

**Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center**

Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 3 pm

New York Philharmonic

presents

# NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ENSEMBLES

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**HAYDN**  
(1732–1809)

**String Quartet in G major, Op. 77, No. 1 (1799)**

Allegro moderato

Adagio

Menuetto: Presto

Finale: Presto

KYUNG JI MIN, SU HYUN PARK, violins

VIVEK KAMATH, viola; SUMIRE KUDO, cello

**TURINA**  
(1882–1949)

**Piano Trio No. 2 in B minor, Op. 76 (1933)**

Lento — Molto moderato

Molto vivace

Lento — Andante mosso — Allegretto

SHERYL STAPLES, violin

MATTHEW CHRISTAKOS, cello

JOHN NOVACEK\*, piano

*Intermission*

**MOSZKOWSKI**  
(1854–1925)

**Suite for Two Violins and Piano in G minor, Op. 71 (ca. 1903)**

Allegro energico

Allegro moderato

Lento assai

Molto vivace

ANNA RABINOVA, SHARON YAMADA, violins

YALIN CHI\*, piano

**BRITTEN**  
(1913–76)

**String Quartet No. 1, Op. 25 (1941)**

Andante sostenuto — Allegro vivo

Allegretto con slancio

Andante calmo

Molto vivace

ALINA KOBIALKA, HANNAH CHOI, violins

LEAH FERGUSON, viola; RU-PEI YEH, cello

\* Guest artist

The New York Philharmonic Ensembles concerts are funded, in part, by the **Zubin Mehta Fund for the Orchestra**, an endowment fund created to honor the accomplishments of the Philharmonic's former Music Director, Zubin Mehta.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pianist **Yalin Chi** has performed at venues including Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, South Korea, and ZhongShan Music Hall in Beijing, China. Her recent solo recital on the Saugerties Pro Musica concert series was selected by the *Poughkeepsie Journal* as one of the weekend top picks. Chi has worked with musicians around the world including clarinetist David Shifrin, NY Phil Principal Associate Concertmaster Sheryl Staples, and trumpet player Philip Cobb. As an orchestral musician she regularly performs with the Albany Symphony and New Jersey Festival Orchestra, and has held the principal keyboard position at the Hudson Valley Philharmonic since 2014. Chi studied at The Juilliard School, where she earned both bachelor and master of music degrees, and continued studies with Peter Frankl at Yale School of Music before joining the West Point Band in 2008.

Violinist **Hannah Choi** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2014. Previously, she was a member of the Grant Park Festival Orchestra in Chicago and a substitute violinist in The Philadelphia Orchestra, and she has appeared as concertmaster with Boston's Haffner Symphony, Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, and Pacific Music Festival Orchestra. As a soloist, she has performed with The Philadelphia Orchestra, as winner of the Albert M. Greenfield Competition; the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, as winner of the New England Conservatory Concerto Competition; the Seoul, Daejeon, and Poland National philharmonic orchestras; and the Atlantic, Korean, and Boston's Haffner symphony orchestras. Choi has performed recitals at the Seoul Arts Center and Kumho Arts Hall in South Korea, and in various venues in the United States and abroad. Born in Lubbock, Texas, Hannah Choi received her bachelor of music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and her master of music degree and graduate diploma from the New England Conservatory, and concluded her studies with a professional studies certificate in the Orchestral Performance program at the Manhattan School of Music.

**Matthew Christakos** joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Cello, The Paul and Diane Guenther Chair, in 2024. Originally from Toronto, he studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, and has served as principal cello of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Christakos's recent honors include the 2019 Canada Council for the Arts's Michael Measures Prize, Second Prize in the Canadian Music Competition's 2019 Stepping Stone, and First Prize in the 2017 Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival President's Trophy Competition. Before attending Curtis, Christakos studied in Toronto at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, where he won the concerto competition and performed as soloist with the Academy Chamber Orchestra. In 2019 he toured Canada and Spain as a featured soloist with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Christakos is an alumnus of the Morningside Music Bridge program.

Violist **Leah Ferguson** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2018, having previously been a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Originally from Chicago, she began playing the violin at age five and switched to the viola at age twelve. She has performed at festivals including Music@Menlo, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, the Verbier Festival, and the Perlman Music Program. She has collaborated with musicians including violinists Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, and Miriam Fried and performed as a guest artist with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. Her performances have been broadcast by WCLV Cleveland, WFMT Chicago, WQXR The Greene Space, NPR's *From the Top*, and HBO's documentary series *Masterclass*. She has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as guest principal viola, with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal as guest associate principal, and with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as assistant principal. Ferguson received her bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a graduate diploma from The Juilliard School as a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship.

Violist **Vivek Kamath** joined the New York Philharmonic in 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has appeared as soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, The Amarillo Symphony, and other orchestras in New York State. An avid chamber musician, he has performed at many festivals, including Marlboro, Bridgehampton, Ravinia, Arcady, Sun Valley, Sarasota, Kent Blossom, and Bowdoin. He was a top prize-winner in several prestigious competitions, including the Washington International String Competition and the Irving M. Klein International String Competition.

Violinist **Alina Kobialka** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2022. She made her solo debut at age 14 with the San Francisco Symphony, and has since performed with various American orchestras, including the Las Vegas Philharmonic, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and California Symphony. In 2015 she made her performance debut in Asia with the Macau Youth Symphony for its New Year's concert. In 2016 she toured Japan with the Kagawa International Youth Orchestra, and in 2017 performed in the Shanghai International Arts Festival gala concert. Kobialka was awarded Second Prize at the 2017 Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition; was named a Laureate of the 2016 Irving M. Klein International Competition; and received the Grand Prize at the Mondavi Center National Young Artists Competition. An avid chamber musician, Kobialka has been an artist at the Marlboro Music Festival, where she performed with pianist Mitsuko Uchida. Kobialka studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's preparatory program and at the Colburn School's Music Academy. She received her master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Cellist **Sumire Kudo** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2006. Previously, she taught at Indiana University–South Bend and was the cellist of the Avalon String Quartet. Born in Tokyo, Kudo began musical studies at age four with her father, cellist Akiyoshi Kudo. She came to the United States in 2000, after establishing herself in Japan through solo performances and recordings. Her honors have included the Hideo Saito Memorial Fund Award, which she received from the Sony Music Foundation after being chosen by Seiji Ozawa and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi as the most promising cellist in 2005, and prizes at the Sapporo Junior Cello Competition and 62nd Japan Music Competition. Kudo is a graduate of Tokyo's Toho School and The Juilliard School. She has participated in the Nagano-Aspen, Aspen, Santa Fe, and Marlboro music festivals. *Record Geijutsu*, Japan's leading classical music magazine, named her second solo CD, *Love of Beauty*, as Best Recording.

Violinist **Kyung Ji Min** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2019. Born in South Korea, she began playing the violin at age seven, studying with Hyuna Kim and graduating from Yewon School, where she was concertmaster of the school orchestra. She received top prizes in national competitions and gave solo and chamber concerts as part of the Kumho Prodigy Concert series. She came to the United States to study at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she served as assistant concertmaster of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, and subsequently studied at The Juilliard School, where she served as concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra. She has performed with the Verbier Chamber Orchestra and with conductors including Alan Gilbert, Rossen Milanov, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. She won prizes in the Long Thibaud International Competition and Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition. She has performed as soloist with the Orchestre national des Pays de la Loire, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and Yewon Orchestra, and at Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Paris's Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Shanghai Concert Hall, and The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Grammy-nominated pianist **John Novacek** regularly tours the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia as a solo recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist who has performed more than 30 concertos with dozens of orchestras. He has appeared in major venues around the world including New York's Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall and Barbican Centre, and Tokyo's Suntory, Opera City, and Bunkamura Halls, and is a frequent guest at festivals in the US and abroad. A highly sought-after collaborative artist, he has performed with Joshua Bell, Renaud Capuçon, Jeremy Denk, Matt Haimovitz, Leila Josefowicz, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Truls Mørk, Elmar Oliveira, and Emmanuel Pahud, as well as the Afiara, Colorado, Harrington, Jupiter, New Hollywood, St. Lawrence, SuperNova, and Ying string quartets. Novacek tours widely as a member of the Intersection, a piano trio that includes violinist Kaura Frautschi and cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper. He has given numerous world premieres and worked closely with composers including John Adams, Kenji Bunch, Gabriela Lena Frank, John Harbison, Jennifer Higdon, George Rochberg, Robert Sierra, John Williams, and John Zorn. Novacek is a Steinway Artist.

Violinist **Su Hyun Park** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2017. She previously served as assistant concertmaster of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, as well as concertmaster of the Music Alps Festival Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, New York Classical Players, and Music Academy of the West Orchestra. Park made her solo debut with the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra. She swept top prizes in competitions in South Korea, including the Taegu Broadcasting Corporation Music Competition, and appeared as a soloist with the Taegu Philharmonic Orchestra. Her other accolades include Grand Prizes from the Riverside Symphonia's Caprio Young Artists, Crescendo International Music, Monmouth Symphony's Goldwasser Young Artist Concerto, and Kumho Prodigy Music competitions. A native of Seoul, South Korea, Su Hyun Park earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School. She subsequently worked with retired Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow and Associate Principal, Second Violin Group, Lisa Eunsoo Kim at the Manhattan School of Music's Orchestral Performance Program, receiving her professional studies certificate.

Violinist **Anna Rabinova** joined the New York Philharmonic in 1994, and first performed as soloist with the Orchestra in 2008 in J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5, led by Lorin Maazel. She has toured Europe with ensembles including the Moscow State Symphony and performed with the Halle Philharmonic, Schwerin Philharmonic, and the Moscow Radio, Moscow Chamber, Eisenach, Russian State, Berlin, and American symphony orchestras. Festival appearances include Schleswig-Holstein, Tanglewood, and Caramoor, and she has given recitals in Berlin, Moscow, Rome, Leipzig, Belgrade, and Washington, DC, as well as at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and Alice Tully Hall. She has recorded on the Auris-Subtilis and Naxos labels, and in 1998 her recording for an NHK-TV chamber series was broadcast worldwide. Rabinova studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory. She won First Prize at the 16th International Violin Competition in Belgrade and the 1993 Concerto Competition at The Juilliard School. She has taught at the Gnessin Institute in Moscow, the Manhattan School of Music, and LaGuardia High School, in addition to giving master classes in the US and abroad.

Principal Associate Concertmaster **Sheryl Staples**, The Elizabeth G. Beinecke Chair, joined the New York Philharmonic in 1998. She has been featured in more than 30 solo performances with the Philharmonic in concertos by Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Haydn, J.S. Bach, and Vivaldi with conductors including former NY Phil Music Directors Jaap van Zweden, Alan Gilbert, Lorin Maazel, and Kurt Masur as well as Kent Nagano, Jeffrey Kahane, and Colin Davis. Previously, she was associate concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra and concertmaster of the Pacific Symphony and Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra. She has appeared as soloist with more than 45 orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Staples was a founding member of the New York Philharmonic String Quartet; has participated in the La Jolla, Boston,

Salt Bay, Santa Fe, Mainly Mozart, and Aspen chamber music festivals; and was a member of The Cleveland Orchestra Piano Trio. She is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard Pre-College Division, and The Juilliard School. She performs on the "Kartman" Guarnerius del Gesù violin, ca. 1728.

**Sharon Yamada**, a member of the New York Philharmonic since 1988, has played extensively on both the East and West Coasts. An active chamber musician, she performs regularly with the New York Philharmonic Ensembles at Merkin Hall, and has appeared with the New Jersey Chamber Music Society. Yamada has performed frequently during the summer at the Grand Teton Music Festival; other summer activities have included the Aspen, Norfolk, and Chigiana (Siena, Italy) music festivals. Formerly assistant concertmaster of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Yamada has also appeared in concert with Orchestra New England and the Wallingford Symphony. She is a former member of the Hofstra String Quartet, which was in residence at Hofstra University. Yamada received her master of music degree from the Yale School of Music. While earning her undergraduate degree in architecture from Yale College, she appeared as soloist and concertmaster with the Yale Symphony. A native of Los Angeles, Yamada attended the Crossroads School for the Arts and Sciences.

Cellist **Ru-Pei Yeh** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2006. A founding member of the Formosa Quartet, she has served as acting principal cello of the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera, in addition to performing with a string quartet of principal players from the San Diego Symphony. She has made solo appearances with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, National Taiwan Symphony, Taiwan's Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina School of the Arts's International Music Program Orchestra, and Kuan-Jen School Orchestra. A winner of numerous competitions, she has performed regularly as a recitalist in her native Taiwan and the United States. Yeh, who has been performing professionally since the age of 10, moved to the US at age 13 to study at the Temple Preparatory School. She received her bachelor's degree from New England Conservatory and her master's degree and artist diploma from The Juilliard School.