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Music Director

GCTYO

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Thank you to the Masons of Stratford for continuing to support GCTYO's Spring Concerts. Today's May performances are sponsored by the following Stratford based Masonic Organizations: America-St. John's Lodge #8, Lafayette Consistory Scottish Rite, Baldwin Chapter #13 Royal Arch Masons, Jerusalem Council #16 Royal & Select Masters, and Hamilton Commandery #5 Knights Templar.

The Masonic Order is a social, philanthropic, and educational fraternal brotherhood. The objectives and purposes of Masonry are to instill in its members the principles of morality, temperance, benevolence and charity.

American Masonic philanthropy has surpassed one billion dollars to support charities, 65% of which directly benefits the general public. These include among many others: Crippled Children's Hospitals, Burn Centers, Medical Research Foundations, Treatment for Birth Defects, Eye Research, Scholarships, Schizophrenic Research, and their most recent charity, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, now located in Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Hartford, CT, with another 50 in operation throughout the United States. All services are provided free of charge.

Locally, the Masonic Fraternity in Stratford has a history of supporting programs that are of direct benefit to the community: Charter Sponsor of Stratford and Bunnell High School Post Prom Committees; made the Stratford Theater (the home of Lafayette Consistory) available to the town of Stratford and other non-profit organizations; established a fund within the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation entitled the Masonic Family Fund; supporter of the Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras; sponsor of the Annual Masonic Thanksgiving Day Run held in Stratford, proceeds of which are contributed to various Connecticut charities.

The Masonic Fraternity is pleased to continue its support of the Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras.

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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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Angelica Jara, Enkelejda Nani, Sarah Shreder, Thiago Sousa, Hafez Taghavi, Jennifer Trahan

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TEACHING ARTISTS



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the full biographies of GCTYO conductors!*

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 GCTYO, 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 of 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

Damali Willingham is a conductor, composer, and bassoonist based in New Haven, CT. They recently graduated from the Berklee College of Music, where they made quite the impression as a young conductor. They served as a musical director and guest conductor of various ensembles, including the Berklee Motion Picture Orchestra, the school's largest student-run ensemble. Damali attended the 2023 Aspen Conducting Academy and received the Robert J. Harth Award

with an invitation to return for the 2024 Festival. They currently work as a conducting fellow with the Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras in Fairfield, CT, and The Chelsea Symphony in New York City. Damali's work centers on the celebration and liberation of their communities through artistic expression, community engagement, musical innovation, and universal accessibility. Outside of music, Damali enjoys dancing, roller skating, solving jigsaw puzzles, and cooking for their loved ones.

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 compositions 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 concertizes 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.

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.

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Colin Benn	Claudia Diaz	Jeri Hockensmith
Sara Bennett Wolfe	Rocio Diaz de Cossio	Sara Hoefer
Duane Berge	Philip Dolan	Matthew Holmgren
Mark Bilotta	Claire Dresselhuis	Lisa Homann
Nicole Bilotto	Celine du Temple	Janice Hooton-Racine
Brian Borrelli	Teri Einfeldt	Andy Horng
Emily Boyer	Joe Elbertson	Daniel Horstmann
Christopher Breault	Allison Eldredge	Art Hovey
Michael Breaux	Justin Elkins	Ching-Wei Hsieh
Geoffrey Brookes	Erik Elligers	Tom Hudson
Jennifer Brown	Brian Ente	Amy Hur
Rodger Bryan	Bobi Evrova	Joe Infurchia
Susannah Bryan	Steve Fasoli	Silvio Interlandi
Jim Buchta	Jennifer Ficks	Yue Ishizuka
Heidi Burns	Jamie Finegan	Biju James
Josue Bustamante	Brett Flowers	Shan Jiang
Rex Cadwallader	Jessica Flowers	Peyton Johnson
Katie Callaghan	James Forgey	Nanette Jordan
Gary Capozziello	Michelle Fraser	Steven Juhasz
Karin Carlson	Matthew Fried	Ed Kadziewicz
Mary Case	Bernice Friedson	Ling Fei Kang
Rosemarie Cerreta	Bethany Fuscaldo	Kirsten Karlan
Cassidy Chapman	Jon Garcia	Malcolm Karlan
Jackie Chasen	Philip Giampietro	David Kean

THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS!

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

THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 1, 1:00 PM

Steel Pan Future Stars

Jim Royle, Conductor

Groovy Steel Pan	Jim Royle
We've Got the Beat	The Go-Go's, arr. Desmond

Steel Pan Junior Stars

Jim Royle, Conductor

Get It While It's Hot	Brad Shores
Clocks	Coldplay, arr. Desmond

Steel Pan All Stars

Jim Royle, Conductor

Cantina Band	John Williams, arr. Desmond
I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends	The Beatles, arr. Desmond
De Do Do Do	The Police, arr. Desmond

Percussion Orchestra

Brian Ente, Conductor

Flat Baroque	Thomas L. Davis
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Jazz II Orchestra

Geoffrey Brookes, Conductor

Backburner	Carl Strommen
Angel Eyes	Earl Brent & Matt Dennis, arr. C. Strommen
Grooved Pavement	Victor Lopez

Wind Orchestra

Peyton Johnson & Aimee Toner, Conductors

Into the Clouds!	Richard L. Saucedo
Themes from The Planets	Gustav Holst, arr. D. Wagner

Saxophone Orchestra

Jim Clark, Conductor

Struttin' With Some Barbecue	Lil Hardin Armstrong, arr. Jim Clark, K. Abeling
Havana	Camila Cabello, arr. Jim Clark

THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 1, 1:00 PM

Jazz I Orchestra

Rex Cadwallader, Conductor

Pick Up The Pieces	Ball, Duncan, Gorrie, Stuart, McIntosh & McIntyre, arr. V. Lopez
In A Sentimental Mood	Duke Ellington, arr. M. Tomaro
A Night In Tunisia	Dizzy Gillespie & Frank Paparelli, arr. R. Ford
All Of Me	Seymour Simons & Gerald Marks, arr. R. Stizel
Big Swing Face	William O. Potts, arr. R. Sigler

INTERMISSION

String Orchestra

Bruce Sloat, Conductor

Overture to "Lucio Silla"	W.A. Mozart, arr. Sandra Dackow
MacPherson's Lament (A Scottish Air)	arr. Dean Marshall & Bob Phillips
Music from Pirates of the Caribbean	Klaus Bedelt, arr. L. Moore

Sinfonia Orchestra

Gjorgj Kroqi, Conductor

Italian Symphony No. 4, Mvt. 1	Felix Mendelssohn, arr. R. England
Perseus	Soon Hee Newbold
March of the Resistance (From "Star Wars": The Force Awakens)	John Williams, arr. P. Lavender
Radetzky March	Johann Strauss (Vater), arr. Zeng In Son

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



THE PROGRAM

CONCERT 2, 5:00 PM

Virtuosi Orchestra

Britney Alcine, Conductor

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80	Johannes Brahms, arr. J. Frederick Müller
Suite from Hamilton	Lin-Manuel Miranda, arr. J. Brubaker
Millenium	Richard Meyer

Philharmonic Orchestra

Polina Nazaykinskaya, Conductor

Cantilever	Gidong Kim
Once Upon a Spring	Konstantin Soukhovetski
Ouverture C-moll, Op. 62 “Coriolan”	Ludwig van Beethoven

Senior Graduation and Awards

Principal Orchestra

Christopher Hisey, Conductor

Lyric for Strings	George Walker
<i>Conducted by Damali Willingham</i>	

Concerto No. 3 in B minor, Op. 61	Camille Saint-Saëns
<i>I. Allegro non troppo</i>	

Michael Sigal, Violin

Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47	Dmitri Shostakovich
<i>III. Largo IV. Allegro non troppo</i>	



Michael Sigal, age 17, has been studying violin with Teri Einfeldt for 12 years at the Hartt School of Music. Michael is a senior at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, where he plays in the school and chamber orchestras. Michael has been a violinist with the Apollo Quartet since 2016 and has participated in several youth orchestra programs. He participated in the CMEA

Western Regional and All State Orchestras all four of his high school years and was accepted into the 2021 All-Nationals Festival. Michael has also participated in summer programs, including Kinhaven and Music Adventure in Italy. Michael joined GCTYO in 2022. In his school, Michael is the concertmaster of the FLHS Chamber and Philharmonic Orchestras, a member of Tri-M (Music Honor Society) and a baritone leader in chorus.

A Message from Music Director Christopher Hisey

Today is the close of another wonderful season of music making at GCTYO. I honestly don't know where the time goes. Our students have grown so much, both musically and otherwise, during this season.

Our biggest organizational accomplishment this year has been the creation of our strategic plan. If you haven't read it yet, I encourage you to do so. Scroll to the bottom of our website for a link to see it. The plan is comprehensive and will guide our visioning for the next 3-5 years, with specific benchmarks and goals to be achieved.

One part of our work is to continue to make our audition process more transparent. We are considering ways to provide yearly written feedback for students. We will also be looking at adding an ensemble-specific excerpt for each orchestra which will give students a chance to demonstrate the skills they need to advance to the next level.

Our next area of focus is improving curriculum to help us better support our students. We will be writing a “portrait of a graduate” document which will detail what our students should be able to do musically by the time they graduate from GCTYO. From there we will work backwards to create a curriculum designed to get each of our students to that place. We understand that not every student in our program shares the goal of graduating from Principal Orchestra. We will explore ways to make sure each student can have the journey they want through our program while receiving the support they need.

All of this is coupled with our continuing work on DEI-B (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) initiatives, including breaking down barriers that may have prevented past students from achieving their individual goals within our program.

We are thankful for Stanford Thompson, Emma Terrell, and Paige Kerrigan from Goldsmith Strategies. They have guided us through the strategic planning process and helped us zero in on the issues that we felt needed the most attention. Additionally, we are thankful for Rydell Harrison, our educational consultant who has been leading discussions with our teaching artists this year on creating safe and effective rehearsals and community spaces which reflect our core values and mission.

Our work is only just beginning, and to quote a poem, “We have miles to go before we sleep.” This strategic plan puts us on great footing to be able to make the changes and progress we need and want to make. I look forward to continuing the work and sharing results with you. Stay tuned! (pun intended)

In closing, I want to congratulate our graduating seniors. We are proud of everything they have accomplished and the contributions they have made to our program and our community. We wish them well as they embark on this next journey in their lives and have fond wishes for their continued success.

Steel Pan Orchestra Future Stars

Vyom Dhir, Trumbull	Kellan Price, Fairfield
Matthew Gallo-Gomez, Trumbull	Sheimary Raices, Bridgeport
Angel Guzman, Bridgeport	Sophia Rivera, Bridgeport
Jude Jacob, Trumbull	Elijah Solano, Monroe

Steel Pan Orchestra Junior Stars


Ella Bienstock, Westport	Nathali Reyes, Stratford
Kai Harris, Bridgeport	Benjamin Solano, Monroe
Evan Nani, Easton	Isaiah Solano, Monroe
Walter Pineda, Bridgeport	Susana Velasquez, Stamford
Kaia Price, Fairfield	

Steel Pan Orchestra All Stars

Alexander Cunningham, Fairfield	Rhys Rader, Stratford
William Dina, Stratford	Sohana Reed, Southport
Yohann Domingue, Bridgeport	Serenidy Rowe, Bridgeport
Conor Glynn, Trumbull	Jorge Sena, Stamford
Max Jessee, Milford	

Percussion Orchestra

Shrey Bandari, Fairfield	Rhys Rader, Stratford
Israel Isidor, Stratford	Jorge Sena, Stamford
Max Jessee, Milford	Samuel Wallace, Orange
@*Sarah Lacugna, Fairfield	



Jim Royle
director
CT Chapter President, PAS
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www.jimroyledrumstudio.com
e-mail jroyledrumstudio@aol.com
1548 Wood Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604

Jazz II Orchestra

Flute Ailyn Martinez-Ocampo, Stamford	Trumpet Adan Wang, Westport Jacob Yi, Stratford
Clarinet *Nathaly Barreto, Fairfield	Trombone Daniel Church, Norwalk Zephaniah Denu, New Canaan
Saxophone - Alto Enrique Arango, Stamford Diego Bars, Trumbull	Bass Lydia Buzbee, Stratford *Julia Speretta, Fairfield
Saxophone - Tenor Gemma Panarese, Fairfield	Piano Tamanna Aravind, Bethel
Trumpet Emily Barreto, Fairfield *Joseph Reed, Southport	Drums Samuel Wallace, Orange

Wind Orchestra

Flute Mateo deCastro, Stratford Averie Douglas, Stratford Kennedy James, Stratford Emma Polletta, Stamford Nathali Reyes, Stratford	Alto Sax Diego Bars, Trumbull Ottmar Toledo Toral, Stamford
Clarinet Luke Cordell, Trumbull Mina Huh, Orange Aiden Klein, Stratford Isabel Mejia Flores, Stamford Giulia Rollo, Stratford	Trumpet Oliver Lanese, Stratford Ella Reed, Fairfield *Joseph Reed, Southport
	Trombone Zephaniah Denu, New Canaan *Justin Jendrock, Westport

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

Flute

Eli Gill, Milford

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

Trombone

*Maadhav Subramanian, Westport
Kavan Patel, Weston
*Ella Flowers, Stratford

Piano

Nate Alphonso-Arnold, Fairfield

Bass

@*Virginia Grabovsky, Monroe

Drums

Kai Harris, Bridgeport

Sinfonia Orchestra

Violin I

Carrie Chang, Orange –
Principal

Claire Bailey-Gates, Fairfield
Nina Ghahremani, Westport
*Jin Huh, East Lyme
Evan Lawrence, Fairfield
*Mallory MacIlvain, Fairfield
Adrian Rebello, Westport
Leanne Wong, Westport
Joseph Yong, Southbury
Rachel Yong, Southbury

Violin II

Jimmy Wu, Trumbull –
Principal

*Anjali Bandari, Fairfield
Olivia Churchill, Fairfield
William Curran, Old Saybrook
Natedine Fabian, Stratford
Reva Kulkarni, Trumbull
Edie McDonald, Fairfield
Jeein Na, Fairfield
Ryan Oh, Wilton
*Nilay Parmar, Orange
Dinuka Periyapperuma, Westport
SiYi Robifker, Monroe
Penelope Ting, Weston

Viola

Luke Shalhoub, Fairfield –
Principal

*Danielle Ajayi, Southbury
Gianna Coppola, Milford
Laila Matmati, Monroe
Cara Sato-Connell, Fairfield

Cello

Ellawood Pullen, Fairfield –
Principal
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

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
Aman Berhe, Trumbull
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
Brodan Nelson, Stratford
Khaleesi Noriega, West Haven
Sofia Palisi, Fairfield
Neva Peltek, Monroe
Kyla Reisberg, Southport
Ariisa Soung, Stratford

Viola

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

Cello

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

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Virtuosi Orchestra

Violin I

*Tamanna Aravind, Bethel –
Concertmaster
 Jayden Zhang, Fairfield –
Assistant Concertmaster
 *Zachary Feuer, Wilton
 Camille Irby, Milford
 Juana Levano, Stamford
 Sophia Li, Orange
 Anamika Martins, Southport
 En Qiao, Trumbull
 Jamie Quispe, Stamford
 Kristin Wells, Lakeville

Violin II

*Ali Hassan, Bridgeport –
Principal
 Joelyne Domingue, Bridgeport
 Christian Dopf, Fairfield
 *Meghan Elterich, Fairfield
 Kelsi Fleischer, Milford
 Camryn Irby, Milford
 Riya Patel, Orange
 Peyton Schleef, Weston
 Susana Sebourne, Bridgeport
 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

Cello

Adrien Moyer, Bethany
 Mauricio Quintana, Fairfield

Bass

Lydia Buzbee, Stratford –
Principal
 Nex Bedoya, Stratford

Flute

Sharai Guerra, Danbury –
Principal
 *Natalie Hartono, Westport
 *Samarvir Rakwal, Windsor Locks
 Nika Stepanov, Stamford

Oboe

*Grace Trusilo, Niantic
Principal

Clarinet

Alexander Polletta, 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

*Luke Bergman, Salem –
Concertmaster
 *Mark Cassa, Fairfield
 *Saanvi Chintapalli, Trumbull
 Anne Codd, Trumbull
 Grace English, Fairfield
 Conor Glynn, Trumbull
 Kyleigh Higgins, Stratford
 Vikram Kumar, Trumbull
 Nathaniel Thomas, Fairfield
 Jessica Yu, Salem

Violin II

Gabriella Gonzalez, Bridgeport –
Principal
 Vaanya Dhir, Trumbull
 *Irene Kim, Branford
 Duncan Kolb, Newtown
 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
 Tyler Haggerty, Fairfield

Cello

*Eliza Choi, Fairfield –
Principal
 Sam Bruderman, Fairfield
 Liam Donovan, Fairfield
 *Daniel Guerreiro, Fairfield
 Julian Horst, East Lyme
 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

Adan Wang, Westport –
Principal

Trombone

*Ella Flowers, Stratford –
Principal
 Chloe Chang, Orange
 Avery Kalter, Westport
 *Maadhav Subramanian, Westport

Percussion

Jorge Sena, Stamford –
Principal
 Shrey Bandari, Fairfield
 Samuel Wallace, Orange

Principal Orchestra

Violin I

@^W*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
 @*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
 Tyler Haggerty, Fairfield

Cello

^FAlexander Parent, Fairfield –
Principal
 @^F*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
 *^FKazuho Yasuno, Orange
 Elias Kolb, Newtown
 *Valerie Cheng, Waterford
 *Jasper Gallas, Fairfield
 Shivali Kanthan, Westport
 Anna Ridihalgh, Trumbull

Bass

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

Flute

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

Piccolo

#Magnolia Stone, Larchmont, NY –
Principal

Oboe

@^F*Nolan Medalla, Wilton –
Principal
 Maytal Meskin, Fairfield
 *McKenzie Forte, Milford
 Natalie Cunningham, Fairfield
 @*Vander Zimmerman, Farmington

Principal Orchestra (cont.)

Clarinet

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

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

Trombone

@*Nick D'Andrea, Fairfield
 *Kevin McGuire, Derby

Percussion

@*Sarah Lacugna, Fairfield –
Principal
 Rhys Rader, Stratford

^WConcerto Competition Winner

^FConcerto Competition Finalist

*CMEA Regional Festival participant

@CMEA All State Festival participant

#NYSSMA participant





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



**"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



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



Congratulations McKenna!

We have loved watching
you grow and listening to
you play for 10 years with
GCTYO. Looking forward
to what's next!
We love you!
Love, Naune, Poppy



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



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



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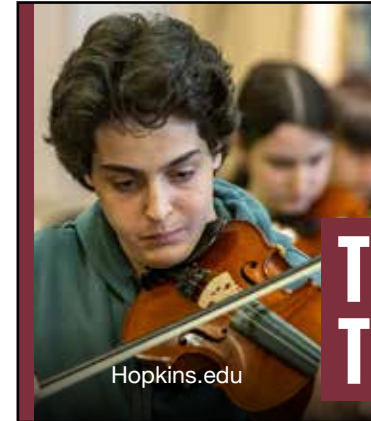
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