

Westchester Chamber Soloists

Visit us at: www.WestchesterChamberSoloists.com

Mina Kim (Guest Conductor) currently serves as the Director of the Purchase Symphony Orchestra at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music and has performed a spectrum of symphonic, operatic and choral works with world-class performers such as Joshua Bell, Daniel Philips and Black Violin. She has also appeared as guest conductor with orchestras in the US and Europe. An active concert pianist, she gave her New York debut recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2007. Ms. Kim earned a B.M. at Busan National University in South Korea, and an M.M. and Artist Diploma at Purchase College in Piano Performance. Since 2006, Ms. Kim has been on the faculty at the Purchase College where she lectures and coaches/mentors students.

Yolanda F. Johnson (Soprano) is a performing artist, philanthropist, composer, educator, and supporter of the arts and women's equity. She has performed nationally and internationally in many musical venues including opera, concert, oratorio and sacred music. Yolanda is also an active recitalist/lecturer on several musical subjects, specifically spirituals as related to the Underground Railroad and the works of women composers. She made her New York City debut in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Yolanda is also a current International Advisory Board member of and the former Representative for the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development to the United Nations. For additional information on Yolanda's diverse pursuits, visit www.yolandafjohnson.com.

Alan Schaffer (clarinet) holds a BS in Engineering from Duke, and an MD degree from Tulane, and focuses his medical practice in the areas of Sleep and Obesity medicine and metabolic health. He has performed with the 92nd Street Y's amateur chamber music program, with the Alaria Chamber Ensemble and the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project in Schlading, Austria. He has performed all of the major clarinet sonatas and most of the major chamber works for clarinet, and has performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with WCS in 2023. Alan currently plays clarinets by Backun, the MoBa series, a set from 2017, previously owned by David Shifrin.

Marc Wager (French horn) currently plays with the St. Thomas Orchestra and the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra; his previous tenures have included the Albert Einstein Symphony and the Chappaqua Chamber Orchestras. He has also appeared with the Ridgefield Symphony and with the Bermuda and New York Philharmonics. In addition to his ensemble work, Marc has appeared as guest soloist with orchestras in works including Weber's Concertino and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Winds. He has performed in over 200 musicals and operas. A graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Wager earned his medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and has devoted his professional practice to Pediatrics.

Rosemary Dellinger (bassoon) studied bassoon performance at SUNY Purchase and Yale School of Music. She played principal bassoon with La Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo, Venezuela for four years after completing her musical studies. She holds two advanced degrees in Multicultural education and Spanish from Fairfield University and the University of Salamanca, Spain. Ms. Dellinger plays with the American Chamber Orchestra and has performed with the Broadway Bach Ensemble, The Norwalk Symphony, The Greenwich Symphony, The Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble

and frequently plays with other groups in the greater CT area. She is a member of two active woodwind quintets - Madera Winds and Continuo Winds. A retired Spanish teacher, she resides in Norwalk with her husband.

Justin Stewart (oboe) is a former doctoral candidate in oboe performance at the University of Missouri Kansas City who took a long break from performing and teaching to build a career in technology. Today Justin wears many uniforms: he works for the New York Army National Guard, New York Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When not busy with cyber security projects he teaches private lessons and plays oboe with the Manhattanville Orchestra and the Westchester Community Orchestra.

Westchester Chamber Soloists

* Concertmasters

** Soloists

Violin

Francesca Abusamra
Kate Ashby
Clare Detko
Lori Horowitz
David Lane
Lucie Onderwyzer *
Robert Plotkin
David Restivo
Dana Villarreal *

Viola

Monica Gerard (principal)
Anne-Marie Mot
Elizabeth Nilsen-Baumwoll

Cello

Jacqueline Bergson
Lisa Olsson
Bernard Tamosaitis

Bass

Thomas Bastone

Flute

Amy Hersh

Oboe

Cynthia Campbell-Brion
Cece Olivier
Justin Stewart **

Clarinet

Alan Schaffer **

French Horn

Kathy Davidson
Susan Davidson
Marc Wager **

Bassoon

Rosemary Dellinger **

Soprano

Yolanda F. Johnson **

WCS Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, April 7 (3:00pm) WCS collaborates with Sarah Lawrence College's Music, Dance, Film and Visual Arts faculty and students in a multi-disciplinary program blending diverse artistic expressions, also to include Mozart's 'Jupiter' Symphony

Sunday, May 19 (3:00pm) WCS presents a program featuring Mozart's Concerto for Flute & Harp and Schumann's Piano Concerto, an Opera Overture by Rossini and a *World Premiere* work by Ovidiu Marinescu, who returns to SLC to conduct the program.

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Westchester Chamber Soloists, Inc. is a New York State incorporated registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit. Contributions to WCS are tax-deductible under Federal and NY State law. Copies of WCS' IRS tax-exemption letter are available on request. WCS appreciates any and all contributions so that the organization can continue to enrich the cultural life of the Westchester County community. [Email: WCSoloists@gmail.com](mailto:WCSoloists@gmail.com)

Westchester Chamber Soloists

Saturday, February 10, 2024 (7:30pm)
Sarah Lawrence College / Reisinger Auditorium



Mina Kim (Guest Conductor)

with Soloists: Rosemary Dellinger (bassoon), Alan Schaffer (clarinet), Justin Stewart (oboe), Marc Wager (French horn) and Yolanda F. Johnson (Soprano)



WCS Website



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Our Performances



Westchester Chamber Soloists

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Today's concert has been underwritten by generous contributions
from **Lori Adel & Robert Horowitz**
in loving appreciation of **Suzanne Adel**
and by contributions from **Frank & Christine Cowan** and **Peter & Gila Acker**

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Mina Kim, Guest Conductor

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Starburst

Jessie Montgomery

Sinfonia Concertante for 4 Winds, K. 297b W.A. Mozart

Allegro
Adagio
Andante con Variazioni

Soloists: Justin Stewart (oboe) Alan Schaffer (clarinet)
Marc Wager (French horn) Rosemary Dellinger (bassoon)

~ **Intermission** ~

Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, D. 485 Franz Schubert

Allegro
Andante con moto
Menuetto, & Trio: allegro molto
Finale: Allegro vivace

Vocal Inspirations by African American Composers

Yolanda F. Johnson, Soprano

4 World Premiere arrangements for chamber orchestra

Give Me Jesus Moses Hogan (arr. Moshe Knoll)
Night Florence Price (arr. David Fetherolf)
Clear Water Nadine Shanti (arr. David Fetherolf)
Ain't That Good News Moses Hogan (arr. Moshe Knoll)

Notes on Tonight's Program

Jessie Montgomery: Starburst Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981) is a composer, chamber musician and music educator, and her compositions focus on the vernacular, improvisation, language, and social justice. She began her violin studies at the Third Street Music School Settlement, holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, and completed a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia at NYU in 2012. Starting in 1999, Montgomery became involved with the Sphinx Organization, a Detroit-based nonprofit that supports young African American and other string players. According to the composer, *Starburst* (2018), a "brief one-movement work for string orchestra, is a play on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors. Exploding gestures are juxtaposed with gentle fleeting melodies in an attempt to create a multidimensional soundscape. A common definition of a starburst: "the rapid formation of large numbers of new stars in a galaxy at a rate high enough to alter the structure of the galaxy significantly" lends itself almost literally to the nature of the performing ensemble who premieres the work, The Sphinx Virtuosi, and I wrote the piece with their dynamic in mind." (www.JessieMontgomery.com)

Franz Schubert: Symphony No. 5 Schubert's *Symphony No. 5* was written mainly in September 1816 and completed on 3 October 1816. Of all of Schubert's symphonies, it is scored for the smallest orchestra, and is the only one of his symphonies which does not include clarinets, trumpets or timpani as part of the instrumentation. In character, the writing is often said to resemble Mozart; Schubert was infatuated with the composer at the time he composed it, writing in his diary on June 13 of the year of composition, "O Mozart! Immortal Mozart! what countless impressions of a brighter, better life hast thou stamped upon our souls!" This is reflected particularly in the lighter instrumentation, as noted above. Indeed, the instrumentation matches that of the first version (without clarinets) of Mozart's 40th Symphony.

W.A. Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for 4 Winds in E-flat major Mozart is known through letters and concert announcements to have written a sinfonia concertante for flute, oboe, horn, and bassoon, the original score of which is lost, and there remains some debate about whether the extant piece is even related to the original work. He originally wrote a work for flute, oboe, horn, bassoon, and orchestra, K. Anh. 9 (297B), in Paris in April 1778, which was lost. In April 1778, Mozart wrote to his father from Paris about the sinfonia concertante he was writing for performance at the *Concert Spirituel* naming the four virtuoso soloists who were to play. He wrote that the four soloists were "in love with" the work and that Joseph Legros the Concert Spirituel director, had kept the score to have it copied. However, at the last minute Mozart's piece was displaced from the concert program and was never played, after which the original work became lost. The work as it is performed today came to light in 1869 as an anonymous copy manuscript in the collection of Otto Jahn. Jahn wrote the first scholarly biography of W. A. Mozart and had amassed a large quantity of Mozart letters, original manuscripts and score copies. These he made available to Köchel to assist with the creation of the Köchel catalogue of Mozart's work. There is considerable debate about the relation of this work as it is performed today to the lost original work, in part because the Jahn score has a somewhat different lineup of

soloists from the lost Mozart work, but also because it contains errors both of copying and composition.

Moses Hogan: Give Me Jesus, Ain't That Good News Moses Hogan (1957-2003) was an American composer and arranger of choral music. He was best known for his settings of spirituals. Over his lifetime, he published 88 arrangements for voice, eight of which were solo pieces. Hogan was awarded a full scholarship to the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and he subsequently did graduate studies at the Juilliard School. In 1980, he formed the *New World Ensemble* and began arranging choral music. In 1993, he founded the *Moses Hogan Chorale* and the following year published his first arrangement, "Elijah Rock".

Florence Beatrice Price: Night Florence Price (née **Smith**; 1887-1953) was an American classical composer, musician and teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music, and was long active in Chicago. Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Price composed over 300 works, including four symphonies and four concertos, as well as choral works, and music for solo instruments and chamber ensembles. In 2009, a substantial collection of her works and papers was found in her abandoned summer home. Although her training was steeped in European tradition, Price's music is in an American idiom and reveals her Southern roots. She frequently used the music of the African-American church as material for her arrangements. Her incorporation of elements from spirituals emphasized the rhythm and syncopation of the spirituals rather than just the text.

Nadine Shanti: Clear Water Nadine Shanti (b. 1953) was born and raised in New Orleans, and launched a career as a pop/jazz singer that included work in the Pacific Northwest and overseas in Japan, Indonesia and Okinawa. She has released two recording collections of original music, "Down Home" and "Violet's Lane" which are a synthesis of her jazz, pop, Latin, folk and theatre influences. She has toured extensively and was a guest teacher in music at the American International School in Lagos. Nadine continues to write and arrange music after retiring from actively performing and from teaching in Washington State public schools as a Music Specialist. (Source: ADMP, African Diaspora Music Project)

Sources: Wikipedia, unless otherwise noted.

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