

Westchester Chamber Soloists

Performer Profiles

June 4, 2023 Program

CONDUCTOR & SOLOISTS

GUEST CONDUCTOR: OVIDIU MARINESCU (conductor, cello soloist) is internationally recognized as a cellist, composer, conductor, and educator. He has appeared as conductor and as cello soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, in Shanghai, throughout Brazil, the United States, and his native Romania, and in many other major cultural centers, and his original compositions have been performed worldwide. He has also recorded J.S. Bach's complete Suites for solo Cello and recently released a recording with the London Symphony Orchestra in eight newly commissioned cello concertos. Mr. Marinescu's ongoing MOTO series, developed with Parma Recordings, has premiered works by nearly three dozen composers in both recordings and performance at Carnegie Hall. He is professor of cello at West Chester University (hometown of composer Samuel Barber) in Pennsylvania as well as founder and Artistic Director of the International Musicians Academy, an intensive program for aspiring artists.

LORI HOROWITZ (violin, soloist) began her musical training at the Westchester Conservatory of Music with Gabriel Banat. As a high school senior, during a foreign exchange program to Brazil, she served as a volunteer member of the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra. Lori continued her musical studies at Oberlin College before deciding to pursue a medical career. While in medical school she was a founding member of, and soloist with, the Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra. Music proved to be a wonderful antidote to the stress of medical and post-medical training. During those years she played at various times with the Riverside Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony, the 92nd St. Y Orchestra, the Bronx Chamber Orchestra and the Bronx Opera Company. Since settling back in Westchester, Lori has enjoyed a longstanding involvement with the St. Thomas Orchestra and serves as their concertmaster. She has also played with The Chappaqua Orchestra, now known as Orchestra 914. Decades later, Lori discovered music to be the best defense against a looming mid-life crisis. She returned to school to pursue her musical studies more formally, enrolling at Purchase College where she earned a Performer's Certificate in 2014 and a Master's Degree in Violin Performance in 2016. She enjoys performing in chamber music concerts around the county, including with the RiverArts Music Tour, and is a founding member of Westchester Chamber Soloists. Lori continues her violin studies with Calvin Wiersma. When not playing her violin, Lori maintains a practice of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry here in Westchester.

YOLANDA F. JOHNSON (soprano) has had an outstanding career as a performing artist and philanthropist; as a composer, as an educator, and as a supporter of the arts and women's equity. She completed her Bachelors degree in voice performance and graduate studies in voice, and an M.A. in Arts Management. Yolanda has performed nationally and internationally in many musical venues including opera, concert, oratorio and sacred music. She is an active recitalist/lecturer on several musical subjects, specifically spirituals as related to the Underground Railroad and the works of women composers. Yolanda has recorded an album of Spirituals, *Feel the Spirit!* and co-created *Music She Wrote*, a celebration of women composers, with colleagues, Dr. Brooke Bryant and Dr. Michael Eisenberg. She also actively composes new musical works. Yolanda made her New York City debut as Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and has performed in many venues and with various presenters across the country. Among the roles she has portrayed are: Magda Sorel in *The Consul*, Anita Hill in Ben Yarmolinsky's *Clarence and Anita* with Underworld Productions Opera Outreach, Noemie in Massenet's *Cendrillon* with New York Lyric Opera and Millie in Harriet Tubman: *When I Crossed that Line to Freedom* by Nkeiru Okoye. Yolanda is a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota International Women's Music Fraternity and has more than a decade of experience as a worship leader and church music director. She has been a featured presenter at Performing the World International Performing Arts Conference. She was also on the voice and

music composition faculty at the Mozartina Music Conservatory. In addition to her life as an artist, 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, a member of the board of trustees of the Hudson River Museum, Special Advisor to the American Composers Orchestra, board of directors of PowHer NY, board of directors of the Lehman College Art Gallery and was the first African American President in the more than 40-year history of Women In Development, New York. Yolanda is also the Founder and President of YFJ Consulting, LLC and Founder of Women of Color in Fundraising and Philanthropy (WOC)® and Allies in Action Membership Network™. With her successful performance background as the basis, Yolanda created *All the World's A Stage*, a workshop that uses performance practice for confidence building, public speaking, and making the ask for yourself both personally and professionally. www.yolandafjohnson.com.

ALAN MURRAY (piano, soloist) is founder and Executive & Artistic Director of *Westchester Chamber Soloists (WCS)*. Alan has appeared extensively in solo and chamber music recitals and as concerto soloist with symphony orchestras in the US and Europe, performing 60 Concertos to date, including those of Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Dvořák, Fauré, Franck, Gershwin, Liszt, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Scriabin, Strauss and Tchaikovsky, and recording in 2020 the complete cycle of Mozart's solo *Piano Concertos* as part of a YouTube-based "At-Home" pandemic-period concert series. His concerto performances are all available on the WCS and *Studio-Hollywood.com* websites. A dedicated chamber musician, Alan – together with WCS & Friends - has been a regular participant at the *RiverArts' Annual Music Tour* in the lower Hudson Valley, performing a diverse array of more than 50 chamber music masterpieces, from duos and trios through nonets, for piano, strings, winds and brass, and including Beethoven's and Brahms' complete *Sonatas for Violin & Piano* and for *Cello & Piano*, which are also available on the WCS website. As piano soloist, his *Masters Series* and *Sunrise Series* concerts in lower Westchester County, encompassed the complete cycles of major works by Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, Ravel and J.S. Bach as well as Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas and *Diabelli Variations* in a series of 40 recital programs. He plans to return to presenting solo performances in the 2024-25 season. Alan holds a degree in physics/cosmology and languages from Cornell University, where he also received a special *University Award* for distinguished piano recital soloist. His career has focused on insurance, risk analytics and capital markets, initially in the corporate actuarial group at AIG, and subsequently for more than 25 years as part of the analytics and management teams at ratings firm Moody's Investors Service; he is currently a member of management at Insurance Ratings & Research firm AM Best. Alan resides in Hastings with his wife Amada and daughter Celia, where they also long owned and operated *Galápagos Books*, a specialty bookstore originally focused on literature and language-learning materials in over 80 world languages that finally closed its doors in April 2023 after 35 years and is the underwriter of WCS' final concert for the Spring 2023 season.

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FRANCESCA ABUSAMRA (violin) Based in New York City, Francesca Abusamra is a violinist dedicated to creating an engaging and accessible musical experience. She is passionate about chamber music, formerly a founding member of the Opus87 Piano Quartet, which aimed to bring both new music and classical repertoire to a variety of audiences, touring the east coast from rural Maine to NYC. Francesca believes in the importance of working with living composers, regularly premiering new works in collaboration with student composers at the Manhattan School of Music. Most recently, she performed in the oNSET Collective as part of a collaboration between MSM and the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt. The international collaboration included students from both schools coming together to compose and perform new works representing their respective two cities of NYC and Weimar. Ms. Abusamra is also passionate about performances that interact with other artistic disciplines. In collaboration with choreographer Allison Armstrong of Golden Hour Dance, she created a project where live solo violin interacted with dancers. Abusamra also participated in a performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Gloria at Symphony Space with the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Orchestra, together with Dakshina Indian Dance Company. She completed both her Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees at the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Laurie Carney and Peter Winograd, both of the American String Quartet.

KATE ASHBY (violin) - is staff member of the new David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center at The Pocantico Center. She previously served as Artistic Director at RiverArts and had earlier served as Music Program Director and co-Producer of the RiverArts Music Tour. Kate is co-Artistic Director of Westchester Chamber Soloists and has played a leading role in producing its annual chamber music and orchestral programs since 2018. From 2018-2020, Kate was an Associate at

Primo Artists in New York, coordinating engagements for international classical soloists and conductors. Kate is a member of the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra and has performed widely with chamber vocal ensembles in the New York area, including Monteverdi's *Vespers* at Concordia and Bach's *St. John Passion* at Lincoln Center. Kate moved to New York from London in 1995 to pursue a career in modern dance and performed with Pilobolus in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, directed by John Eliot Gardiner, as well as in performances with Robert Battle, Parsons Dance Company, Merce Cunningham Repertory Group and others. Highlights include performances at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. A native of Liverpool, England, Kate holds a BA Honors Degree from University of Kent at Canterbury.

THOMAS BASTONE (contrabass) is a musician and music educator originally from White Plains, NY. He is currently the orchestra director at Harrison High School. Prior to his appointment in Harrison, he taught instrumental and general music in the Ossining and Spackenkill UFSDs, as well as with the Philadelphia String Project. An active freelancer in the Tri-State area, he is principal bass of the Taconic Opera Orchestra and the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, and has also performed with the Woodstock and the Northern Dutchess Symphonies. He has also been heard playing in the pit orchestras for various musicals at the White Plains Performing Arts Center in White Plains, and Westchester Broadway Theater in Elmsford. Mr. Bastone has been fortunate to perform overseas, with the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, and the Siena (January 2023) Music Festival Symphony and Opera Orchestras in Tuscany. Additionally, Mr. Bastone is an active member of several professional organizations, including NAFME, NYSSMA, ASTA and WCSMA. He was invited to present at the ASTA National Conferences in 2012 (Atlanta, GA) and 2013 (Providence, RI) regarding his work with the Philadelphia String Project. Mr. Bastone received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he studied double bass with Robert Kesselman of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He earned a Masters Degree in Music Education at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

JACQUELINE BERGSON ('cello) has played the 'cello since being introduced to it at a young age by her musician/teacher parents. She studied with Leslie Parnas and Michael Finckel, among others. Now retired from a career in librarianship, she has more time to devote to her love for chamber music and orchestral performance, currently playing with St. Thomas Orchestra, attending chamber music seminars, and playing with many friends who enjoy exploring the vast array of chamber music.

JOSHUA DANIELS (violin) has played professionally with the Greenwich Symphony, Westchester Symphony, Chappaqua Orchestra, Bridgeport Symphony and Ridgefield Symphony. He has also been a frequent participant at summer festivals, including Camp Greenwood, Downeast Chamber Music Center, Aspen Music Festival, Manchester Music Festival and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute. Joshua began his violin studies at age 4 with Alfred Garson in Montreal, and he continued his studies with Louise Behrend at the School for Strings in NYC and subsequently with Louise Behrend at the Julliard Pre-College division and with Stanley Bednar at the Manhattan School Pre-College Division. He attended the College Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati, studying with Conny Kiradjieff and Makoto Kaneshiro. Joshua was a member of National Orchestral Association (NOA), a professional training orchestra, while studying with Makoto Kaneshiro and Dorothy Delay at Sarah Lawrence College, and he earned BFA and MFA degrees at SUNY Purchase studying with Yuval Waldman and Daniel Phillips, subsequently continuing his studies with Chin Kim.

SUSAN DAVIDSON (horn) obtained bachelor degrees in horn performance and music education at Ball State University studying with Dr. Fred Ehnes and obtained a masters in horn performance from Ithaca College studying with John Covert. She then joined the Army as a "French Horn Specialist" assigned to the bands in Frankfurt and Heidelberg (Schwetzingen) Germany. While in Germany, she performed with the community orchestras in Wiesbaden and Ashaffenburg. She studied a short while with Xiao-Ming Han at the Hochschule for Musik in Saarbrücken. After successful auditioning at the West Point Band (WPB), she played in the horn section for 10 years before "hanging up" her horn to become the Director of Plans and Operations at the WPB for another 10 years. Upon retirement in 2017, after 26 years in the Army, she obtained an MSW in Social Work at NYU and works in the fields of mental health, addictions, and personal development as a Licensed Master of Social Work and an Advanced Certified Core Energetics Practitioner. She resumed playing three years ago with the Westchester Symphonic Winds and is delighted to be performing with the Westchester Chamber Soloists.

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, the, 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, and 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, the Westchester Chamber Soloists, 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.

RUSS EBERSOLE (trumpet) is a "Come Back" trumpet player after taking a thirty year hiatus. He currently performs with numerous groups throughout the Hudson Valley including The Westchester Symphonic Winds, The 89th New York Guard Band, The Queer Big Apple Corps Bands, The Maybrook Wind Ensemble and numerous other organizations. He is often called upon to perform TAPS at various civil and military ceremonies. Russ holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University and a Masters of Music Education degree from Syracuse University. He has studied trumpet with Anthony Pasquarelli, Wayne Cameron, James Hustis, George Coble and Charles Lirette.

PAUL GEIDEL (trombone) is a professional trombonist, singer, actor, conductor and arranger. As a trombonist, he has played with the Lake George Opera Festival, Norwalk Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic and many other orchestras. He is a long-time member of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players (NYGASP) Orchestra, and has also played for virtually every local opera company outside of Lincoln Center, including the Rockland Opera, Taconic Opera, Bronx Opera, New Rochelle Opera and many others. He has also performed with many local Big Bands and pit orchestras. Paul has a long resume of leading roles in operettas, operas, musicals and even a few plays. Recent local favorite roles include: The Man in the Chair (*Drowsy Chaperone*), Aaron in *Curtains* and John Jasper in *Edwin Drood*. He spent six seasons as Music Director of the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, and has long directed an A Cappella Jazz Ensemble in NYC, which performs many of his arrangements. Paul has for many years been Leader of Song at St. Philip Neri Church in the Bronx.

SAMUEL GLAZMAN (violin) is a graduate of Vilnius Lithuanian State Conservatory, (currently known as Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre) received his diploma with qualification as an Orchestral Soloist/Lecturer/Master's Degree in violin performance. Samuel's professional musical journey took him from the chair of assistant concertmaster at Kaunas Music Theatre of Lithuania to Haifa Symphony Orchestra (Israel), to being the subleader of Performing Arts Council of Transvaal (PACT) Symphony Orchestra (Pretoria, South Africa), to South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Symphony Orchestra (Johannesburg, South Africa). He then made the journey across the ocean to Canada, where He played for the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. The next stage of his career landed him in Maine, USA where he had resided for the last eighteen years. There he continued to perform and teach violin. He enjoyed participating in festivals such as the Pierre Monteux Opera Festival and Opera Festival of Maine under the direction of David Katz and played for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. Most recently Mr. Glazman has performed with the Chappaqua Symphony, Bronx Symphony and Opera. Throughout his career thus far, Samuel has had the privilege of accompanying soloists such as Isaac Stern, Malcolm Frager, Misha Maisky, Vladimir Landsman, and Boris Belkin. He has performed under the baton of Alexander Schneider, Louis Lane, Yoav Talmi, and Victor Yampolsy. He also accompanied artists in the "popular genre" of music including Ray Charles, Diana Ross, and Juliette Price. Samuel was chosen to be the first violinist in a string quartet to play Stravinsky (*L'Histoire du Soldat*) at a Phish Concert. Currently, Samuel Glazman resides in White Plains, New York where he looks forward to continuing his musical career.

ELLEN GRUBER (oboe) is a New York City-based oboist, currently studying Orchestral Performance with Sherry Sylar at the Manhattan School of Music. She previously attended the Peabody Institute, where she obtained degrees in oboe performance, recording arts and sciences, and acoustics. Ellen has played in a variety of ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the MSM Symphony Orchestra, and the Peabody Symphony Orchestra. She has also

attended several music festivals and masterclasses, including Interharmony Music Festival, Hidden Valley Music Seminar and Eastern Music Festival. Ellen was part of Peabody's Inaugural Sensory Friendly Performance Project, where she played chamber music in a concert with the Musical Autist, an organization of musicians with autism. She has performed chamber music in other settings as well, including on Peabody's Friday Noon:30 concert series and on a Showcase concert at Interharmony in Aquil Terme, Italy. In her spare time, Ellen loves to cook and bake, as well as play with her dog, Henry.

SETH JACOBS (cello) studied with Donald McCall, Alexander Goldfield, and William Klenz and has appeared with a number of Westchester-based chamber music groups and orchestras. This is his fifth year performing in the RiverArts Music Tour. Seth lives in Cortlandt Manor with his wife, pianist Cynthia Peterson.

JONATHAN KANTOR (cello) began cello studies, age 7 as a student of Seymour Benstock, and attended the Banff Festival, where his lifelong interest in chamber music began. He is a longtime member of the Saint Thomas Orchestra and has also played with Westchester Collegium and Chappaqua Orchestra. Jon is a former board member of the American Symphony Orchestra and Westchester Conservatory of Music, as well as USI, Inc., Continental Casualty Company and American Casualty Company. He holds degrees from Brown University (1976) and Columbia Law School (1980) and made his career as partner at law firm Shea & Gould, subsequently as Executive Vice President and General Counsel at CNA Financial Corporation, and in recent years as General Counsel at Bowhead Specialty Underwriters, from which he recently retired.

AMANDA KEIL (horn) Amanda Keil performs regularly as both a French horn player and a soprano. She has played with New York-area ensembles such as Westchester Symphonic Winds, Doctor's Orchestra, Jackson Heights Symphony Orchestra, Queer Urban Orchestra. As a soprano, Ms. Keil has performed with The Boston Camerata, Oregon Bach Festival, and Dicapo Opera Theatre, and the International Early Music Festival in Riga, Latvia. Hailed for her "clear and lucid" singing by *The New York Times*, Amanda founded and directed Musica Nuova, a chamber opera company. Ms. Keil holds a masters degree in voice and historical performance from Boston University and a bachelor's degree in French horn performance from The Hartt School.

PAUL-LUCIEN KULKA (flute) is member, arranger and adapter of the "New-York Metropolitan Flute trio" and was a member of the French National Police Orchestra before moving to New York in 2019. His musical education began at the age of 6 in Saint-Raphaël, France, and he entered the Nice Conservatory at age 14 in the flute class of Jean Ornetti, where he was awarded a 1st Prize Gold Medal in 1979. The following year, Mr. Kulka won the Prize for the town of Nice. Mr. Kulka went on to study at the Regional Conservatory of Lyon under the tutelage of Marius Beuf, and he received the Lyon Regional Conservatory's Gold Medal upon his graduation in 1982. He also studied with Alain Marion in the Nice Summer Music Academia and with Christian Lardé at the Paris Music Academia. Mr. Kulka was an educator in several music schools in the Lyon area and moved to Paris upon winning the seat in the prestigious French National Police Orchestra, with whom he toured Japan and Morocco. Playing flute and piccolo, Mr. Kulka also performed with The RATP Orchestra (Subway Orchestra of Paris), the Synaxis Orchestra in Rousse, Bulgaria, and as a soloist with a variety of other ensembles. Since relocating to New York in 2019, Mr. Kulka has been a member of the Lehman College & Community Concert Band, the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, the Brooklyn Woodwind Symphony (until Dec. 2022), the New Westchester Symphony Orchestra and the Flute Choir of New York.

JOHN LANG (contrabass)

LAURA MACBETH (violin) studied violin at Interlochen National Music Camp during high school, and with Nancy Cirillo at Wellesley College and later with Kyung Chee at the University of Washington. She has performed with many orchestras and chamber groups over the years, including the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Mahler Festival Orchestra, and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony of Manhattan. As soloist, Laura has performed J.S. Bach's A minor violin concerto and the trio version of Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat with New York City's Chamber Orchestra of Science and Medicine. She works as a pediatrician at WestMed Medical Group in Rye.

LEIF MITCHELL (viola) is from Seattle, Washington and earned his BA in viola performance and Music history from Western Washington University. He has played in many local orchestras to Seattle, including the Bremerton

Symphony, Whatcom Symphony and has played with the Gilbert and Sullivan company of Seattle. An avid chamber musician, Leif has taught in chamber music camps in the Seattle area including Vivace! Chamber camp and was a long time member of the Marrowstone music festival. Having just moved to Westchester a few months ago he is incredibly excited to join WCS and to get integrated into the local musical community!

ANNE-MARIE MOT (viola) was born in Brussels, Belgium and came to New-York in 1988 on a Fulbright scholarship, to study at Manhattan School of Music with Doctor Mikowsky. Graduating in 1990 with the first ever Master Degree in Two Piano Performance, she and her twin sister Monique started a performance career as a two piano ensemble, "The Mot Sisters". Together, they performed at several venues in New-York, Connecticut, Washington DC and Miami. They also played live on WNYC New-York, and appeared on the television show "entr'acte" on RTL, Brussels. Prize-winners at the Murray Drannoff International Two Piano Competition in Miami, Florida, they went on to make the world premiere recording of two of its commissioned works: Recuerdos by William Balcom, and Two Pianos by Morton Gould. The recording is available on Amazon. The Motts sisters performed this summer with the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, at the *Rencontres Musicales de Tannay*, and performed the duo-piano parts with orchestra in Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. Apart from the piano duo, Anne-Marie is also an experienced viola player. As a string player, she plays with many string quartets and ensemble. She has performed in San Francisco, Lexington (Virginia), New Jersey and New York. She is currently a member of the St. Thomas Orchestra in Westchester, and has performed the cycle of J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* with the Westchester Chamber Soloists. Anne-Marie has been teaching piano in Westchester since 1990, at Hackley School, the Masters School, and has now a very successful private studio along the Rivertowns. Recently, joining her passion for music and horses, Anne Marie is also a Freestyle designer (musicalhorse.com), and edits the musical part of the dressage freestyle, for amateur riders.

LIZ NILSEN-BAUMWOLL (viola) has performed with the Albany Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Manhattan Chamber Orchestra and the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. She is also a founding member of the Rivertown String Quartet. Liz earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at SUNY Purchase (now Purchase College), and a Masters of Fine Arts at the Mannes College of Music. She also has a Masters in Teaching from Lehman College (CUNY) and Suzuki Teacher Certification from the School for Strings. She studied with notables Emanuel Vardi, Karen Ritscher, Burton Kaplan, and Joey Corpus, and is herself a former faculty member of the Hudson River School of Music, Hoff-Barthelson Music School, the 92nd Street Y, and Greenwich Public Schools.

MARY OLSSON (bassoon) has been playing bassoon since the 1960s, and studied with Phillip Long in Boston, and subsequently with Joyce Kelley since moving to New York many years ago. Thru the years she has played with the Yonkers Philharmonic, the Chappaqua Orchestra (now Orchestra914), the Riverside Orchestra in NYC, the Albert Einstein Orchestra, the St. Thomas Orchestra, and the Connecticut-based American Chamber Orchestra. She has also performed with the New Rochelle and Amato Operas. Also a committed chamber musician, Mary has played and performed with the Manor House Quintet for many years.

KELLY ORAM (trumpet) is a music educator and freelance trumpet player in the tri-state area. A Colorado native, he taught music in the New York and Colorado public school systems for 30 years, including more than 13 years teaching special needs children at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla. A longtime member of the Westchester Symphonic Winds, Kelly has also performed with several orchestras, bands and brass groups in the area. He teaches privately and plays in as many musical ensembles as his family will allow.

SACHI PATITUCCI (cello) is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has worked as a freelance musician in New York and Los Angeles, performing concerts and recording on many film and television soundtracks and albums. She was a founding member of *Cello*, an all-female cello quartet who had their debut at Carnegie Recital Hall and has frequently performed and recorded in chamber music groups with musicians such as Lawrence Dutton of the *Emerson String Quartet* and Richard Rood of *Orpheus Chamber Orchestra*. She toured the world as a soloist with various pop musicians and appeared in music videos and television shows. Sachi earned a Professional Certificate in Music Supervision from Berklee College of Music during the pandemic, is manager for her husband's music career, and serves as the CEO of their independent record label, *Three Faces Records*.

CHRISTOPHER PEÑA (clarinet) currently serves as Registrar at the Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale, NY. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Clarinet Performance from Ithaca College where he studied under Richard Faria and Richard MacDowell. Other esteemed mentors include Alan Kay, Jean Kopperud, Laurence Liberson, Kenneth Grant, Hakan Rosengren, Michael Webster, and the bass clarinet duo, "Sqwonk." Christopher has previously been featured on American classical radio station WQXR for his performance of Igor Stravinsky's Octet for Winds alongside fellow members of the Round Top International Festival Institute. As a music educator, Christopher has taught privately in Bergen County, NJ and was previously on the faculty at Scherzo Music Studio in Summit, NJ. Currently, he performs as principal clarinet with the Westchester Symphonic Winds, a community wind ensemble based in Tarrytown, NY where he also serves as secretary on the Board of Directors.

JOHN REID (trumpet) has been a freelance artist for over 30 years. He started in Nashville, working and touring with country music icons including The Charlie Daniels Band, Brenda Lee and the Gatlin Brothers and showed his stylistic versatility as co-founder of and performing as a member of "Brass Works" brass quintet for ten years. He then relocated to NYC where he continued to tour, record and play on Broadway for the last 20 years. John's numerous Broadway credits include *Showboat*, *Seussical*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Ghost* and *Rocky*. John holds a master's degree in trumpet performance from George Peabody College and while enjoying a busy performing career has taught private trumpet at many schools including, Belmont College (Nashville), Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro, and at The Hackley School, RiverArts, and the Cortlandt School for the Performing Arts here in Westchester.

ALYSSA REIT (harp) Alyssa Reit is an independent composer, arranger, performer, teacher, and storyteller. As a harpist, she has performed with institutions ranging from the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera, to contemporary music groups and Irish bands. She has given concerts with John Cage, toured Europe with the legendary Martha Clarke, and traveled the U.S. playing with the world famous vocal group, Anonymous 4. Her main body of work has been creating theatrical-musical settings of myths, classic stories, and fairy tales; her settings have been performed at such venues as the Caramoor Center for the Arts and NYU Steinhardt's storytelling series. Alyssa's compositions and arrangements have been played at events sponsored by the Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Greenwich Symphony, as well as at festivals all over the world, most recently at Encontro Internacional de Cordas in Brazil. Other commissions and projects include several H. C. Andersen productions for the Scandinavian Summer Music Festival, a collaboration with flutist Sato Moughalian to arrange and record traditional Armenian folk music (*Oror*), a multiple movement piece for ten horns and percussion, and a setting of a Lenape Indian Creation myth for storyteller and lever harp. Alyssa currently teaches from her private studio in upper Westchester, and performs regularly with her husband, acclaimed French hornist Peter Reit.

SAMUEL RISS (trombone)

JUSTIN STEWART (oboe) Justin Stewart 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.

BERNARD TAMOSAITIS (cello) was born in Brooklyn, New York and studied at the Juilliard School with Channing Robbins, where he graduated with a B.A. in violoncello. As principal of the Bellas Artes Orchestra of Mexico City and subsequently as a member of the Quinteto de Xalapa, a resident chamber ensemble at the University of Veracruz, Mr. Tamosaitis performed extensively throughout Mexico and Latin America. As cello soloist, he has performed on tour with the New York Symphonic Ensemble, and with the Sinfonica de El Salvador, the Sound Shore and in May 2019 performed the Schumann Cello Concerto with the St. Thomas Orchestra. Mr. Tamosaitis is a member of Canta Libre, a chamber ensemble which frequently performs throughout the region. Canta Libre's CD of French chamber music for harp, flute and strings was hailed by BBC Music Magazine as its CD of the month in 2013. In 2002, Mr. Tamosaitis founded the St. Thomas Orchestra and served as its Music Director for twenty years.

ELIZABETH TSUNG (violin) is an acoustic/electric violinist and composer based in NYC. Elizabeth received her Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She has performed with different

orchestras and ensembles in the NYC area, such as Orchestra 914, Catskill Symphony Orchestra, Long Island Concert Orchestra, Purchase Symphony Orchestra, Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, MacHaydn Theater, Milton Theater, Vanguard Theater and more. She has released two EPs of her compositions featuring herself playing violin and piano, and has performed her compositions live for New York Fashion Week and The Stissing Center.

CHRIS TYRRELL (timpani) is a Westchester-based drummer & percussionist. He has played with various groups such as the Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the New Westchester Symphony Orchestra. Chris has also been the drummer for the Manhattanville College drama department's musicals - Legally Blonde, Damn Yankees and Something Rotten. He is currently pursuing a BA in Music at the University of New Haven where he looks forward to being part of their Marching Band in the fall. Chris is honored to be playing with the Westchester Chamber Soloists with guest conductor Mina Kim.

IAN VLAHOVIĆ (horn) has performed with myriad ensembles in venues including The Caramoor Center for Music and Arts, Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium, Weill Hall), David Geffen Hall, Merkin Hall, and The New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He is a regular member of the Adelphi Orchestra (Oradell, NJ), the Richmond County Orchestra (Staten Island), and the Westchester Symphonic Winds (Tarrytown, NY). A certified K-12 music teacher, Ian graduated from the Mason Gross School of the Arts (Rutgers University) with a double degree in Music Education and Spanish. His horn instructors and mentors include Dr. Douglas Lundeen, Jeffrey Lang, and Denise Tryon. In addition to freelancing as a musician in the tri-state area, he recently earned his Master of Public Policy from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy (Rutgers University). Ian combines his passion for music and policy as co-founder, Director of Operations, and Board Chair of PROTESTRA, an activist orchestra that highlights pertinent social issues through the context of classical music; learn more at www.protestra.org.

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 with notables Glenn Dicterow and Karen Dreyfus, and remains an active chamber musician, appearing with Angels in the Chamber and the former Amber Woodwind Quintet, and at chamber music programs at Bennington College and Kinhaven, and 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.

TERESA WAGER (flute, piccolo) has performed as a freelance flutist in orchestras, chamber groups, and pits for opera and musical theatre. Terry performs regularly with the St. Thomas Orchestra, based in Mamaroneck, as well as with the Amber Woodwind Quintet and the Rye Country Day School Festival Orchestra and Chorus. She recently was the flute soloist for the world premiere of Robert Puleo's "Oh Music". She is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where she also later served as Associate Director and member of the faculty of its Preparatory Division for 25 years. Since 2003, she has been on the administrative staff of Hoff-Barthelsson Music School in several different capacities.

KARL WATSON (violin, saxophone) is a very active and versatile musician. A professional since the age of 19, he performs regularly on a number of instruments in a wide variety of styles, from classical, to jazz, Latin-jazz, rock, funk and other genres. His services are much in demand throughout the tri-state area for concerts, club dates, festivals, parades, and weddings. Since 1998 he has served as the Technical Coordinator of the Music Department at Lehman College, where he also plays saxophone in the Jazz and Latin Jazz Bands, clarinet in the Symphony Orchestra, bass clarinet in the Concert Band, and is the director of the Saxophone Ensemble. Elsewhere around the region, he is a violinist in the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, Manager of the Westchester Band, and appears regularly with the Bronx Conexión Latin Jazz Big Band, New Rochelle Jazz Orchestra, CUNY All-Star Jazz Band, Westchester Pops, White Plains Pops, Concert Pops of Long Island, Yonkers Concert Band, Yonkers Military Band, Tappan Zee Bridgemen, Preachermann & the Revival, Jungle Love, as well as with his own jazz combo. Karl has shared the stage with jazz luminaries Frank Foster, Mike Mainieri, Bob Stewart, Bernie Williams, Bill Ellington, Dave Liebman, Victor Rendón, Bobby Sanabria, Terry Silverlight, Barry Miles, Lyn Christie, Stanley Cowell, Will Lee, and the Capitol Bones, distinguished classical artists Andy Armstrong, Igor Bagelman, Jennifer Green, Carl Hane, Richard Kapp, Arnie Lang, Albert Lotto, Dale Smith, and Cecilia

Tucker-Myers among others, as well as eminent television, pop, and Broadway star Idina Menzel. He has recorded with Lou Marini, Lew Tabackin, and other noted artists, and has performed in renowned concert halls including Avery Fisher, Alice Tully, Merkin, the Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase, Aaron Davis Hall at City College, and the Tilles Center at C.W. Post, celebrated popular venues such as Webster Hall, The Bitter End, Joe's Pub, The Greene Space, Kenny's Castaways, The Cutting Room, Bowery Poetry Club, The Nuyorican Poets Café, The Shrine, Silvana, The New Paramount Theater, Madison Square Garden, Public Assembly Theater, and most major catering halls and country clubs in the tri-state area. Karl holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, and a master's from Lehman College. In his "free" time he enjoys bicycling, yoga, and woodworking.