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MUSIC DIRECTOR

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A Message from Music Director Christopher Hisey


Leonard Bernstein said, “This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.” Bernstein penned this quote in response to the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, 60 years ago on 11/22. This was a time of turmoil in the world as tensions in Vietnam were growing and civil rights issues were coming to a head in the U.S.

As we look across the world today, we once again see war and turmoil. We are all impacted by these events, some of us more than others, making the quote above as relevant today as it was 60 years ago.

As a community, GCTYO’s commitment to that which is peaceful and exemplifies the good of human kind remains steadfast. Today we gather to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. They have made exceptional progress over the first three months of our season. Let their music be a beacon of hope. Let it provide us with solace knowing that through programs like GCTYO, our children learn the benefits of being part of a greater good. Through music, they create something wonderful.

As we look ahead to the end of this week and we gather with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with these amazing young musicians each week. On behalf of our Teaching Artists, the Board of Directors, and our administrative staff, I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

-Chris

 <p>Christopher James Hisey, Music Director</p> <p>Concerts at 7:30 pm at Norwalk Concert Hall at Norwalk City Hall 125 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851</p> <p>Tickets & Information at www.americanchamberorchestra.com</p>	<p><u>2023-2024 – Our 21st Season</u></p> <p><u>Saturday, October 21, 2023</u> Armando Bayolo – (Unplanned) Obsolescence Michael Delfin, Soloist Georges Bizet – Carmen Suites Antonin Dvorak – Symphony No. 8</p> <p><u>14th Concerto Competition</u> February 16, 17 & 18, 2024 Visit Website for information</p> <p><u>Saturday, February 24, 2024</u> Antonin Dvorak Cello Concerto with Gjorgj Kroqi And More!</p> <p><u>Saturday, April 27, 2024</u> Broadway & Opera Songs</p> <p><u>Saturday, June 15, 2024</u> Winners of the Concerto Competition And More!</p>
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Principal Orchestra: Christopher Hisey

Philharmonic Orchestra: Polina Nazaykinskaya

Virtuosi Orchestra: Britney Alcine

Percussion Orchestra: Brian Ente

Saxophone Orchestra: Jim Clark

Sinfonia Orchestra: Gjorgj Kroqi

Wind Orchestra: Peyton Johnson & Aimee Toner

String Orchestra: Bruce Sloat

Steel Pan Orchestras: Jim Royle

Jazz I Orchestra: Rex Cadwallader

Jazz II Orchestra: Geoffrey Brookes

Conducting Fellow: Damali Willingham

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TEACHING ARTISTS



*Scan the QR code to read the full
biographies of GCTYO Teaching Artists!*

Christopher Hisey **Principal Orchestra Conductor**

Music Director and Alumnus of the Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras (GCTYO), Christopher James Hisey, has conducted concerts throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and China with such notable musicians as Sir James Galway, Tim Janis, Jackie Evancho, James Dunham, Chris Finckel, and Deborah Wong. In addition to his duties with GCTYO, Maestro Hisey serves as Music Director of the American Chamber Orchestra and was recently named Music Director of the Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut. He is also Chairman of the Performing Arts Department at Greens Farm Academy in Westport where he has worked for over 20 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Viola Performance from the Eastman School of Music and master's degree in Conducting from Bowling Green State University.

Polina Nazaykinskaya **Philharmonic Orchestra Conductor**

The music of award-winning composer Polina Nazaykinskaya, is performed regularly in the United States, Russia, and Europe. Her first symphonic poem, "Winter Bells," is in high demand every season, and this season, her orchestral music will be performed by the Utah Symphony, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Grays Harbor Symphony Orchestra, and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra. In 2021, Ms. Nazaykinskaya was named Philharmonic Orchestra Conductor for Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras. Currently she is a Doctoral Candidate at The Graduate Center CUNY, an Adjunct Lecturer of Composition at Brooklyn College Conservatory, and a Teaching Artist at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven.

Britney Alcine **Virtuosi Orchestra Conductor**

Britney Alcine has had a passion for conducting and music education since the age of sixteen. Currently a doctoral student studying Instrumental Conducting at The Hartt School in Hartford, CT, Ms. Alcine conducts the Hartt Symphony Orchestra and Foot in the Door new music ensemble. She has also conducted the Southern and Western Region High School Orchestras in Connecticut. Ms. Alcine holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Rutgers University.

Gjorgj Kroqi **Sinfonia Orchestra Conductor**

Gjorgj Kroqi started playing cello at the age of six. He earned his degree in cello performance and teaching from the "Academy of Fine Arts" in Tirana (Albania). In Connecticut, Mr. Kroqi maintains an active performance schedule with local

symphonies. He is the orchestra director at Roger Ludlowe Middle School in Fairfield, the cello teacher at The Taft School in Watertown, and he teaches privately. He previously served as Music Director, Chamber Orchestra Conductor and Cello Coach of the Greater Waterbury Youth Symphony. Mr. Kroqi joined GCTYO in 2018 as a String Coach, then taught Bravura Orchestra for 2 years before becoming conductor for Sinfonia Orchestra.

Peyton Johnson
Wind Orchestra Conductor

Trumpeter Peyton Johnson has enjoyed a varied career as a solo performer, chamber musician, and orchestral musician, as well as an active educator in the public school and private studio realms. He completed his undergraduate studies with a double major in Trumpet Performance and Music Teaching and Learning at the Eastman School of Music and went on to receive a Master of Music degree in Trumpet Performance from The Hartt School in Hartford, CT, studying with Professor Phil Snedecor. At the Hartt School, he performed with the Hartt Wind Ensemble and Orchestra and has been a featured soloist with the Hartt Brass Ensemble. Since completing his Master's degree, he has been active in the area, teaching, performing musicals, and working with brass quintets and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

Aimee Toner
Wind Orchestra Conductor

Aimee Toner is dedicated to relationship-building through music-making and expanding the scope and accessibility of the musical arts. She serves on the Artist Roster for the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and as a Haynes Company Young Artist. She received a Master's of Music with a concentration in Music in Education from the New England Conservatory after she graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University (Phi Beta Kappa), where she majored in Ethnomusicology and Economics. In line with her performance values, Aimee is dedicated to the accessibility of classical music, and has expressed this passion through her work at the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School and Brockton Symphony Orchestra and as founder of the "Music in Motion" chamber series and "Virtual School Song" project.

Bruce Sloat
String Orchestra Conductor

Bruce Sloat, a GCTYO alumnus, graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Viola Performance. There he was a recipient of the James Furman Memorial Chamber Music Award. Mr. Sloat is a violinist in the Donn Trenner Orchestra and has performed at Mohegan Sun with Josh Groban, Celtic Woman, and Earth, Wind & Fire. He performs in the Danbury Symphony where he has served as Principal Violinist and Principal Violist and is a member of the Ives Festival Orchestra and American Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Sloat has taught in the Fairfield County area for 20 years and currently serves on the string faculties of Greens Farms Academy and Westport School of Music. He maintains an active private teaching schedule and spends Saturdays conducting String Orchestra at GCTYO.

Jim Clark
Saxophone Orchestra Conductor

Jim Clark is a world-class saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist. He studied jazz, composition and theory at The Juilliard School of Music, and is an associate Fellow at Yale University Davenport College. Mr. Clark is the first artist to be contracted to arrange, perform, and record horn sections (saxophones, flute, trumpet, flugelhorn) for Band-in-a-Box®, a long-established software product by PG Music Inc. that provides intelligent, musical auto-accompaniment for musicians. He is an award-winning composer, having scored soundtracks in a wide variety of styles for numerous clients, including CeCe Winans. Mr. Clark has an ongoing private teaching practice. Whether in the recording studio, performing in a local venue, or on stage at Carnegie Hall, his goal is the same – play from the heart with the highest level of musical excellence.

Brian Ente
Percussion Orchestra Conductor

Brian Ente, a GCTYO alumnus, is a musician and composer who studied at Ithaca College with Gordon Stout and Conrad Alexander. A Connecticut native, he is a former vice president of the state's chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, and works to improve the performance standards and education of percussion both in his local area of Bridgeport/Fairfield, and across the state, taking part as a composer and judge for the Western Region Music Festival on both the middle school and high school levels. Mr. Ente coaches the GCTYO Percussion Ensemble at weekly rehearsals and conducts at concerts. He also teaches at the Jim Royle Drum Studio, works with the KEYS organization in Bridgeport, and is an active performer.

Jim Royle
Steel Pan Orchestras Conductor

Mr. Royle is a native of Connecticut and former CT Chapter President of the Year for the Percussive Arts Society. He attended the University of Bridgeport as a percussion and education major under the direction of Howard Zwickler, Arthur Lipner, and Bill Finegan. He has also studied various aspects of percussion with world recognized masters such as Max Roach, Alan Dawson, Keith Copeland, Akira Tana, Norbert Goldberg, Vernal Fournier, and Pan Master Professor Philmore. Although Mr. Royle enjoys his own performance career, his love of music and the pleasure of passing this love onto future musicians are equally important to him. His studio, founded more than 35 years ago, is well known for turning out remarkable performers, many of whom become music educators. Mr. Royle debuted the GCTYO Steel Pan program in Spring 2021 with 8 students; there are now 3 Steel Pan Orchestras with 27 students participating.

Damali Willingham
Conducting Fellow

Propelled by the joys of creating and experiencing noise, Damali's artistry is one that takes an audience through individual and collective emotional journeys. Born and raised on Muskogee and Creek lands (Atlanta, GA), Damali Willingham (they/them/theirs) has been a musical creator for as long as they can remember. They graduated from the Berklee College of Music with a B.M. in Music Composition and minor in Conducting, but their passion and talents for

both conducting and composing were evident long before then. Damali's notable achievements include an orchestral premiere at Northwestern University and a Georgia High School Musical Theater Award Nomination for Best Orchestra. They joined GCTYO as a Conducting Fellow in 2022.

Dr. Rex Cadwallader

Jazz Program Director/Jazz I Orchestra Conductor

Dr. Cadwallader is one of the most respected jazz instructors in the area. He also performs as a jazz pianist and composes music. Several of his compositions have been performed by Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras. Currently Director of Bands at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, Dr. Cadwallader has served as Assistant Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Texas in Arlington and Associate Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Colorado. He has taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London and Marlborough College in England, Southern Connecticut State University, and the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven. He received his Doctor of Arts Degree in Composition and Music Theory from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, and his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Composition degrees from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Dr. Cadwallader's compositions for jazz band have been performed and recorded worldwide. With more than 100 published in the U.S., Japan, and England, he is the recipient of awards from downbeat magazine, the NEA, and the NEH, as well as an Emmy winner for a score for public television.

Geoffrey Brookes

Jazz II Orchestra Conductor

Mr. Brookes has been conducting jazz at GCTYO since 2018 and has been directing both middle school and high school level jazz ensembles since 2006. He is passionate about teaching young musicians to develop their creativity through the jazz idiom. Mr. Brookes completed his undergraduate studies in music education at the University of Connecticut, receiving a BA in Music and a BS in Education. He earned an MA in conducting through the American Band College of Sam Houston State University in 2013. Mr. Brookes started his music education career in public schools in 2006 and is now music director at Derby High School where he directs choir, band, and jazz band.

Angelica Jara, String Coach

Angelica Jara is a violinist with a B.A. in Music from Western Connecticut State University and a Masters from the University of Bridgeport. She started her teaching career at a charter school in Waterbury, CT, co-instructing 2nd-7th grade orchestra, which opened her eyes to the importance of differentiation and inclusion. That propelled her to shift her focus and pursue a teaching certificate through ARC (Alternative Teaching Certification). She then migrated to Wilton, CT, where she currently teaches middle and high school orchestra plus middle school general music. During her free time, Angelica likes to join jams and hop in some Bluegrass bands performing in the CT and NY area.

Enkelejda Nani, String Coach

Ms. Nani was born in Fier, Albania, where she began studying cello. She subsequently studied at the conservatory in Tirana. She earned her degree in

cello performance and teaching from the “Academy of Fine Arts” (Albania). Ms. Nani has performed with numerous chamber ensembles in Albania and was a member of the Opera Tirana Orchestra. She has also been a member of Wallingford Orchestra. She is currently the Cello and Bass Coach for the GCTYO Philharmonic and Virtuosi Orchestras, and she teaches privately.

Sarah Shreder, String Coach

Cellist Sarah Shreder has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, capturing audiences with her energy and passion. She currently performs with the Bridgeport, Ridgefield, and Wallingford Symphonies, and she is the professor of cello at the University of Bridgeport. Ms. Shreder has performed as a soloist and concertized extensively in various chamber music settings. Ms. Shreder received a Bachelor degree in both Cello Performance and Fine Arts Management from the University of Illinois and a Master degree in Cello Performance from the University of Connecticut.

Thiago Sousa, Wind Coach

Brazilian flutist Thiago Sousa started his music studies at age 12. He graduated with honors from the Federal University of Goiás. Mr. Sousa received the prestigious Dorothy & Morris Grosser Award in Woodwind Performance and The Discimus ut Serviamus Award, both bestowed by The Aaron Copland School of Music. He has also won several concerto competitions on flute. Mr. Sousa continued his education in New York, earning a Master in Music from The Aaron Copland School of Music in New York under the tutelage of Keith Underwood. Additionally, he earned his Graduate Professional Diploma from the Hartt School of Music. Currently, Mr. Sousa is a band director at Roger Ludlowe Middle School in Fairfield.

Hafez Taghavi, String Coach

Hafez Taghavi is an orchestral violinist, teacher, and chamber musician who has performed at the Kennedy Center and other U.S. and international concert halls. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from Western Connecticut State University and a Master of Music degree from Purchase College. As a student, he received extensive chamber music coaching from the Manhattan String Quartet. In addition to classical music, Mr. Taghavi loves to play in other genres. He has performed with the band Lez Zeppelin, country recording artist Ashton Shepherd, and Moroccan folk singer Saida Fikri. He can also be heard on the soundtrack of the documentary, Enquiring Minds, and on a trailer for the critically acclaimed computer game, World of Warcraft. Mr. Taghavi is currently Director of Orchestra and Chamber Music at the Canterbury School in CT, serves as an artist faculty member at the Interharmony International Music Festival in Italy, maintains a private studio in Danbury, and is a member of the Lotus Chamber Music Collective and the Deming Quartet. He is founder and director of the GCTYO Summer String Festival.

Jennifer Trahan, String Coach

Jennifer Trahan has a life-long history of violin playing and teaching. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Violin Performance from Ohio University and a Master’s of Music in Violin Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She began teaching at the Suzuki Music School of Westport in 1999, where

she was the Assistant Music Director, leaving in 2005 to create the Talent Education Suzuki School in Norwalk, where she taught all ages and levels, with a focus on developing her teaching philosophy for the advanced student. She currently maintains Ms. Jen's Violin Studio, a private studio in Milford, and coaches at GCTYO. In 2021, Ms. Trahan took up the baton at GCTYO to conduct both Symphony and Concert Orchestras. Ms. Trahan is also an avid performer. She plays with many symphonies in Connecticut, is the violinist for the Archdiocese of Bridgeport, and is a member of the Magnolia String Quartet and Ariana Strings. Ms. Trahan has been GCTYO's trusted librarian since 2014 and Operations Manager since 2021. She is dedicated to bringing the best of orchestral playing to the next generation of young people.



CThumanities

Support has been provided to GCTYO from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

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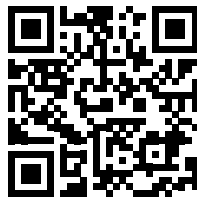
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Cheryl Labrecque	Erik Paul	Carla Strauss
Mary Larson	Dave Pelaggi	Igor Subotin
Sal LaRusso	Jill Pellett Levine	Ah-Young Sun
Tony LaVorgna	Evelyn Pellicane	Hafez Taghavi
Loretta Lazaris	Steve Perrett	Robert Thornton
Juhee Lee	Sarah Pizzichemi	Stephan Tieszen
Sharon Levin	Karen Poleshuck	Aimee Toner
Timothy Lewis	Zachary Polson	Jennifer Trahan
Jennifer Lipinsky	Peter Prosser	Caroline Trombley
Soleil Londono	Thom Pytel	Kevin Tzanetis
Thomas Longo	Matthew Rescsanszky	David Uhl
David Love	Niall Reynolds	Glen Ullman
Scott Marsland	Paul Riley	Seth Urchick
Thomas Martin	Janet Rosen	Joseph Ushchak
Carrie Mascaro	Rebekkah Rosen	Marta van Hezewijk
Laura Masciarelli	Zachary Rosenberg	Olav van Hezewijk
Lynn Masciarelli	Jody Rowitsch	Elizabeth Vysin
Corey Massaro	Jim Royle	Carole Walker
Tristan Mayes	Mark Ryan	Tommy Weeks
Alexandria McGowan	Marthe Ryerson	Toby Weinstein
Garrett Mendez	Melanie Sasaki	LB Wendelin
Danielle Merlis	Fred Scerbo	George Whetstone
Erica Messina	Jeff Schachinger	Lauren Williams
Ravenna Michalsen	Amy Selig	Troy Williams
Andrea Mills	Lisa Serio	Drew Willmott
Amanda Milne	Eileen Shannon	Jennifer Winschel
Jane Minnis	Julie Sharp Chen	Deborah Wong
Gabrielle Molina	Darwin Shen	Nate Wood
Kristen Morace	Sarah Shreder	Jean Wriedt
Joshua Murphy	Carl Shugart	Kristen Young
Enkelejda Nani	Bruce Sloat	Kyung Yu
Jeromy Nelson	Sarah Smale	Graciliano Zambonin
Kate O'Brien	Andrew Smith	Barry Zhao

Jack Lawrence – Songwriter

Jack Lawrence, though not a household name, was one of the most influential songwriters of all time. His biggest hits include:

- “If I Didn’t Care”
- “Tenderly”
- “All or Nothing at All”
- “Never Smile at a Crocodile”
- “Linda”
- “Once Upon a Dream”

Mr. Lawrence also wrote “Beyond the Sea” based on a French song, which was made popular by Bobby Darin in 1959. That hit was followed in 1954 with the Academy Award nominated, “Hold My Hand.” Mr. Lawrence was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1975.

In addition, Mr. Lawrence wrote the official song of the Maritime Service and Merchant Marines, “Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho!”

Enjoy “Linda” by Virtuosi Orchestra and “If I Didn’t Care” by Philharmonic Orchestra today, both arranged for youth orchestra, and Jack Lawrence’s arrangement of “Beyond the Sea,” performed today by Jazz I Orchestra.

Mr. Lawrence was a gay man who was open about his sexuality later in life. He and his partner made a sizable art donation in 1968 to the Israel Museum. The gift was noted in an interview with the couple in The New York Times that made clear the two were a couple who lived together and were making the donation together, an unusual and brave admission for gay men during that time.

Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras is honored to be a beneficiary of the Jack Lawrence Charitable Trust, which aims to improve the lives of children through music.

We thank the



Jack Lawrence Charitable Trust

for a \$100,000 donation to establish an
Endowment Fund for GCTYO



Notes about music by Luis Villalobos

“Desierto” is the first movement of a three part symphonic poem entitled “Suite Inmigrante” for orchestra, mixed choir, and children’s choir composed by Luis Villalobos. Desierto translates from Spanish to desert in English. “Desierto” tells the story, in Spanish and English, of the journeys of Latin American and African immigrants who cross deserts in search of better lives in other countries.

Luis writes in the preface to the score, “This work was born as a defiant response to the appalling reality that immigrants face in the United States and Europe. My mission as a Mexican-American artist is to erode the negative clichés that continue to stigmatize immigrants. I have found the universal beauty of music to be the most powerful catalyst to trigger this change and to elevate people’s consciousness. By bringing immigrant voices out of the shadows and telling their stories through the power of the orchestra and the choir, I hope to open people’s hearts and deliver a clear message: Immigrants are beautiful, creative and inspiring people; a force for good, and an inextricable part of every healthy society.”

Another piece on the program is the Grammy winning song, “El Pijul.” Half of “El Pijul” is all original music composed by Luis Villalobos. The rest of the piece is arranged from a traditional song from Veracruz, Mexico in the “Son Jarocho” style, which is traditionally performed with Jarana guitars, Requinto, and voice. The song is about the little “Pijul,” a Spanish name for the smooth-billed ani, a bird with a distinctive (and loud) rising call that is mimicked in the lyrics (“ay-hee, ay-hee”). In February 2023, the album “Fandango At The Wall Live in NYC” won the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album of the year. “El Pijul” is part of this album, and the Villalobos Brothers are credited both as composers and featured artists.

“Somos” (“We Are”) is the title track from the Villalobos Brothers’ 2019 album. Composer Luis Villalobos describes it as a song about compassion. He explains, “We are not only Mexicans or Americans or Catholic or Jews or Muslims or blue, red musicians. We are one big family. One big human family.” The lyrics are delivered in rapid-fire form with infectious energy, reminding us that we were all “born free!”

For notes about other pieces on today’s concert, visit <https://gctyo.org/program-notes/>

THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 1, 1:00 PM

Steel Pan Future Stars *Jim Royle, Conductor*

Three Little Birds

Bob Marley, arr. Brian Ente

Ginger Bulla

John Wilmarth

Steel Pan Junior Stars *Jim Royle, Conductor*

Stir It Up

Bob Marley, arr. Brad Shores

We Like We Pan

Jim Royle

Steel Pan All Stars *Jim Royle, Conductor*

Coconut Shrimp

John Wilmarth

Banana Wind

Jimmy Buffett, arr. Brad Shores

Jai Ho

A.R. Rahman, arr. Brian Ente

Percussion Orchestra *Brian Ente, Conductor*

Cuccina Bella

Chris Crockarell

Jazz II Orchestra *Geoffrey Brookes, Conductor*

Second Line (Joe Avery Blues)

Traditional, arr. Victor Goines

Moanin'

Bobby Timmons, arr. Mark Taylor

Wind Orchestra *Peyton Johnson & Aimee Toner, Conductors*

Flower Duet from "Lakme"

Leo Delibes, arr. David Marlatt

Highlights from "Jurassic Park"

John Williams, arr. Johnnie Vinson

Saxophone Orchestra *Jim Clark, Conductor*

The Invincible Eagle

John Philip Sousa

Gymnopedie No.1

Erik Satie

Lullaby of Birdland

George Shearing

Jazz I Orchestra *Rex Cadwallader, Conductor*

Lester Leaps In

Lester Young, arr. Rich Sigler

Beyond the Sea

Charles Trenet & Jack Lawrence, arr. Roger Holmes

Cubano Chant

Ray Bryant, arr. Victor Lopez

Ornithology

Charlie Parker, arr. Greg Yasinitzky

THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 2, 4:00 PM

String Orchestra *Bruce Sloat, Conductor*

Fiddle Finger Frenzy	Mark Williams
Country Wedding from "The Moldau"	Bedrich Smetana, arr. Sandra Dackow
Phantom Train	William Owens
1812 Overture	Pyotr Tchaikovsky, arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle

Sinfonia Orchestra *Gjorgj Kroqi, Conductor*

Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major BWV 1068	Johann Sebastian Bach
Farandole (from "L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2")	Georges Bizet, arr. Merle Isaac
It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)	Duke Ellington, arr. Robert Longfield

Virtuosi Orchestra *Britney Alcine, Conductor*

The Easy Winners	Scott Joplin, arr. Ken Lesem
Peer Gynt Suite No. 1	Edvard Grieg, arr. Chris Bernotas
Linda	Jack Lawrence, arr. Britney Alcine

Philharmonic Orchestra *Polina Nazaykinskaya, Conductor*

Molly from "Wonderland"	Michael Nyman, arr. David Caldarella
Carmen Suite No.1	Georges Bizet
If I Didn't Care	Jack Lawrence, arr. Christopher Lutsker
Palladio	Karl Jenkins, arr. Polina Nazaykinskaya

We thank the



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THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 3, 6:30 PM

Principal Orchestra *Christopher Hisey, Conductor*

Baccanale from
"Samson and Delilah"

Camille Saint-Saëns

Principal Orchestra

Casita Blanca

Ernesto Villalobos

The Villalobos Brothers

Tico Tico No Fubá

Zaquinha de Abreu

Principal Orchestra

El Irish

Richard Shindell, arr. Luis Villalobos

The Villalobos Brothers

Overture to the Abduction
from the Seraglio

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Principal Orchestra

El Ausente

Traditional, arr. Alberto Villalobos

The Villalobos Brothers

La Gallina

Patricio Hidalgo

The Villalobos Brothers

John Williams Medley

John Williams, adp. Paul Lavender

Principal Orchestra

INTERMISSION

Desierto

Luis Villalobos

Principal Orchestra, INTEMPO Youth Choir, The Villalobos Brothers

El San Lorenzo

Traditional, arr. Alberto Villalobos

Principal Orchestra, The Villalobos Brothers

Conducted by Damali Willingham

El Pijul

Traditional, arr. Luis Villalobos

Principal Orchestra, The Villalobos Brothers

Somos

Luis Villalobos

Principal Orchestra, The Villalobos Brothers

About the Guest Artists

The Villalobos Brothers are acclaimed as one of today's leading contemporary Mexican ensembles. Their original compositions and arrangements fuse and celebrate the richness of Mexican folk with jazz and classical music. They deliver a powerful message of love, brotherhood, and social justice through their music.

The Villalobos Brothers have performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Latin Grammy Awards, the Blue Note Jazz Festival, and the Apollo Theatre, among many others. They have collaborated with legendary musicians such as Bruce Springsteen, Dolly Parton, Antonio Sánchez, Regina Carter, Eduardo Magallanes, Dan Zanes, and Ana Tijoux. In 2018, they joined forces with Arturo O'Farrill, the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and the "Colectivo Conga Patria" for a project which culminated in a live concert, live album, and documentary film by HBO Max. That album, "Fandango At The Wall Live in NYC," won the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album of the year in 2023. The Villalobos Brothers' songs, "El Pijul" and "Xalapa Bang," are part of this album, and the Brothers are credited both as composers and featured artists. In addition, their albums "Aliens of Extraordinary Abilities" and "Somos" are available on all digital platforms.

INTEMPO is a Stamford, CT-based youth-development organization that provides high-quality classical and intercultural music education to children predominantly from immigrant backgrounds and from communities underrepresented in the arts. INTEMPO is committed to connecting the dots between intercultural music education and its influence on the overall development of children. Visit at www.intempo.org

On the program is an original piece composed by Luis Villalobos, "Desierto" ("Desert"). It tells the story of the journeys of Latin American and African immigrants in search of better lives in other countries. The chorus will be sung in Spanish and English by the INTEMPO Youth Choir. This presentation of "Desierto" by GCTYO, The Villalobos Brothers, and INTEMPO is a world premiere - it has never before been performed. We are honored that Luis chose our youth to showcase his work.

Scan the QR code to read more about the pieces on the program.



Steel Pan Orchestra Future Stars

Chris Bran, Bridgeport
Vyom Dhir, Trumbull
Matthew Gallo-Gomez, Trumbull
Angel Guzman, Bridgeport
Jude Jacob, Trumbull

Kellan Price, Fairfield
Sheimary Raices, Bridgeport
Sophia Rivera, Bridgeport
Elijah Solano, Monroe

Steel Pan Orchestra Junior Stars

Ella Bienstock, Westport
William Dina, Stratford
Kai Harris, Bridgeport
Evan Nani, Easton
Walter Pineda, Bridgeport
Kaia Price, Fairfield

Sohana Reed, Southport
Nathali Reyes, Stratford
Serenidy Rowe, Bridgeport
Benjamin Solano, Monroe
Isaiah Solano, Monroe
Susana Velasquez, Stamford

Steel Pan Orchestra All Stars


Alexander Cunningham, Fairfield
Yohann Domingue, Bridgeport
Conor Glynn, Trumbull

Max Jessee, Milford
Rhys Rader, Stratford

Percussion Orchestra

Shrey Bandari, Fairfield
Danny Cho, Fairfield
Israel Isidor, Stratford
Max Jessee, Milford

Sarah Lacugna, Fairfield
Rhys Rader, Stratford
Jorge Sena, Stamford
Samuel Wallace, Orange



Jim Royle
director
CT Chapter President, PAS
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Jazz II Orchestra

Flute

Eli Gill, Milford
Ailyn Martinez-Ocampo, Stamford

Clarinet

Nathaly Barreto, Fairfield

Saxophone - Alto

Enrique Arango, Stamford
Diego Bars, Trumbull

Saxophone - Tenor

Gemma Panarese, Fairfield

Trumpet

Emily Barreto, Fairfield
Joseph Reed, Southport

Trumpet

Adan Wang, Westport
Jacob Yi, Stratford

Trombone

Daniel Church, Norwalk
Zephaniah Denu, New Canaan

Bass

Lydia Buzbee, Stratford
Julia Speretta, Fairfield

Piano

Tamanna Aravind, Bethel

Drums

Samuel Wallace, Orange

Wind Orchestra

Flute

Mateo deCastro, Stratford
Averie Douglas, Stratford
Kennedy James, Stratford
Emma Poletta, Stamford
Nathali Reyes, Stratford

Clarinet

Luke Cordell, Trumbull
Mina Huh, Orange
Isabel Mejia Flores, Stamford
Giulia Rollo, Stratford

Alto Sax

Diego Bars, Trumbull
Ottmar Toledo Toral, Stamford

Trumpet

Oliver Lanese, Stratford
Ella Reed, Fairfield
Joseph Reed, Southport

Trombone

Zephaniah Denu, New Canaan

Euphonium

Justin Jendrock, Westport
Noah Lippman, Southport

Saxophone Orchestra

Saxophone - Alto

Enrique Arango, Stamford
Bodhi Chiravuri, Bridgeport
Sumanyu Pinjala, Fairfield
Ivan Stepanov, Stamford
Allison Stiles, New Canaan

Saxophone - Tenor

Gemma Panarese, Fairfield
Christian Seoane, Weston

Saxophone - Baritone

Francisco Espina, Stamford

Jazz I Orchestra

Saxophone - Alto

Allison Stiles, New Canaan
Bennett Gerhart, Redding
Bodhi Chiravuri, Bridgeport

Saxophone - Tenor

Christian Seoane, Weston
Oliver Harrigan, Milford
Sumanyu Pinjala, Fairfield

Saxophone - Baritone

Francisco Espina, Stamford

Trumpet

William Keenan, Orange
Ronak Parmar, Orange

Trombone

Israel Ortiz, New Haven
Maadhav Subramanian, Westport
Kavan Patel, Weston

Piano

Nate Alphonso-Arnold, Fairfield

Bass

Virginia Grabovsky, Monroe

Drums

Kai Harris, Bridgeport

String Orchestra

Violin I

Jay Cao, Fairfield –
Concertmaster
Oliver Chen, Fairfield
Graham Choi, Fairfield
Kai Coffin, Fairfield
Alexander Cunningham, Fairfield
Aarith D’costa, Fairfield
Carolyn Donovan, Milford
Jake Jacob, Trumbull
Isabella Kim, Branford
Savannah Lang, Bridgeport
Annabel Lau, Easton
Manasvi Madala, Trumbull
Claire Nam, Shelton
Luke Palisi, Fairfield
Liam Putnam, Milford
Sambit Sharma, Trumbull
Erum Song, Fairfield
Bryce Taylor, Newtown
Daniel Wilenski, Monroe

Violin II

Naima Estime, Trumbull
Principal
Gabrielle Ajayi, Southbury
Daphne Altin-Fahey, Fairfield
Elise Angier, Shelton
Kimberly Cabello, Stratford
Vincent Cao, Fairfield

Grace Chen, Fairfield
Sophia Contreras, Trumbull
Yohann Domingue, Bridgeport
Valentina Estrada, North Branford
Isabella Gallo-Gomez, Trumbull
Ryan Guida, Fairfield
Gianna Louis, Stratford
Parnavi Madala, Trumbull
Samuel Matis, Fairfield
Khaleesi Noriega, West Haven
Sofia Palisi, Fairfield
Neva Peltek, Monroe
Kyla Reisberg, Southport
Ariisa Soung, Stratford

Viola

Miguel Sosa, Stratford –
Principal
Talia Majoros, Stratford
Neelav Sengupta, Westport

Cello

Madeleine Trusilo, Niantic –
Principal
Georgia Dawson, Trumbull
Matthew DeAndrade, Shelton
Ayla Elkins, Shelton
David Geer, Easton
Bridget Horne, Milford
Ian Perry, Ridgefield

Sinfonia Orchestra

Violin I

Carrie Chang, Orange –

Principal

Claire Bailey-Gates, Fairfield

Nina Ghahremani, Westport

Jin Huh, East Lyme

Mallory MacIlvain, Fairfield

Adrian Rebello, Westport

Leanne Wong, Westport

Joseph Yong, Southbury

Rachel Yong, Southbury

Violin II

Jimmy Wu, Trumbull –

Principal

Anjali Bandari, Fairfield

William Curran, Old Saybrook

Reva Kulkarni, Trumbull

Edie McDonald, Fairfield

Jeein Na, Fairfield

Ryan Oh, Wilton

Nilay Parmar, Orange

Dinuka Periyapperuma, Westport

SiYi Robifker, Monroe

Viola

Luke Shalhoub, Fairfield –

Principal

Danielle Ajayi, Southbury

Laila Matmati, Monroe

Cara Sato-Connell, Fairfield

Cello

Ellawood Pullen, Fairfield –

Principal

Milan Chiravuri, Bridgeport

Audrey English, Fairfield

Liam McKay Moity, Southbury

Evan Nani, Easton

Antonella Polo de la Piedra, Stamford

Jonah Putnam, Milford

Serenidy Rowe, Bridgeport

Lyam Seguinot, Woodbury

Rhys Weismann, Westport

Bass

Julia Speretta, Fairfield –

Principal

Gabriel Cobb, Stratford



Jennifer Trahan
Violinist & Instructor

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Jen.trahan1@gmail.com

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Milford, CT 06460

Virtuosi Orchestra

Violin I

Tamanna Aravind, Bethel –

Concertmaster

Jayden Zhang, Fairfield –

Assistant Concertmaster

Zachary Feuer, Wilton

Camille Irby, Milford

Sadie Koch, Fairfield

Juana Levano, Stamford

Sophia Li, Orange

Anamika Martins, Southport

En Qiao, Trumbull

Jamie Quispe, Stamford

Kristin Wells, Lakeville

Violin II

Ali Hassan, Bridgeport –

Co-Principal

Susana Sebourne, Bridgeport –

Co-Principal

Joelyne Domingue, Bridgeport

Christian Dopf, Fairfield

Meghan Elterich, Fairfield

Kelsi Fleischer, Milford

Camryn Irby, Milford

Riya Patel, Orange

Peyton Schleef, Weston

Erin Song, Fairfield

Viola

Jasmine Cabello, Stratford –

Principal

Nate Alphonso-Arnold, Fairfield

Eloise Healy, Fairfield

Zoey Horne, Milford

Krystal Sakal, Monroe

Madeleine Stiber, Westport

Cello

Graidy McGuire, Old Saybrook –

Principal

Henry Bailey-Gates, Fairfield

Andriana Elkins, Trumbull

Shaili Haria, Fairfield

Parker Lim, Fairfield

Sean Lu, Milford

Adrien Moyer, Bethany

Cello

Mauricio Quintana, Fairfield

Cooper Straza, Fairfield

Bass

Lydia Buzbee, Stratford –

Principal

Flute

Sharai Guerra, Danbury –

Principal

Natalie Hartono, Westport

Samarvir Rakwal, Windsor Locks

Nika Stepanov, Stamford

Oboe

Grace Trusilo, Niantic

Principal

Clarinet

Alexander Poletta, Stamford –

Principal

French Horn

Grace Malin, Trumbull –

Principal

Trumpet

Emily Barreto, Fairfield –

Principal

Harry Chase, Trumbull

Ezra Dawson, Trumbull

Jacob Yi, Stratford

Trombone

Daniel Church, Norwalk –

Principal

Kavan Patel, Weston

Percussion

Israel Isidor, Stratford –

Principal

Max Jessee, Milford

Philharmonic Orchestra

Violin I

Jennifer Yin, Riverside –

Concertmaster

Luke Bergman, Salem –

Assistant Concertmaster

Mark Cassa, Fairfield

Saanvi Chintapalli, Trumbull

Anne Codd, Trumbull

Grace English, Fairfield

Conor Glynn, Trumbull

Kyleigh Higgins, Stratford

Vikram Kumar, Trumbull

Gabriel Rojas, Trumbull

Nathaniel Thomas, Fairfield

Violin II

Gabriella Gonzalez, Bridgeport –

Principal

Vaanya Dhir, Trumbull

Irene Kim, Branford

Duncan Kolb, Newtown

Dumeto Oraedu, Trumbull

Sheena Su, Cos Cob

Katelyn Ta, Southport

Viola

Chloe Wong, Westport –

Principal

Noah Bailey, Southport

Gabrielle Black, Hamden

Gemma Byrne, Stratford

Nathaniel Caballeros, Stamford

Connor Oatis, Norwalk

Cello

Eliza Choi, Fairfield –

Principal

Sam Bruderman, Fairfield

Liam Donovan, Fairfield

Daniel Guerreiro, Fairfield

Julian Horst, East Lyme

Kobi Oraedu, Trumbull

Adam Plager, Fairfield

James Quispe, Stamford

Samuel Stinson, Easton

Flute

Sophia Vash, Fairfield –

Principal

Emily Iniguez Ortega, Stamford

Eli Gill, Milford

Ailyn Martinez-Ocampo, Stamford

Josue Ventura, Bridgeport

Piccolo

Eli Gill, Milford

Oboe

Abigail Greenhut, New Canaan –

Principal

Kayla Song, Woodbridge

Clarinet

Daniel Uhom, Fairfield –

Principal

Nathaly Barreto, Fairfield

Daniela Carias, Stamford

Sara Velasquez, Stamford

French Horn

Laney Stillway, Monroe –

Principal

Trumpet

Ronak Parmar, Orange –

Principal

Adan Wang, Westport

Trombone

Maadhav Subramanian, Westport –

Principal

Chloe Chang, Orange

Avery Kalter, Westport

Percussion

Jorge Sena, Stamford –

Principal

Shrey Bandari, Fairfield

Samuel Wallace, Orange

Principal Orchestra

Violin I

Michael Sigal, Fairfield –
Concertmaster
Luke Chang, Orange
Claire Holcombe, Darien –
Assistant Concertmaster
Marshall Franz, Trumbull
April Park, Trumbull
Lydia Wilson-Taylor, Fairfield
Katerin Pineda, Bridgeport
Josh Gibson, Bridgeport
Maria Stiber, Westport
Isabel Jo, Westport
Som Nene, Fairfield
Gayathri Sarath, Wilton
Anya Mahajan, Woodbridge
Brendan Li, East Lyme

Violin II

Stephanie Jiang, Darien –
Principal
Victoria Pelton, Woodbridge
Isabelle Li, Weston
Eva Ortiz, Stratford
Anaya D’Souza, Fairfield
Landon Smith, Woodbridge
Isabella Mariani, Westport
Aditi Bhattamishra, Orange
Andrew Vongsouvanh, Middlebury
Jiayue Sun, Woodbridge
Madelynn Phu, Milford
Prithvi Mahesh, Fairfield

Viola

Margaret Gustafson, Madison –
Principal
Rohan Quarve, Fairfield
William Hanington, Fairfield
Hannah Kwok, Fairfield
Matthew Pan, Sandy Hook
Peter Adams, Wilton
Pranav Quarve, Fairfield
Sreya Mothukuri, Fairfield
Jessica Vora, Fairfield
Chaitanya Pinjala, Fairfield
Logan Johnson, Newtown
Khushi Haria, Fairfield

Cello

Alexander Parent, Fairfield –
Principal
Kyra Brown, New Milford
Jessica Zhang, Sandy Hook
Virginia Grabovsky, Monroe
Grace Chiriatti, Newtown
McKenna Mercurio Morse, Fairfield
Kyela McGuire, Old Saybrook
Julia Plager, Fairfield
Kazuho Yasuno, Orange
Elias Kolb, Newtown
Valerie Cheng, Waterford
Jasper Gallas, Fairfield
Shivali Kanthan, Westport
Jun Huh, East Lyme
Anna Ridihalgh, Trumbull

Bass

Lilah Weinstein, Fairfield –
Principal
David Dai, Fairfield
Shivani Anand, Monroe
Amelia Munoz, Monroe

Flute

Carsen Schick, Easton –
Principal
Julia Van Der Aue, Westport
Ryan Bereski, Milford
Magnolia Stone, Larchmont, NY

Piccolo

Magnolia Stone, Larchmont, NY

Oboe

Nolan Medalla, Wilton –
Principal
Maytal Meskin, Fairfield
McKenzie Forte, Milford
Natalie Cunningham, Fairfield

Clarinet

Oliver Harrigan, Milford –
Principal
Dylan Ross, Fairfield
Gabriel Espada, Bridgeport
Grace Coyne, Fairfield

Principal Orchestra (*cont.*)

Bassoon

Evan Marshall, Fairfield –
Principal
Bennett Gerhart, Redding

French Horn

Chip Chase, Trumbull –
Principal
Vedanth Krishnan, Greenwich

Trumpet

Theo Pollex, Fairfield –
Principal
William Keenan, Orange
Benjamin Gardiner, Fairfield

Trombone

Israel Ortiz, New Haven –
Principal
Kevin McGuire, Derby
Nick D’Andrea, Fairfield

Percussion

Sarah Lacugna, Fairfield –
Principal
Rhys Rader, Stratford
Danny Cho, Fairfield

INTEMPO Youth Choir

Deiker Torrealba, Conductor

Sebastian Aguirre
Ashwath Ashok
Michelle Betancourt
Lisa Cabrera
Sarah Cabrera
Alejandra Castillo
Jeronimo Castillo
Mia Davila
Valentina Davila
Melanie Garrido
Amelia Lopez
Lucia Lopez

Emilia Mendoza
Aaron Ortiz
Allison Ortiz
Carmen Perez
Mia Recinos
Charles Rodriguez
Annabella Rojas
Ariadne Rojas
Itzael Romero
Antonella Sanchez
Camila Sanchez



Bennett: They say music is
praying twice.
Our prayers are always for
continued success!
Love,
Grandma & Grandpa
McGlynn





Best of luck Bennett!
We are applauding from afar and
congratulating you on many years
of GCTYO performances. We
have enjoyed watching you
develop into an amazing
entertainer. Love,
Your McGlynn & Dieschbourg
Aunts, Uncles & Cousins



**"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight
to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato**

Thank you GCTYO and all the best to
Anna Ridihalgh and all the seniors!

— The Casey and Ridihalgh families

image by bigfx on Freepik with permission



SiYi
We are so proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad, Gandy
and Nate



Bennett: Happy Senior Year!
Your persistence, dedication &
love for Music is such a joyous
& proud moment to be part of.

Your Adoring Fans,
Love, Mom, Dad & Riley
"Music Is What Feelings Sound Like"





Peter,
Your dedication and talent have shone brightly, and we're certain that your passion for music will carry you through college and beyond. Best wishes for a melodious future!

All our love,
Mom, Dad, Oliver, & Charlie

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