

Westchester Chamber Soloists

Performer Profiles

April 2, 2023 Program

SPECIAL GUEST CONDUCTOR: MINA KIM

Mina Kim, hailed as a “spirited conductor” by Brooklyn Discovery, currently serves as the Director of the Purchase Symphony Orchestra at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music. Along with her PSO directorship, Ms. Kim performed a spectrum of symphonic, operatic and choral works with world-class performers such as Joshua Bell, Daniel Philips and Black Violin. She has been invited as a guest conductor to perform with numerous orchestras around the US and Europe. An active concert pianist, Ms. Kim’s piano highlights include a New York debut recital at Carnegie Hall’s *Weill Recital Hall* after receiving the Artist International’s ‘*Special Presentation Award*’ 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. She also studied Vocal Collaborative Piano and Orchestral Conducting at the Mannes School of Music. Since 2006, Ms. Kim has been a member of the faculty at the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College where she enjoys lecturing and is a coach and mentor to many music students.

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JOYCE BALINT (violin, mandolin) has been the mandolin soloist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 1974. One of the country’s foremost classical mandolinists, she has performed many solo recitals and orchestral performances, including the Paris Opera, Dallas Opera, and the Boston Symphony. As a violinist, she has been an active free-lance performer in the New York metropolitan area, including the MET Opera, the Caramoor Festival Orchestra, the Westchester Symphony, and several opera companies. She currently performs with the Amore Opera in New York City. She also performed duo recitals with her late husband Sandor Balint, as the Balint Duo. “Joyce Balint Shines in a String Recital” was the headline in the New York Times of her Carnegie Recital Hall debut where it said her playing of the mandolin “came close to the ideal” and she played with a “musicianly verve” on the violin. Ms. Balint resides in Bronxville and is on the faculty of the Mozartina Musical Arts Conservatory in Tarrytown.

KAREN CHOW (violin) began playing the violin when she was in fourth grade. Her public school teachers in Virginia were instrumental in inspiring a life-long love of music. Karen has played with the Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia, the New York Repertory Orchestra and the St. Thomas Orchestra. Prior to having kids, Karen worked in IT and as a lawyer. Now she runs her own business making custom decorated cookies.

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 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, 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.

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.

AMY HERSH (flute) has an active career that combines her love of chamber music, orchestral performance and teaching. The New York Times has written that Ms. Hersh "...plays the flute...with directness and an ear for subtlety." She began her career playing flute and piccolo in the Mexico City Philharmonic and since then has performed with many ensembles, including the NJ Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, New York Gilbert and Sullivan players, and with various Broadway pit orchestras. She currently plays with the St. George's Choral Society and Hudson Valley Philharmonic and is a member of chamber ensembles The Virtuosi Woodwind Quintet and the Cara Quartet. Ms. Hersh made her New York debut at Carnegie's Weill Hall as an Artist's International-winning member of the "Venus Trio", a group of flute, harp, and mezzo-soprano. She was also a winner of the NY Flute Club competition, performing in CAMI Hall. She earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, and attended international programs in Nice, France and Canada, studying with Alain Marion and Robert Stallman. Her teachers have included Carol Wincenc, Harold Bennett, and Harvey Sollberger. She is an advanced level Suzuki flute teacher and teaches at the Hackley School in Tarrytown and at her home studio.

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.

GREG HUNTER (double bass) is a Westchester based musician and teacher. He contributes to musical projects ranging from Prophet's Guild, which performs avant-grade, largely improvised renditions of medieval folk songs, to the Americana-tinted pop music of their band The Mops. In May of 2022 Greg graduated from SUNY Purchase after earning a degree in bass performance with Tim Cobb.

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.

TOM JORDAN (French horn) began playing the horn as a child, never dreaming it would lead him down such interesting paths. He studied Music at Gettysburg College, The Hartt School of Music, and Western Connecticut State University, and enjoyed 40 years of teaching music in Isabel and Mobridge, South Dakota, New Canaan, Connecticut, and Mamaroneck, New York. He has played in numerous ensembles and settings, but currently enjoys playing horn with the American Chamber Orchestra, The Westport Community Band, the Connecticut Symphonic Winds, The Vintage Brass Quintet, the Fairfield County Brass, and on guitar, in a duo with his wife on flute at St. John's Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT.

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.

LYDIA LEIZMAN (viola) is thrilled to reunite with old friends and meet new ones to play music with Westchester Chamber Soloists. Lydia has played with many orchestras and chamber groups in the greater Metro area. Her influential viola teachers were Evelyn Jacobs, Donald McInnes, and Jesse Levine at Yale School of Music, where she earned a MM in viola performance. Most of her music time is now spent as a fulltime public school orchestra teacher in Rockland. Lydia lives in New Rochelle with her husband Jon.

ALAN MURRAY (piano) is the founder and Executive & Artistic Director of *Westchester Chamber Soloists* (WCS), which was conceived from inception as a chamber orchestra and ensemble network focused on the *Concerto*, chamber, and other symphonic 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* as part of a YouTube-based "*At-Home*" pandemic-period concert series. His 45 live Concerto performances are all available on YouTube 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 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, Dvorák, Fauré, Grieg, Mendelssohn, Piazzolla, Poulenc, Ravel, Schumann, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and others, recordings of which are also available on the WCS website. 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, the outdoors, keeping up with developments in physics and cosmology, and a range of outdoor activities, and he is on the Board of Directors of the Fine Arts Orchestral Society/Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra. 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. He 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 that has been in operation for 35 years and will underwrite WCS' final concert for the Spring 2023 season on June 4.

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.

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*.

ENID BLOUNT PRESS (clarinet) has a diverse musical career performing and teaching in the New York area. She has performed in classical settings at many of the major performance halls in New York: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Recital Hall, as well as at numerous other national and international music venues. A founding member and clarinetist/bass clarinetist of the progressive chamber rock group Angels in the Chamber, Enid also enjoys teaching clarinet, saxophone and piano. She lives in New Rochelle with her family.

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.

DAVID RESTIVO (violin) grew up in Houston, TX, and has played violin for almost 40 years. After receiving a BM from Texas State University, David moved to the Boston area, finally settling in Chappaqua with his family. In addition to working as a programmer, David was the Executive Director of Orchestra914 from 2013-2022, freelances for regional stage shows and performs with several orchestras in the NY area, including Orchestra 914 and Collegium of Westchester. His teachers include Stephen Redfield and Elliot Magaziner. David also recently joined the Westchester Chamber Soloists for its New Year's Day 2023 performance of the cycle of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos.

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 few decades, 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 today. He has been a regular attendee at the summer chamber music program at Bennington, VT, and in the summers of 2019 and 2022 he participated in the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project in Schladming, Austria. Alan has just left his practice at Goshen Medical Associates after 29 years, and is looking forward to beginning practicing at St. Peter's Health Partners in Albany, NY focusing on his specialties of Sleep Medicine, Obesity Medicine, and Metabolic Health, where he can more significantly impact the health of his patients more than win the fields of Pulmonary and Critical Care medicine. He resides in Goshen, NY with his wife Jackie and two dogs. Alan currently plays clarinets by Backun, the MoBa series, a set from 2017, previously owned by David Shifrin.

CORY SEELNFREUND (clarinet) is an accomplished musician who has been playing clarinet for six years. Currently, he is a ninth grader at New Rochelle High School, where he was selected to participate in the Performing and Visual Arts program on the clarinet. This year he was chosen to perform with the Westchester All-County Band. Recently, he received a perfect score on a Level 6 piece for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). He is thrilled to perform with the Westchester Chamber Soloists.

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.

JONATHAN STARK (bassoon) serves as the executive director of the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute (NMDSI) since May 2022. Since then, he has been tasked with building upon the foundational years of a landmark collaboration between Northwestern Mutual, Marquette University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by expanding data science research outcomes, talent development and community engagement. Prior to the NMDSI, Jonathan has two decades of professional experience working in higher education. Most recently, he served as the inaugural chief administrative and operations officer for Columbia University's Data Science Institute (DSI) from 2017-2022. As a member of the Institute's senior leadership team, he had oversight and managerial responsibilities for human resources, finance, space, facilities, and information technology, while supporting the Institute's broad portfolio of educational, research, and outreach programs. Jonathan's background includes experience in student services, career development, residential life, events management, and a few years moonlighting as an adjunct woodwind instructor with Marymount College of Fordham University. When not at work, Jonathan is actively involved with numerous community orchestras and ensembles throughout Connecticut, Westchester County, and New York City as a bassoonist, contrabassoonist, and clarinetist. Jonathan holds a B.A. in psychology and minor in music from Western Connecticut State University, and M.A. in applied organizational psychology from Fairfield University, and M.A. in higher education from Teachers College of Columbia University, and an Ed.D. in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

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.

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.

CHRISTOPHER WYGONIK (double bass) is currently a 3rd year student at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music studying instrumental performance. He studies the Double Bass under the tutelage of Timothy Cobb and performs in the Purchase Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mina Kim. Christopher also trains and studies the Tenor Trombone with Jack Schatz at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music.