



# Concert Program

A photograph of two young boys in a concert audience. The boy in the foreground is smiling and clapping his hands. He is wearing a white button-down shirt with suspenders and dark pants. Another boy is visible behind him, also clapping. The background is dark, suggesting a theater or concert hall.

[necmusic.edu/expanded-education](http://necmusic.edu/expanded-education)



# Welcome to NEC!

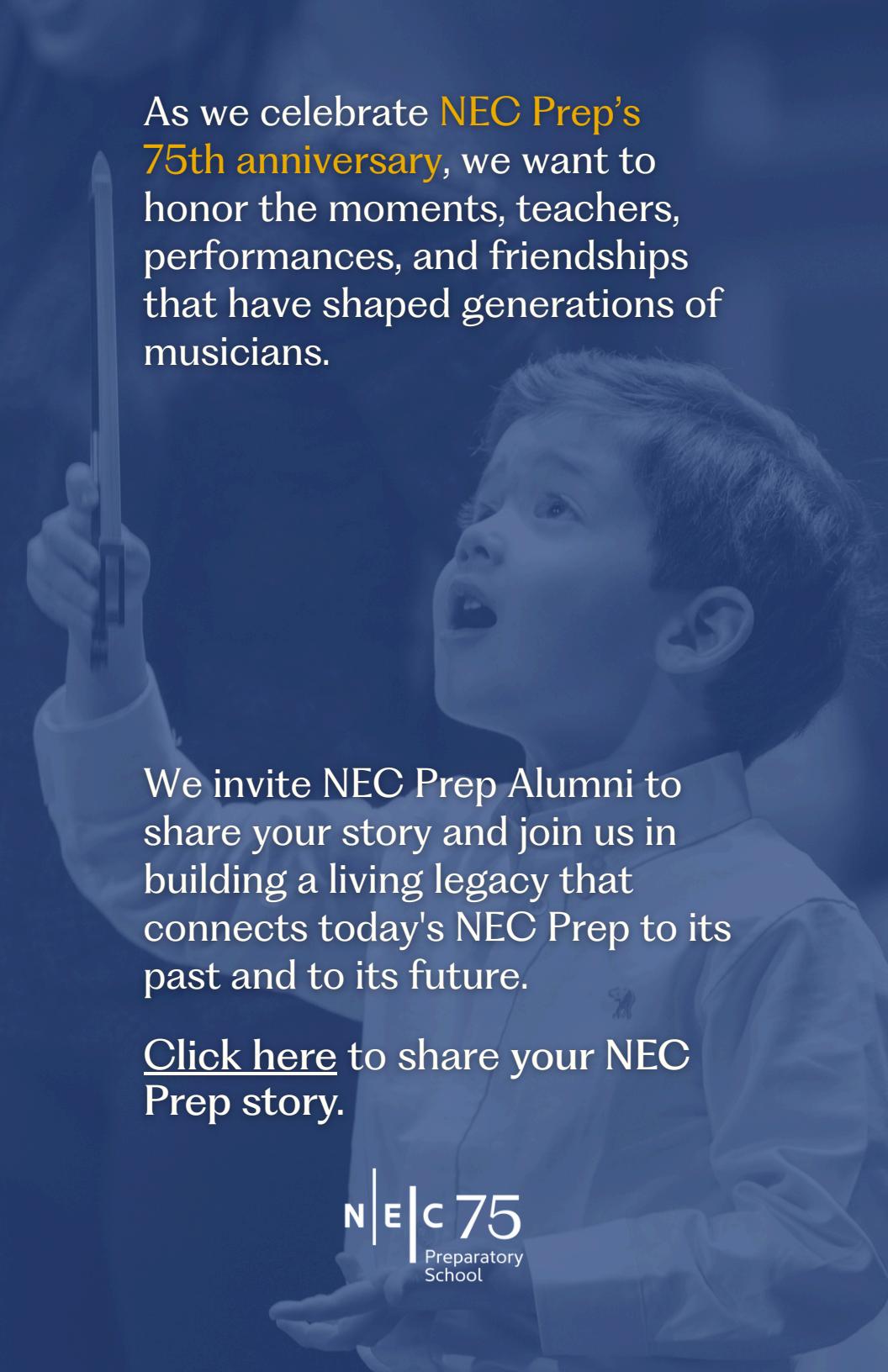
I am thrilled to welcome you to New England Conservatory's 2025–26 concert season — a celebration of the power that music has to inspire and connect us to one another.

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, appearing to read "Andrea Kalyn".

Andrea Kalyn  
President



As we celebrate **NEC Prep's**  
**75th anniversary**, we want to  
honor the moments, teachers,  
performances, and friendships  
that have shaped generations of  
musicians.

We invite NEC Prep Alumni to  
share your story and join us in  
building a living legacy that  
connects today's NEC Prep to its  
past and to its future.

[Click here](#) to share your NEC  
Prep story.





# NEC Preparatory School

## Youth Symphony

Steven Karidoyanes  
*Music Director, Youth Symphony*

Sunday, February 8th, 2026  
3:00 PM  
New England Conservatory - Jordan Hall

# PROGRAM

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## *Youth Symphony*

**Amilcare Ponchielli**  
(1834-1886)

**Finale to *Dance of the Hours***  
*From La Gioconda*

**Pablo de Sarasate**  
(1844-1908)

**Zigeunerweisen**  
*Yubeen Choi, Violin Soloist*

**William Grant Still**  
(1895-1978)

**Symphony No. 1, Afro-American**  
*III. - Animato*

**Audience Singalong**

**The Wheels on the Bus**  
*Vanessa Trien, Singalong Leader*

**Amadeus Mozart**  
(1756-1791)

**Symphony No. 1**  
*I. - Motto Allegro (exposition)*

**Felix Mendelssohn**  
(1809-1847)

**Sinfonia No. 8**  
*III. Menuetto (Excerpt)*

**Stella G. Gitelman**  
**Willoughby**  
(b. 2000)

**The Air Around Us**

**Igor Stravinsky**  
(1882-1971)

**Berceuse and Finale**

*From Firebird Suite, 1919*

**Audience Singalong**

**Do-Re-Mi from The Sound of Music**

*Vanessa Trien, Singalong Leader*

**John Philip Sousa**  
(1854-1932)

**Washington Post March**

**John Williams**  
(1932)

**Harry's Wondrous World**

*From Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

**Georges Bizet**  
(1838-1875)

**Les Toreadors**

*From Carmen, Suite No. 1*

# Youth Symphony

## Steven Karidoyanes, Conductor

### Violin I

Yejin Choe  
Yubeen Choi  
Kate Ferguson  
Jasmine Gu  
Shih-Yi "Terry" Hung  
Suhyoung "Clara" Hwang  
Isabella J Kim  
Sophia Knobel  
Yulhee Kwon  
Jillian Lee  
Sophia Liu  
Noah Nishino  
Natalie Ogata  
Stuart Pan  
Audrey Tsai  
Alexandra Wang  
Wanqing "Yina" Wang  
Philip Yim  
Emily Zhou

### Violin II

Amalia "Robin" Chavez Shirman  
Aaliyah Natalie duFrend  
Meredith Fellinger  
Emma Hou  
SeoWoo "Lucas" Jang  
Ethan Jiang  
Julie Jung  
Kristin Kim  
Tomas "Tommy" Kruecker-Green  
Finn Larsen  
Kyra Lee  
Brian Li  
Connor Lin  
Patrick Liberles  
Adrija Maitra  
Grace Nam  
Adrian Solomon  
Zyama "Samuel" Teytelman  
Arav Thyagarajan  
Giselle Vari  
Simeon Yen

### Bass

Nicolette Kindred \*

### Viola

Brendan Han  
Muchen Han  
Emma Liu  
Doyun Shin  
Xiangning "Grace" Yu

### Cello

Ziyong "Maltreya" Bai  
Annabel Battin  
Haven Carter  
Saya Francis  
Matthew Kim  
Simrit Kukreja  
Lucian "Luca" Lee  
Makiah Shira  
Sebastian Unglaub  
Sarah-Alysse Williams  
Evan Wong  
Alex Li Wong  
Haeun "Ella" Yu

### Flute

Abigail Louise Robinson  
Jessica Wu  
Xiaoyu "Carol" Yu  
Addison Zha

### Oboe

Ajay Athreya  
Genevieve Lee  
Ethan Yuan

### Clarinet

Lauren Kim  
Matthew Jaehwan Shin  
Aaron Velinzon

### Bass Clarinet

Rohan Miovic \*

### Bassoon

Hank Hicks  
Steven Wu

### Horn

Jane Geyer  
Eli Gewurz  
Brianna Kirkland \*\*  
Jaden Rudnicki \*

### Trumpet

Eleanor "Nora" Jin  
Elena MacFadden  
Nemanja "Nem" Zivanovic

### Trombone

Jaewon Shim \*  
Jonas Ventresca \*

### Bass Trombone

David Sato \*

### Tuba

Riley McMahon \*

### Harp

Chloe Cheung

### Piano

Sunil Hedge

### Percussion

Seehu Park  
Dillon Akerman \*  
Christian Bartholomew \*

### Banjo

Simon Lace \*\*

\*NEC College Musician

\*\*Guest Musician

Rohan Miovic, Student Ensemble Manager

# **Steven Karidoyanes**

## **Music Director, Youth Symphony**

As a conductor, composer, and broadcaster, Boston native Steven Karidoyanes brings a wealth of musical experiences to the podium. Since 2004, Mr. Karidoyanes has led the New England Conservatory Youth Symphony in their regular concerts in Jordan Hall, concerts in Symphony Hall, and in past concert tours of Italy, Greece, Costa Rica, Eastern Europe, Ireland, and Spain.

Mr. Karidoyanes has been the conductor of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, a professional orchestra on Boston's historic South Shore, since 1994. Since 2008, he has also been an understudy conductor for the Boston Pops Orchestra, covering rehearsals and performances in Boston's Symphony Hall, Tanglewood, runout performances, and the 2023 Tour to Japan. He made his Boston Pops conducting debut in Symphony Hall in December 2016.

Past international guest conducting engagements include Hungary's Savaria Symphony Orchestra in Hainburg, Austria, the Prague Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Costa Rica's National Music Institute Youth Symphony, and return engagements with the North Czech Philharmonic. Mr. Karidoyanes has also guest conducted the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, and orchestras in the Washington, D.C. region. Opera productions conducted include Cape Cod Opera's Carmen, The Mikado by the Bostonian Opera & Concert Ensemble [a.k.a. "The Bostonians" and Opera-by-the-Bay's (MA) Die Fledermaus.

For a decade, Mr. Karidoyanes was Music Director of Boston's Masterworks Chorale, conducting choral/orchestral masterworks in Harvard University's Sanders Theatre. He has also held the posts of Music Director of the Boston College Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and Greensboro Symphony orchestras in North Carolina, and Assistant Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. He has served on the faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute for ten seasons and on the conducting faculty of the New England Conservatory.

Complementing his performing activities, Steven Karidoyanes is a composer and member of ASCAP. His composition, *Yerákína: Dionysian Dance for Orchestra*, was written for and premiered by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and has already been performed by the Boston Pops. His *Café Neon: Fantasy on Greek Songs and Dances* has been performed over forty times by two dozen orchestras coast to coast, plus Italy, Greece, and Australia. His cantata, *Cherished Youth*, was twice choreographed by the Commonwealth Ballet (MA). Also a classical music announcer/producer, Mr. Karidoyanes has worked for National Public Radio affiliates in Boston, North Carolina, and Indiana.

# **Yubeen Choi**

## **Soloist, Youth Symphony**

Yubeen Choi, a young violinist, was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 2014. He began his violin studies at the age of four; at six, he won the Grand Prize at the KCO Violin Competition, and at seven, he made his orchestral debut. He has since won first prizes in numerous competitions, including the Leonid Kogan International Violin Competition (2023).

In 2023, he was admitted to the Korea National Institute for Gifted in Arts. He currently studies with Prof. Miriam Fried and Prof. Paul Biss at the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School (NEC Prep). In 2024, he won first prize at the NEC Prep Concerto Competition and performed with the NEC Prep Junior Repertory Orchestra at Jordan Hall. He was selected as a Kumho Prodigy Concert artist in 2024 and made his debut at Kumho Art Hall in 2025.

## **Vanessa Trien**

### Director of Early Childhood Education

New York City native, Vanessa Trien has been performing music for kids and families for more than a decade with her lively band the Jumping Monkeys. Her music for kids and families has won a NAPPA (National Parenting Publications Association) Award, an Academics' Choice Award, and four Silver Parents' Choice award.

Vanessa packs concert halls, preschool fundraisers and outdoor venues with dancing kids and families. She is known for highly interactive shows, featuring plenty of group singing and movement. One of her most requested songs is "Tickle Monster", has families tip toe-ing around and then, on cue, tickling each other!

In addition to performances, Vanessa also teaches early childhood music in preschool and pre-K classrooms and has taught parent and child group Music Together classes for ten years. Vanessa moved to Boston to attend Harvard's Graduate School for Education and decided to call it home, diving into the Cambridge folk music scene and festival production first, and then embracing with her whole heart the wild and wonderful world of children's music!

# **Stella G. Gitelman Willoughby**

## Composer

Recognized as an “Outstanding Musician” (IBLA Grand Prize, Italy), Stella G. Gitelman Willoughby is a nine-time ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award recipient and a national and international award-winning composer from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Stella writes for symphony orchestra, large and small chamber ensembles, voice, and solo instruments. Valuing the unique qualities of each instrument and performer, her works highlight their individual sound. Working collaboratively with musicians, dancers, filmmakers, performance and fine artists, Stella embraces opportunities for her music to be performed in and heard by the public. She has received commissions for concert programs, recording projects, music festivals, dance, film, audition repertoire, performance and public art installations, student musicians, academic presentations, and to accompany historical and liturgical texts. Stella’s compositions have received awards and performances from the American Composers Orchestra and ROCO — Houston Chamber Orchestra, Yale School of Music’s Norfolk New Music Workshop, LunART, The American Prize, National Association of Composers/USA, and the National Association for Music Education, among others. Her compositions are licensed in the US and around the world. Stella is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, summa cum laude. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

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

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A woman with long dark hair is singing on stage with her arms raised. A bright, starburst-like graphic is positioned above her head, radiating outwards. She is wearing a dark, sequined dress and a necklace. The background is dark, suggesting a theater setting.

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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