

Westchester Chamber Soloists

Performer Profiles

March 5, 2023 Program

BARBARA ALLEN (timpani) is timpanist for Gateway Classical Music Society, Bronx Opera, Taconic Opera, New Rochelle Opera, New York Conducting Institute, and percussionist for Yonkers Philharmonic, among other ensembles. She has toured internationally as a drumset player with numerous theater productions, and has composed and arranged music for jazz orchestras and small groups. Barbara offers instruction in a diverse array of percussion instruments including timpani, mallets, drum set, and various world genres such as West African, Brazilian, and Middle Eastern. Barbara's hobbies include swimming, poetry and learning bossa nova guitar. She received her master's degree in performance from Manhattan School of Music.

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.

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. She plays a 1700's Andrea Castagneri 'cello.

LARISSA BLITZ (violin) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and received her degree from the St. Petersburg's Conservatory, where she also worked at the St. Petersburg Opera House and maintained a private teaching studio. She received her Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Rafael Bronstein and Ariana Bronne. Since then, Ms. Blitz has had an extensive performing and teaching career playing in orchestras such as the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Springfield, Stamford and Savannah Symphonies, the Berkshire Opera, and the Manchester Music Festival and Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestras, among others. She worked on Broadway and as concertmaster in a touring production of "Fiddler on the Roof". Her recent solo and chamber music performances include Beethoven's violin sonatas, trios by Rachmaninoff and Quartets by Faure, including appearances at the annual RiverArts Music Tour. Ms. Blitz teaches at a private studio in New Jersey and with the Spring Creek Youth Orchestra in Brooklyn, NY, among other venues and was previously on the faculty with RiverArts and at Franklin Pierce University.

SAMANTHA CHESTNEY (viola) studied with Karen Ritscher at Oberlin Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music, where received her Bachelors of Arts in Viola Performance in 2014. She currently performs with the Symphony of Westchester and fiddles and sings with the band The Wood Vibrations. Previously, she played orchestral and chamber music with the Greenwich Village Orchestra as co-principal violist. Samantha teaches music for PreK through 6th grade at Mater Salvatoris Preparatory School in Stamford, Connecticut and has a large studio of violin students. In her spare time, she enjoys swing dancing, running, and cross-stitching.

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 Kiradjeff 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 DeCAMP (oboe) plays with the Taconic Opera Company, as well as Westchester Symphonic Winds. She has also played with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra, Chappaqua Orchestra, Ridgefield Symphony and Norwalk Symphony Orchestras. She has studied with Ronald Roseman, Thomas Fay, John Mack, Elizabeth Camus, and Felix Kraus. She played Solo English Horn with the Akron and Canton Symphonies in Ohio. She has recorded on Sound Brush Records, and performed music of the Renaissance and Baroque with members of the Dolmetsch family in England and France. She attended Sarah Lawrence College, and has a BFA in Music from Carnegie-Mellon University. She has a MMA and MLS from Kent State University.

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. 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.

REBECCA ECKFELD (violin) is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she studied violin with Millard Taylor and viola with Francis Tursi. She has been a member of the Rochester Philharmonic, the Fort Worth Symphony and Opera, the Oklahoma Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and Ballet, the Opera Classics of New Jersey, the Stamford Opera, the New Hampshire Music Festival, and the Opera Orchestra of New York. Currently, she is a member of the Queens Oratorical Society Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Sacred Music Society of Forrest Hills, the Chappaqua Orchestra, and the St. Thomas Orchestra. She has also performed numerous chamber music recitals

with the Frohlich-Eckfeld Duo, the Eckfeld Duo, the Trio D'Été, and the Wilderness Quartet. In addition to performing, she has a studio of private violin and viola students.

WILLIAM ECKFELD (double bass) was the orchestra director at White Plains High School from 1987-2013. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he studied with the renowned bassist Oscar Zimmerman and was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra before beginning his career in music education. He has also studied conducting and composition at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz, Austria and has earned a Masters Degree in teaching from Lehman College, where he studied composition with John Corigliano. As a composer, he has written numerous works for chamber groups, soloists, and orchestras that have been performed in Westchester County. He currently serves as organist for the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Rochelle, is principal bass and assistant conductor of the St. Thomas Orchestra, and is the conductor and musical director of the Westchester Community Orchestra. He is also the pianist for the Trio D'Été and the Wilderness Quartet.

MONICA GERARD (viola) has performed with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, American Composer's Orchestra, Westchester Philharmonic, American Ballet Theater, Stamford Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony. As a baroque violist, she has performed and recorded with the Hanoverian Ensemble. She has served on the faculties of the Hoff-Barthelson Music School and Hudson River School of Music and currently maintains a large private studio of viola and violin students. Her primary teachers have included Raphael Hillyer, Jesse Levine, Karen Tuttle, Kim Kashkashian, and Hatto Beyerle. Ms. Gerard holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Yale College, a Master of Music in Viola from the Yale School of Music and studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

MARJORIE HONE (flute) grew up in Ohio and after graduating from Michigan State University she taught social studies in the Marietta, Ohio school district and later worked as assistant to the Director of Libraries at Columbia University. She studied flute with William Hebert, Paige Brook, Judith Mendenhall and Eleanor Lawrence and most recently with Sandra Miller. She served as principal flutist in the Westchester Symphonic Winds for over 20 years and is a long-time board member, including serving as president from 1995-2005 and now serving as treasurer. She has also played piccolo with the Chappaqua Orchestra, sings in her church choir, and was a member of the Westchester Symphony for many years. She maintains a private studio in Irvington and is active as a chamber musician and soloist, including many performances for the Hudson Valley Music Club. She has been active in her church and in community organizations, including chairing the PTSA, Irvington Town Hall Theater, Inc., the Irvington Drug Abuse Council, and the Hudson

Valley Music Club. She also is a member of the Thursday Club charitable group. Her other passions include whitewater kayaking, swimming, Pilates, and enjoying her granddaughters.

LORI HOROWITZ (violin) 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 embarking on a medical career. While in medical school she was a founding member of, and soloist with, the Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra. During her medical and post-medical training, she also performed with the Riverside Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony, The 92nd Street Y Orchestra, and the Bronx Chamber Orchestra. 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. In 2013 Lori returned to school to pursue her musical studies more formally at Purchase College where she earned a Performer's Certificate and a Master's Degree in Violin Performance. She enjoys performing in chamber music concerts around the county, including with the River Arts Music Tour. When not playing her violin, Lori maintains a practice of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

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 fourth 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, and he is currently a board member of the Saint Thomas Symphony. He holds degrees from Brown University (1976) and Columbia Law School (1980) and made his career as partner at law firm Shea & Gould and as Executive Vice President and General Counsel at CNA Financial Corporation. Jon is currently General Counsel at Bowhead Specialty Underwriters.

MILES LEVINE (cello) is a congressionally recognized young cellist and student at Hastings High School. He began his cello studies at age four at The School for Strings in New York City with Alex Croxton, and currently studies at Juilliard Pre-college under the tutelage of Astrid Schween. Miles gave his orchestral debut at age 13 and has played in

venues such as Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, and the Dimenna Center for Classical Music. Now 16, he has received numerous awards and accolades, including first prize at the New York International Classical Music Competition, Yonkers Philharmonic Concerto Competition, and Medici International Music Competition, as well as the gold prize at the Camerata Artists International Competition. He has also been recognized with second prize at the International Grande Music Competition, third prize at the Bellagrande International Music Competition, a special recognition award at the New York Chamber Players Orchestra Concerto Competition, and the Christine Nelson Memorial Scholarship. Miles has attended summer programs and festivals such as Meadowmount and the Heifetz International Institute, and has played in masterclasses for esteemed musicians David Geber, Rebecca Fisher, Julia Lichten, Steven Doane, Alan Stepansky, Elizabeth Simkin, Shai Wosner, Amy Yang, and Melissa White. He also has substantial chamber music experience, studying at New York Youth Symphony, Juilliard, Heifetz, New York String Orchestra Seminar, and more. With a wide breadth of experience, Miles has a passionate love for music.

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.

ALAN MURRAY (piano) is the founder and Executive & Artistic Director of Westchester Chamber Soloists, which was conceived from inception as a chamber orchestra focused on the Concerto literature in which the orchestra's members would be the soloists, enabling them to hone and share their skills as both solo performers and ensemble collaborators. Alan has appeared extensively in solo and chamber music recitals and as concerto soloist with symphony orchestras in the US and Europe, performing the great piano concertos of Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Dvořák, Liszt, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Scriabin, Strauss and Tchaikovsky, as well as recording in 2020 the complete cycle of Mozart's solo piano concertos. 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 Beethoven's and Brahms' complete *Sonatas for Violin & Piano* and for *Cello & Piano* as well as duos, trios, quartets, quintets and sextets by Arensky, Brahms, Dohnányi, Dvořák, Fauré, Grieg, Mendelssohn, Piazzolla, Poulenc, Ravel, Schumann, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and others. As piano soloist, in the 2010-2012 seasons he presented the *Masters Series* and *Sunrise Series* concerts in lower

Westchester County, performing 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, as well as major works by Spanish masters Albéniz (*Iberia*) and Granados (*Goyescas*), Liszt and Rachmaninoff. When not enjoying musical pursuits, Alan maintains a career in insurance and capital markets, and enjoys kayaking, world travel, keeping up with scientific advances and a range of outdoor activities, and is on the Board of Directors of the Fine Arts Orchestral Society/Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra. He holds a degree in physics/cosmology and languages from Cornell University, where he also received a special *University Award* for distinguished piano recital soloist. Alan resides in Hastings with his wife Amada, daughter Celia and cavalier King Charles spaniel Lizzy, where they also own and operate Galápagos Books, a specialty bookstore.

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.

LUCIE ONDERWYZER (violin) began her musical studies with her mom, a piano teacher in Shelburne, VT. She picked up the violin at age 7, which became her primary instrument. She earned degrees in music from Manhattan School of Music and the University of Miami. Lucie performed as a professional violinist in Florida for several years but made the switch to technology where she enjoys a career in Cybersecurity. When she isn't working or playing the violin, she spends time with her husband, daughter and Samoyed, Coco!

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*.

MICHAEL RUBINO (clarinet) a Westchester native, studied woodwinds with Joseph Viola and Andy McGee at Berklee College of Music. After graduation, he toured extensively with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, The Buddy Rich Band, and Mel Torme. He joined the Hastings on Hudson school music department in 1991 and serves as a teacher and department chair in the district. He is a member of the Library Jazz Band in Westchester and the Buddy Rich alumni band.

ALAN SCHAFFER (clarinet) received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree from Duke University, where he also studied under Jimmy Gilmore, principal clarinetist of the NC Symphony. He earned his MD degree from Tulane University, followed by a residency and pulmonary fellowship, after which he resumed chamber music activities at the 92nd Street Y's amateur chamber music program during his Critical Care Fellowship. Alan has participated in the Alaria Chamber Ensemble for the past decade, having performed all of the major clarinet sonatas and most of the major chamber works for clarinet. He appeared as soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra in early 2020 and looks forward to performing it again with the Westchester Chamber Soloists in the coming season. He has been a regular attendee at the summer chamber music program at Bennington, VT, and in the summer of 2019 he participated in the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project in Schladming, Austria. Alan practices medicine at Goshen Medical Associates, now part of Westchester Medical Health, and specializes in Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Obesity medicine. He resides in Goshen, NY with his wife Jackie and two dogs.

GINA SERAFIN (oboe) is a graduate of Yale University and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and was an active freelance musician in the New York area for over 25 years. She studied oboe with Ronald Roseman (N.Y. Philharmonic, N.Y. Woodwind Quintet) as well as English horn with Thomas Stacy (N.Y. Philharmonic). Ms. Serafin has held, among her symphonic orchestral posts, the position of Solo English hornist in La Orquesta Filharmonica de Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands of Spain. Having toured and performed in major concert venues worldwide, Ms. Serafin has also performed in local venues such as Carnegie Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, Lincoln Center, and Alice

Tully Hall. Gina's teaching career began as an Artist-in-Residence for Dreamyard Project where she created and established music programs in the New York City School system and since 2003, Ms. Serafin has taught music at Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua, New York. In 2007, Ms. Serafin received the Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award for outstanding service to music education in the public schools. Gina now creates performance opportunities and collaborates with musicians who like herself, maintain active careers in and outside of. Gina plays Principal Oboe for the Westchester Symphonic Winds and is in her thirteenth season with the group in residence at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Gina resides in Carmel with her husband and favorite trumpeter, Stan Serafin.

STAN SERAFIN (trumpet) is a graduate of Yale University and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and has served as Principal Trumpet of the Westchester Symphonic Winds since 2013. He has studied symphonic trumpet with John Ware (N.Y. Philharmonic), Vince Penzerella (N.Y. Philharmonic), Edward Carroll (Rotterdam Philharmonic), Robert Nagel (New York Brass Quintet), and Allan Dean (New York Brass Quintet, American Brass Quintet). As a freelance trumpeter in the New York area, Mr. Serafin's playing has been heard on Broadway, Television, Radio, as well as venues such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall. Mr. Serafin led his own Jazz quartet from 2005 to 2015, he has performed society music for 23 years with the band *Gotham* led by guitarist Dave Scott, and he currently plays in the Benson Scott Big Band and Bear Mountain Brass. As a full scholarship recipient, Mr. Serafin taught as a Graduate Music Intern at the Louis Armstrong School I.S. 227 (The Queens College Program for the Improvement of Education in the Middle Schools). He later served as band director at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, Queens, New York. Mr. Serafin has taught music at Seven Bridges Middle School in Chappaqua, New York since 2000. In 2007, Mr. Serafin received The Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award for outstanding service to music education in the public schools. Stan lives in Carmel with his wife, oboist / English hornist and fellow Westchester Symphonic Winds member Gina Serafin.

IGOR SHERBAKOV (horn) has performed extensively with orchestras and diverse ensembles since arriving in New York in 1990, including the Westchester and Norwalk Symphony Orchestras, Bronx and Gateway Operas, Westchester Brass Quintet, the Seufert Band and more. He also teaches horn privately.

BERNARD TAMOSAITIS (cello, conductor) 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.

YASMINE TETENBAUM (viola) is an active musician in the New York area performing both with chamber ensembles and orchestra. She was principal violist of The Bronx Symphony Orchestra and The Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of The Manchester Music Festival Orchestra taking part in a brief Tri-State tour culminating in a performance at the Kennedy Center. Ms Tetenbaum recently participated in The New World Initiative with the Gateway Classical Music Society. Solo performances include Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 with The Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra, and Telemann's Viola Concerto in G Major with The Bronx Symphony Orchestra. Ms Tetenbaum is violist with the Java Trio, and has been a member of the Bardekova Ensemble since October 2009. She began her studies with Gregory Czeresnia, later working with Gabriel Banat, Roger Shermont, and Albert Markov, and she earned her BS degree at Hunter College. You may recognize Yasmine in the violin and viola sections of "The New York Symphony" in Amazon Prime's award winning series *Mozart in The Jungle*.

ULYSSES TORRES (tuba) is a tubist and music educator from New Rochelle, New York. He is a Middle School Band Director in Port Chester, NY, where he inspires young minds to explore the world of music through performance. Ulysses holds an undergraduate degree in music education from UMass Amherst and a masters in tuba performance from SUNY Purchase. Apart from his work as a band director, Ulysses is also a board member and teaching mentor at Songcatchers Inc. The organization's mission is to promote peace through music, and it provides accessible group music lessons to the children of the neighborhood where Ulysses grew up. Ulysses is committed to using his talents to make a difference in his community, and he is passionate about helping young people discover the transformative power of music. With his extensive experience as a musician and educator, Ulysses believes that music has the power to connect people across cultures and backgrounds and is dedicated to spreading this message through his work. Whether in the classroom or on stage, Ulysses brings enthusiasm and energy to everything he does, and he is a valued member of the musical community in Westchester, New York.

IAN VLAHOVIĆ (horn) has performed with myriad ensembles in venues such as 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). Ian studied horn with Dr. Douglas Lundeen at the Mason Gross School of the Arts (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ) and graduated with degrees in Music Education and Spanish. In addition to freelancing as a musician in the tri-state area, he is currently pursuing his Master of Public Policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ). Ian combines his passion for music and public 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.

RICHARD WILLIAMS (trombone) is a freelance low brass player and private teacher in Westchester County and has been with the Westchester Symphonic Winds since 1989. He resides in Larchmont, NY.