental jazz and rock. It is grounded in the musical discoveries of John Cage, Karlheinz Stockhausen, John Zorn, Giacinto Scelsi, Morton Feldman, and Iannis Xenakis.

Hailed by *Village Voice* critic Kyle Gann as one of “new music’s most valued performers,” **Joseph Kubera** has been recognized as a leading interpreter of contemporary music for the past 30 years. He has been soloist at such festivals as the Berlin Inventionen, the Warsaw Autumn and Prague Spring, Miami’s Subtropics Festival and Berkeley’s Edgefest. He has been pianist in residence at the Ostrava Days New Music Festival since its inception in 2001. Mr. Kubera has been awarded grants through the NEA Solo Recitalist Program and the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, and was a Creative Associate with the Center for the Creative and Performing Arts at SUNY Buffalo in its heyday.

Mr. Kubera has had a long and committed relationship to John Cage and his music since the early 1970s. One of the few pianists performing the difficult chance-based, post-1950 works, he has recorded the complete *Music of Changes* and the *Concert for Piano and Orchestra*, and has toured with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company at Cage’s invitation.

In recent years, he has championed the music of his late Buffalo compatriot, Julius Eastman, reviving little-known piano works and directing performances of his multiple-piano pieces. Most recently, he has toured the remarkable new hour-long piano work *Dreamers of Pearl* by Michael Byron. Other composers who have written for Mr. Kubera include Larry Austin, Anthony Coleman, David First, Alvin Lucier, Roscoe Mitchell, Howard Riley, and “Blue” Gene Tyranny, among others.

Mr. Kubera is a core member of S.E.M. Ensemble and Orchestra, and the Downtown Ensemble, and he has performed with a broad range of New York groups from the Brooklyn Philharmonic to the New York New Music Ensemble to Steve Reich and Musicians. He tours frequently with baritone Thomas Buckner, and luminaries such as Terry Riley and Ingram Marshall have written for his duo-piano team with Sarah Cahill. He has worked closely with such composers as Alvin Lucier, Robert Ashley, Morton Feldman and La Monte Young. In addition to the Cage above, solo recordings include Beth Anderson’s Piano Concerto on New World, Lucier’s *Still Lives* on Lovely Music, Cowell’s *Nine Ings* on New Albion, and Michael Sahl’s *Serenades* on Albany. He has also recorded for the Wergo, O.O. Discs, 1750 Arch, Mutable Music, Cold Blue, and Opus One labels.

Praised by *OperaWire* for her “star energy” and “lethal coloratura,” mezzo-soprano **Chihiro Asano** is emerging as a dynamic new voice on today’s operatic stage. Her breakout as Ruggiero in Handel’s *Alcina* (MassOpera) earned the evening’s loudest ovation, with *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* praising her portrayal as spanning “a gamut of emotions.”

A Boston-based artist originally from Japan, Asano holds a Master of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy (2022) and a Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance (2023) from the New England Conservatory. She is a two-time Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition District Winner (Puerto Rico 2023, Iowa 2025) and the 2025 Midwest Region Second Prize laureate, quickly establishing herself as a compelling interpreter across opera and art song.

Recent highlights include Shizue in *Shizue* (Portland Opera), *Naomi in the living*

*room* (Boston Opera Collaborative), and Hansel and Cinderella with Boston Lyric Opera's Opera101 series. She has also appeared with White Snake Opera, NEMPAC, Nightingale Vocal Ensemble, Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, Cappella Clausura, and as a Marlboro Music Festival fellow.

**Alyssa Peterson** is a double bassist born and raised in Wisconsin and currently based in Boston. She graduated from the New England Conservatory in 2025, where she studied with Donald Palma. She engages with a wide range of styles with the goal of expanding the repertoire of the double bass through close work with living composers and adapting a wide variety of repertoire to her instrument. She has premiered six works at the Norfolk New Music Chamber Workshop and recently commissioned, premiered, and recorded *Establishing Space for Solo Double Bass* by Stella G. Gitelman Willoughby. Her most recent projects include recitals with the music of Shostakovich, Rachmaninov, and Gubaidulina. An avid chamber musician, she has performed works by Schubert, Kevin Puts, and Fred Lerdahl. Outside of performance, Peterson works with musicians and institutions on injury prevention initiatives.

### **Upcoming Concerts at NEC**

*All programs subject to change*

Visit [necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu) for complete and updated concert information

### **Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award Concert**

2025-26 Guest Artists Evan Johanson (violin), William Sotiriou (viola), Tommy Lim (cello), Dominic Panunto (bassoon) and Subin Lee (harp) will join the members of the Borromeo String Quartet in Brahms *Sextet*, Françaix *Divertissement*, and Debussy *Danses sacrée et profane*

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

### **ECCE Arts Ensemble**

Stratis Minakakis, curator; Grant Beale *Autophagos III*; Agócs *Ambrosiana* Richardson *Astrolabe*; Minakakis *Skiagrafies IV*; Mallia *Dangerous Passing* Janmohmmadi *We ran into a shelter filled with tears and sounds I had hidden* Gandolfi *Lowell Songs*

**Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall**

## Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

### **Faculty Recital: Joel Ayau**, piano, with **Jeremy Crosmer**, cello

Teagan Faran *Flaschblume*; Poulenc *Sonata for Piano and Cello*

Alice Hong *Address to the Moon*; Gershwin (arr. Canellakis) *Three Preludes*

Schuller *Duo Concertante for Cello and Piano*; Nikolai Kapustin *Three Pieces*

Crosmer “*Threnody*” from *Masks: A Heroine’s Tale*

**Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall**

### **Faculty Recital: Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**

Classical Ottoman/Turkish repertoire, Byzantine music and his own compositions, culminating in his work for jazz orchestra

**Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall**

### **Faculty Recital: Rachel Childers**, French horn and **Christopher Elchico**, clarinet

Jane Vignery *Sonata for Horn and Piano*; Brahms *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*

Brahms *3 Intermezzi for Piano*; Carl Reinecke *Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Horn*

Jiayan Sun, piano

**Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall**

### **Tuesday Night New Music**

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall**

### **NEC Philharmonia**, David Loebel, conductor

Cindy McTee *The Unquestioned Answer* from *Double Play* (2011)

Barber *Symphony No. 1 in One Movement*, op. 9

Schumann *Symphony No. 2 in C Major*, op. 61

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall**

### **BSO Prelude: What I Hear - Carlos Simon**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., Brown Hall**

### **NEC Symphony**, Hugh Wolf, conductor

Jennifer Higdon *Fanfare Ritmico* (1999); Bartók *Deux Images*, op. 10 (1910)

Brahms *Symphony No. 4 in E Minor*, op. 98 (1885)

**Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall**

### **Opera: Donizetti “L’elisir d’amore”**

Steven Goldstein, director; Robert Tweten, conductor

**Monday & Wednesday, February 2 & 4, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall**



## **Upcoming Concerts at NEC**

*—continued*

### **CMA & Jazz Faculty Spotlight: Synergy**

*Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **Sonata Night 58, Max Levinson, curator**

*Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall*

### **Coretta Scott King Tribute Concert**

Presented by NEC Black Student Union

*Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **DMA Composers' Showcase**

A showcase concert of music by NEC DMA composers featuring a wide variety of chamber music ranging from solo piano to string quartet and beyond; works by Devin Cholodenko, Ying Gao, Mathew Lanning, Yunqi Li, Lingbo Ma, Alex Matheson, Tianyi Wang, and Yangfan Xu.

*Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **NEC Symphonic Winds**

*Tuesday February 10, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **Liederabend LXXIX, Joel Ayau, curator**

*Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

### **NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director**

Mendelssohn *Sinfonia No. 10 in B Minor*; Maxwell Fairman *Rhapsody Noir*;

Johann Baptist Vanhal *Concerto for Double Bass in E-flat Major* - Dennis McIntyre '27, soloist; Haydn *Symphony No. 52 in C Minor*, Hob I:52

*Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **NEC Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra: The Music of Anthony Braxton**

Frank Carlberg, director

*Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **Institute for Concert Artists Recital: Joshua Brown, violin ('26 AD)**

Beethoven *Violin Sonata No. 8 in G Major*, op. 30 no. 3; Debussy *Violin Sonata*;

György Kurtág *Tre Pezzi*, op. 14e; Richard Strauss *Violin Sonata in E-flat Major*, op. 18

*Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

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# 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.

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N | E | C



A woman in a black 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 looking upwards with an open mouth, as if cheering or shouting. The background is a blurred image of a building with large windows.

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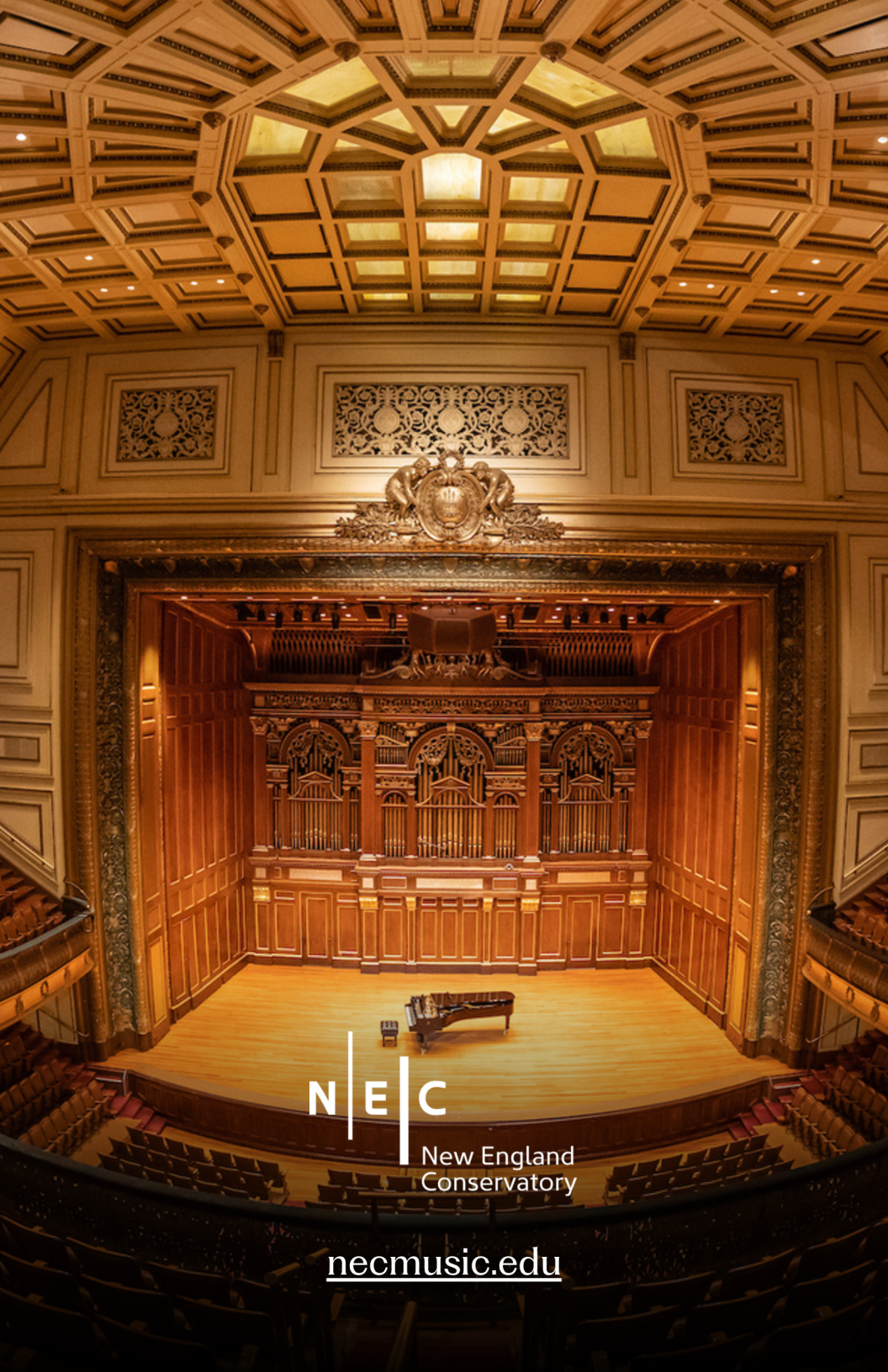
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