



New England  
Conservatory

# Concert Program

[necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu)

# NEC Philharmonia

David Loebel, conductor

Wednesday, January 28, 2026  
7:30 p.m.  
NEC's Jordan Hall

## PROGRAM

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**Cindy McTee**  
(b. 1953)

*The Unquestioned Answer*

**Samuel Barber**  
(1910–1981)

**First Symphony (in One Movement), op. 9**

**Robert Schumann**  
(1810–1856)

**Symphony No. 2 in C Major, op. 61**  
Sostenuto assai – Un poco più vivace –  
Allegro, ma non troppo  
Scherzo: Allegro vivace  
Adagio espressivo  
Allegro molto vivace

*Intermission*

## McTee *The Unquestioned Answer*

I have always been particularly attracted to the idea that disparate musical elements—tonal and atonal, placid and frenetic—can not only coexist but also illuminate and complement one another. I can think of no composer more capable of achieving these kinds of meaningful juxtapositions than Charles Ives. As in Ives' *Unanswered Question*, my *Unquestioned Answer* presents planes of highly contrasting materials: sustained, consonant sonorities in the strings intersect to create dissonances; melodies for the principal players soar atop; and discordant passages in the brass and winds become ever more disruptive. The five-note theme from Ives' piece is heard in both its backward and forward versions throughout the work.

— Cindy McTee

## NEC Philharmonia David Loebel, conductor

### *First Violin*

Yixiang Wang  
Isabel Chen  
Kitty Amaral  
Ashley Tsai  
June Chung  
Haram Kim  
Yeji Hwang  
Yen-Hsiang Darwin Chang  
Inés Issel Burzyńska  
William Kinney  
Aidan Daniels  
Kristy Chen  
Kearston Gonzales  
Hojung Kwon

### *Second Violin*

Sofia Skoldberg  
Michael Fisher  
Abby Reed  
Arayana Carr-Mal  
Joseph Zamoyta  
Bella Jeong  
Ava Kenney  
Yoonseo Lee  
Audrey Weizer  
Joanna Peters  
Theresa Katz  
Joocha Choi

### *Viola*

Nicolette Sullivan-Cozza  
Harry Graham  
Po-Sung Huang  
Jack Wong  
Finn Cruit  
Qinghong He  
Inácia Afonso  
John Turner  
Jessi Kaufman  
Daeun Hong  
Rita Hugues Söderbaum  
Molly Pope

### *Cello*

Arthur Johnson  
Amelia Allen  
Alexander Shier  
Mira Hu  
Phoebe Chen  
Gaeun Yoo  
Jugyeong Kim  
Hyunji Cho  
Zanipolo Lewis  
Shoshanah Israilevich

### *Principal players*

+ McTee  
\* Barber  
‡ Schumann

### *Bass*

I Hsuan Liu  
Avery Cardoza  
Yushu Mei  
Luisa Brown-Hernandez  
Cailin Singleton  
Kai Lu

### *Flute*

Meredith Daly +  
Sadie Goodman ‡  
Sara Wen \*

### *Piccolo*

Meredith Daly \*  
Sara Wen +

### *Oboe*

Anna Choi +  
Abigail Hope-Hull  
MacKenzie Kim ‡  
Caroline Wu \*

### *English horn*

Abigail Hope-Hull

<i>Clarinet</i>	<i>French horn</i>	<i>Bass Trombone</i>
Xunan Chen +	Elijah Bardlift	Evan Beachy ‡
Xianyi Ji	Chih-Yu Ashley Chiang	Jason Sato +*
Eugene Jung	Flynn Ewer +	
Ethan Morad ‡	Caroline Finamore *	
Zoe Schramm *	Noah Hawryluck	<i>Tuba</i>
	Connor Wood ‡	Zev Barden +
<i>E-flat Clarinet</i>		Riley McMahon *
Eugene Jung	<i>Trumpet</i>	
<i>Bass Clarinet</i>	Kayla Adams ‡	<i>Timpani</i>
Eugene Jung	Sebastián Haros	Christian Bartholomew +
<i>Bassoon</i>	Jake Hepler *	Jackson Kowalczyk ‡
Daniel Arakaki ‡	Evan Jones +	Raina Liao *
Zilong Huang +	William Parrack	<i>Percussion</i>
Heejeong Jeong *	<i>Trombone</i>	Christian Bartholomew *
Joanna Yesol Yi	Becca Bertekap +*	Jackson Kowalczyk +
<i>Contrabassoon</i>	Aidan Davidson ‡	Raina Liao
Joanna Yesol Yi	Alex Russell	Brandon Topolski
		<i>Harp</i>
		Shaylen Joos *
		Ji Ma +

*Orchestra Department*  
*Hugh Wolff*  
*Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras*

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Donald Palma <i>Artistic Director of Chamber Orchestra</i>	Stefan Asbury <i>Head of Orchestral Conducting</i>	Leonard Bopp <i>Student Manager</i>

*Special thanks to*  
Juliano Aniceto, Noriko Futagami, Guy Fishman, and Anthony D'Amico  
for their work in preparing the orchestra for this evening's concert.

## **David Loebel**

### *Associate Director of Orchestras*

Noted for performances that combine innate musicality with interpretive insight, David Loebel joined the faculty of New England Conservatory in 2010 as Associate Director of Orchestras following an eleven-year tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his appointment in Memphis, he enjoyed a decade-long association with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, serving as Associate and then Associate Principal Conductor, as well as Artistic Director of its summer festival, Classics in the Loop. He has also been Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

As a guest conductor, David Loebel has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also conducted the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Syracuse, the Utah Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony, the Louisville Orchestra, Symphony Silicon Valley, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic, among many others.

Internationally, Loebel has conducted the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa, and toured Australia to great acclaim, leading the Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland, Western Australian, and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. He has led family and educational concerts at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Operatic engagements include productions at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and Opera Memphis, and he has appeared at summer festivals including the Grant Park Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and Woodstock Mozart Festival.

Honored five times by ASCAP for his adventuresome programming, David Loebel is a recipient of the prestigious Seaver/National Endowment for the Arts Conductors Award. An equally articulate communicator off the podium, he is a popular speaker and hosted "The Memphis Symphony Radio Hour" on public radio station WKNO-FM. His writings on music have been widely published, including program notes for Telarc recordings. With the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Chorus he recorded the critically acclaimed CD *Independence Eve at Grant Park*.

Active throughout his career in the training of young musicians, Loebel has been Conductor-in-Residence of the New World Symphony and Music Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He has also conducted the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the National Repertory Orchestra, and at conservatories including the Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Indiana University. As a mentor to conductors, he has served on the faculties of the League of American Orchestras' Conducting Workshop, the Kennedy Center's National Conducting Institute, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

A native of Cleveland, David Loebel is a graduate of Northwestern University and a recipient of its Alumni Merit Award. <http://davidloebel.com/>

## **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](http://necmusic.edu) for complete and updated concert information:

### **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*

### **NEC 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*

### **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 Symphony, Paul Biss, conductor**

Adolphus Hailstork *Lachrymosa*: 1919; Ibert *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra*, op. 37

Sadie Goodman '27, flute; Sibelius *Symphony No. 2 in D Major*, op. 43

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### **NEC Opera: Puccini *Gianni Schicchi***

Opera students and orchestra members are conducted by Clancy Ellis '26 GD and Leonard Bopp '27 GD; Julia Mintzer is stage director

*Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre*

### **New Music Ensemble + Malcolm Peyton Residency, Stefan Asbury, director**

2026 Malcolm Peyton composer-in-residence Colin Matthews *Postludes, Little*

*Continuum from Two Tributes*; Messiaen *Oiseaux exotiques*; Ligeti *Etudes for Piano*: No. 5 "Arc-en-ciel", No. 8 "Fém", No. 11 "En suspens", No. 12 "Entrelacs"

Karen Tanaka *Techno Etudes*; Peyton *Piece for Solo Cello*

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

## Symphonic Music at New England Conservatory

*-continued*

### NEC Baroque Orchestra, NEC Chamber Singers: Handel *Dixit Dominus*

Guest conductor James Burton leads the orchestra and chorus in Handel's 1707 setting of Psalm 110, *Dixit Dominus*, scored for five soloists (S, S, A, T, B), mixed chorus, strings and continuo.

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

### NEC Philharmonia, Joshua Weilerstein '09, '11 MM, guest conductor

Haas *Study for Strings*; Beethoven *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor*, op. 67

Low string concerto with student winner of NEC Concerto Competition

*Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

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

*Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### NEC Opera: Mozart *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Joshua Major, director; Robert Tweten, conductor

*Thursday-Saturday, April 16-18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.*

*Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre*

### NEC Symphony, David Loebel, conductor

Rachmaninoff: *Symphony No. 2 in E Minor*, op. 27 and a student composition tba

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

### NEC Lab Orchestra

Clancy Ellis '26 GD, Joseph Bozich '27 GD, and Leonard Bopp '27 GD conduct their orchestral colleagues tonight.

*Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

### NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Missy Mazzoli *Holy Rollers* (2012); Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra*, op. 30

Britten *Concerto No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra*, op. 15, soloist tba

*Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

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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.



Andrea Kalyn  
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We thank our generous donors, who remain committed to elevating the NEC experience and who make it possible for our students to continue their artistic pursuits. Every gift to **The NEC Fund** supports the pillars of an NEC education — scholarship, community engagement, and a world-renowned faculty.

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