

**Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center**

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3 pm

New York Philharmonic

presents

# NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ENSEMBLES

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**ROSSINI**  
(1792–1868)

**Sonata a quattro No. 3 in C major (1804)**

Allegro  
Andante  
Moderato

HANNAH CHOI, I-JUNG HUANG, violins  
QIANG TU, cello; TIMOTHY COBB, bass

**JANÁČEK**  
(1854–1928)

***Mládí (Youth) for Wind Sextet (1924)***

Allegro  
Andante sostenuto  
Vivace  
Allegro animato

ALISON FIERST, flute; RYAN ROBERTS, oboe  
BENJAMIN ADLER, clarinet  
BARRET HAM, bass clarinet  
JULIAN GONZALEZ, bassoon; TANNER WEST, horn

**COLGRASS**  
(1932–2019)

**Variations for Four Drums and Viola (1957; rev. 1959)**

REBECCA YOUNG, viola  
CHRISTOPHER S. LAMB, percussion

***Intermission***

**SAARIAHO**  
(1952–2023)

***Oi Kuu (1990)***

BARRET HAM, bass clarinet  
MARIA KITSOPOULOS, cello

**BEETHOVEN**  
(1770–1827)

**Quintet for Piano and Winds in E-flat major, Op. 16 (1796)**

Grave — Allegro ma non troppo

Andante cantabile

Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

ROBERT BOTTI, oboe

PASCUAL MARTÍNEZ FORTEZA, clarinet

JULIAN GONZALEZ, bassoon

R. ALLEN SPANJER, horn; YI-FANG HUANG\*, piano

\* 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

Brooklyn native **Benjamin Adler** joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Clarinet and E-flat clarinet in 2023. He previously held positions with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Adler has appeared as guest principal clarinet in St. Louis and with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and has performed as a guest musician with The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. An avid educator, Adler has served on the faculty of the Brevard Music Center and Wisconsin Lutheran College, and has given master classes across the United States. He is the founder and artistic director of the Clarinet Maestro Festival, a series of master classes and private lessons that emphasize accessible education for all clarinetists. Adler received a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, a master's degree from the University of Southern California, and an artist diploma from the Colburn School. Benjamin Adler is a Buffet Crampon performing artist and clinician.

Oboist **Robert Botti** joined the NY Phil in 1992, after serving as principal oboe of the New York City Opera Orchestra. He has appeared as soloist with the New York Symphonic Ensemble and performed in the Grand Teton, Bach Stony Brook, and Music from Colorado festivals. He has collaborated and recorded with Gunther Schuller and Wynton Marsalis as a guest artist with Jazz at Lincoln Center, and is a member of the Sylvan Winds, with whom he has given many premieres. He can be heard on recordings with New York Philharmonic Principal Bassoon Judith LeClair, Sylvan Winds, Philharmonia Virtuosi, New York Kammermusiker, Amadeus Ensemble, and Harmonie Ensemble; and is featured on the premiere recording of Arnold Sturm's Suite for Oboe and Piano. A native of New York, Botti holds bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School. He is on the faculties of New York University and Manhattan School of Music, and has given master classes at Yale, Princeton, and Indiana universities.

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 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.

Principal Bass **Timothy Cobb** joined the NY Phil in 2014, after serving in that role at the Metropolitan Opera and Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestras. His international chamber music festivals appearances have included the Marlboro Music Festival, including on tour. Cobb is a UNESCO Artist for Peace, an honor achieved through his role as principal bass for the World Orchestra for Peace, an invited group of musicians who donate their time to promote international harmony. His extensive collaboration with actor Stephen Lang includes his performing the solo bass soundtrack for the animated short film *The Wheatfield*. Cobb can be heard on many Metropolitan Opera recordings, and performing Giovanni Bottesini's duo bass music with bassist Thomas Martin (Naxos). A native of Albany, New York, and a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Timothy Cobb serves as chair of the bass department at The Juilliard School and on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, Purchase College, and Rutgers University, and he is faculty member of the Sarasota Music Festival and the Killington (Vermont) Music Festival.

**Alison Fierst** joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Flute in 2019, having previously held the position of second flute in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. She has been a fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where she performed with the Aspen Festival Orchestra and studied

with Nadine Asin, Mark Sparks, and Demarre McGill. An active soloist, her honors include Second Place in the 2017 National Flute Association Young Artist Competition and First Place in the 2017 Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia Young Artist Competition. She also won First Place in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL) Woodwind Competition and proceeded to win Second Place in the 2018 NSAL National Woodwind Competition. A native of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, Alison Fierst began her flute studies with Inna Leoni. She completed her bachelor's degree in flute performance at Carnegie Mellon University and pursued her master's in orchestral performance at Manhattan School of Music.

**Julian Gonzalez** joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Bassoon in 2023. He completed his bachelor of music in bassoon performance at The Juilliard School and was a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. Gonzalez has previously played with the Baltimore and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, and spent three summers at the Music Academy of the West. An avid freelancer, he can be heard on television soundtracks such as *Only Murders in the Building* and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and played in the pit for the third Broadway revival of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. Also a clarinetist and flutist, he has had the opportunity to play many woodwind parts in other local productions of musicals such as *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweet Charity*, and *In the Heights*. Born in Miami, Florida, Julian Gonzalez began playing music at age 9, beginning with alto saxophone and adding bassoon at age 11. He attended New World School of the Arts for high school.

**Barret Ham** joined the NY Phil as clarinet / bass clarinet in the 2023–24 season. He previously served as acting second clarinet / bass clarinet for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra for three seasons, and has performed as a guest musician with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the Boston, Dallas, and Utah symphony orchestras. Recent summer festival appearances include Yellow Barn, Lucerne Festival Academy, and Spoleto Festival USA. An avid chamber musician, Ham has performed for Tertulia San Francisco and as a guest with the Borromeo String Quartet. He has worked directly with composers such as Shulamit Ran, Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, and Enno Poppe, and is a proponent of the works of living composers. Ham received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory and his master's degree from the University of Southern California.

Violinist **I-Jung Huang** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2022, having served in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. She was a top prizewinner of the 2017 Ima Hogg Concerto, 2016 Hudson Valley String, Taipei Symphony Orchestra "The Young Talent," and Academy of Taiwan Strings competitions. She has appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Taiwan Philharmonic, and Taipei Symphony Orchestra, and served as concertmaster at Manhattan School of Music, The Juilliard School, and New England Conservatory. She has participated in festivals including the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, Ravinia Festival, and Four Seasons Winter Workshop; collaborated with Robert McDonald, Cynthia Phelps, Leila Josefowicz, and Peter Wiley, among others; and appeared with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, New York Classical Players, and the New Asia Chamber Music Society. Huang studied with former New York Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow and Associate Principal, Second Violin Group, Lisa Eunsoo Kim at Manhattan School of Music. She received her bachelor's degree from New England Conservatory and master's degree from Juilliard.

**Yi-Fang Huang**, a native of Taiwan, began studying piano at age seven and viola at age nine. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from The Juilliard School and a doctor of musical arts degree from Rutgers University. She has performed at the New York Philharmonic Ensembles at Merkin Hall series, Perlman Music Program, OK Mozart Festival, International Viola Congress, Interlochen Viola Institute, Great Mountains Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, and Music Academy of the West. She has also premiered works by contemporary composers Somei Satao, Stuart Smith, and Alessandro Solbiati. Her radio appearances include WQXR; Radio France; WWFM 89.1, The Classical Network; and Public Radio Tulsa. She recorded Loeffler's *Deux Rapsodies* with New York Philharmonic Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps and Associate Principal Oboe Sherry Sylar. Yi-Fang Huang has served on the faculty at the Special Music School

at the Kaufman Music Center and the Online Solo Strings Intensive. She is currently on the faculty at Juilliard and was recently named a 2024 Presidential Scholars Most Influential Teacher.

Cellist **Maria Kitsopoulos** joined the New York Philharmonic in 1996. She has performed as soloist with the Phoenix, Westfield, and Graz symphony orchestras and Athens State Orchestra; in New York, she has performed with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the New York Chamber Symphony. Before joining the Philharmonic, Kitsopoulos performed contemporary music with Ensemble Intercontemporain, Music Mobile, Guild of Composers, and Continuum, and as soloist in New York premieres by Leon Kirchner, Valenty Silvestrov, and Chinari Ung. As a member of CELLO, she performed music commissioned by that quartet at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, New York's Lincoln Center and Merkin Concert Hall, and throughout the United States. She earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from The Juilliard School, where she received the Peter Mennin Prize for Outstanding Leadership and later served on the faculty. A prize winner in the National Society of Arts and Letters Cello Competition, she received fellowships from the Aspen and Tanglewood music festivals. Kitsopoulos plays a 300-year-old cello made by Carlo Giuseppe Testore.

**Christopher S. Lamb** joined the NY Phil as Principal Percussion, The Constance R. Hoguet Friends of the Philharmonic Chair, in 1985. He made his Philharmonic solo debut in the World Premiere of Joseph Schwantner's Percussion Concerto, commissioned by the Orchestra. He has since performed the work throughout the United States and won a 2011 Grammy for Best Classical Instrumental Soloist for his recording with the Nashville Symphony. Lamb has given the World Premieres of two other Philharmonic commissions: Tan Dun's Concerto for Water Percussion and Susan Botti's *EchoTempo*. In 1999 he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Award to lecture and conduct research in Australia. On the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music since 1989, he has given clinics and master classes worldwide. He has designed his own line of concert snare drumsticks and is frequently consulted on instrument design concepts by leading percussion equipment manufacturers. Lamb has recorded chamber works on the New World, Cala, and CRI labels. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

Clarinetist **Pascual Martínez Forteza**, The Honey M. Kurtz Family Chair, joined the New York Philharmonic in 2001, after holding tenure with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. At age 18 he was appointed assistant principal of the Baleares Symphony Orchestra in his native Spain, later becoming acting principal. He has performed as guest principal clarinet with the Berlin Philharmonic, under Simon Rattle. Martínez Forteza appears regularly as a soloist, recitalist, and master class teacher at festivals and conservatories worldwide, including the International Clarinet Festival of Changchun (China) and The Juilliard School, among others. Since 2003 he and pianist Gema Nieto have played throughout Asia, Europe, and the United States as Duo Forteza-Nieto; he is also founder of Vent Cameristic, a wind ensemble of Spanish musicians. Martínez Forteza earned his master's degree from the Baleares and Liceo de Barcelona Music Conservatories and pursued advanced studies at the University of Southern California, where he won First Prize in the university's 1998 Concerto Competition. He is a faculty member at New York University and teaches orchestral repertoire at Manhattan School of Music.

English Horn / oboist **Ryan Roberts** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2019. He has performed with many leading ensembles, including the Chicago Symphony, The Philadelphia, San Francisco Symphony, and Metropolitan Opera orchestras. He received First Prize at the International Double Reed Society 2018 Norma Hooks Young Artist Competition and the National Society of Arts and Letters 2018 Woodwind Competition. Before joining the Philharmonic, Roberts spent one season as a member of the New World Symphony and three summers as the oboe fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. A Kovner Fellow graduate of The Juilliard School, he appeared frequently as principal oboe of the Juilliard Orchestra and has been a member of the New York String Orchestra Seminar. An avid chamber musician, he performs at the Marlboro Music Festival during the summer and has played with the Gamut Bach Ensemble, Pacifica Quartet, and pianist Emanuel Ax. He premiered Michael Torke's *South* with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, released on Albany Records. Ryan Roberts serves on the oboe faculty at the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

**R. Allen Spanjer** joined the NY Phil as second horn, The Rosalind Miranda Chair, in 1993. His appearances with the Orchestra as a featured soloist have included several performances of Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns, Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Horns in 1996, and J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 1 in 2008. Before joining the Philharmonic Spanjer was a full-time freelance musician, serving as a frequent substitute with the Orchestra as well as with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and he spent one season as second horn of the Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM in Mexico. Spanjer, a Georgia native, began horn lessons at age 13. He studied at the Interlochen Arts Academy; The Juilliard School; the Tanglewood, Aspen, and Waterloo music festivals; and at SUNY–Purchase. As a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, Spanjer maintains an active teaching studio in New York City. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and performs frequently as a chamber musician.

Cellist **Qiang Tu** made his solo debut at age 13 in Beijing. He received his bachelor of arts degree from China's Central Conservatory, where he later served as associate professor of cello, and master's degree from Rutgers University. Before joining the New York Philharmonic in 1995, he served as principal cellist of the China Youth Symphony and Princeton Chamber Orchestra. His honors have included England's Menuhin Prize, Sydney's Parlings Award for Music, and prizes in the San Angelo (Texas) Symphony Young Artist Competition and Los Angeles's Downey Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. He has performed in Chicago, St. Louis, and New York; on a live broadcast on WNYC; and in recital with Helen Huang. He has been an active recitalist, and his chamber music appearances have included performances at Weill Recital Hall and in Maine and South Korea. His solo album, *Meditation*, was distributed by the China Record Company. He is an alumnus of Music Academy of the West.

**Tanner West** joined the New York Philharmonic horn section, in which he holds The Ruth F. and Alan J. Broder Chair, in 2023, after serving as acting fourth horn of the North Carolina Symphony for two seasons. He has performed with ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the San Diego, Houston, and Charlotte symphony orchestras; in 2015 he was named second horn in the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra. West has appeared as soloist with the Durham Symphony Orchestra in a collaboration with the American Dance Festival. He has participated in the Colorado College and Music from Angel Fire music festivals, and spent three summers at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where he was the third horn fellow of the Festival Orchestra. Tanner West received his performance studies certificate from the Colburn Conservatory of Music and his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Violist **Rebecca Young** joined the NY Phil in 1986 as its youngest member, and in 1991 was named the Orchestra's Associate Principal Viola, The Joan and Joel Smilow Chair. After serving as principal viola of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1992–93, she resumed her Philharmonic Associate Principal position in 1994. She has performed at the Boston Chamber Music Society, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and she recorded Schubert's *Trout* Quintet with Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Pamela Frank, and Edgar Meyer (on Sony Classical). Her Philharmonic solo performances include the 1999 World Premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Two Paths*, a concerto for two violas commissioned by the Philharmonic and underwritten by then Music Director Kurt Masur's wife, Tomoko, for Young and Philharmonic Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps. The two reprised the work with the Philharmonic on several of the Orchestra's tours and in New York in April 2011. She also gave the World Premiere of Oscar Bettison's *Threaded Madrigals* for solo viola during the 2014 contemporary music festival. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and host of the Philharmonic's popular Very Young People's Concerts.