

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center
Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 3 pm

The New York Philharmonic's 2025–26 season
is sponsored by **Leni and Peter May**.

NY Phil presents

New York Philharmonic Ensembles

Fra. BRIDGE
(1879–1941)

Novelletten, H.44 (1904)

Andante moderato
Presto. Allegretto
Allegro vivo

KYUNG JI MIN, MUYAN YANG, violins
TABITHA RHEE, viola, QIANG TU, cello

SHOSTAKOVICH
(1906–75)

Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67 (1944)

Andante – Moderato
Allegro con brio
Largo
Allegretto

LISA EUNSOO KIM, violin
MATTHEW CHRISTAKOS, cello
HANNA HYUNJUNG KIM*, piano

Intermission

Thomas ADÈS
(b. 1971)

Catch, Op. 4 (1991)

BARRET HAM, clarinet, ALINA MING KOBIALKA, violin
JOHN F. LEE, cello, ERIC HUEBNER, piano

DVOŘÁK
(1841–1904)

Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 87 (1889)

Allegro con fuoco

Lento

Allegro moderato, grazioso

Finale

SU HYUN PARK, violin, CONG WU, viola

ALEXEI YUPANQUI GONZALES, cello

ANNA POLONSKY*, 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

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 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.

Cellist **Alexei Yupanqui Gonzales** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2012, after serving as principal cello of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and Boston Lyric Opera. He has also been a member of the Boston Ballet Orchestra and has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra, Emmanuel Music, and Bach Ensemble with harpsichordist John Gibbons. Gonzales has performed chamber music in venues including Boston's Jordan Hall and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Seattle Town Hall, Currier Museum of Art (Manchester, New Hampshire), and the Library of Congress (Washington, DC). He won First Prize in the Coleman International Chamber Competition with the Azure Trio, and received the Borromeo String Quartet Artist Award. Gonzales taught chamber music at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. He was a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow for three summers, where he received the Samuel Mayes Memorial Prize and participated in the Bach Institute Seminar. He has performed at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Banff, International Music Arts Institute, and Killington Music Festival. Gonzales studied at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Barret Ham joined the Philharmonic 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, The Cleveland Orchestra, and 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. A proponent of the works of living composers, he has worked directly with composers such as Shulamit Ran, Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, and Enno Poppe. Barret Ham is a lecturer in clarinet at Boston University, and teaches bass clarinet at The Juilliard School. He received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory and his master's degree from the University of Southern California.

Pianist **Eric Huebner** has drawn worldwide acclaim since making his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 17. He was appointed New York Philharmonic pianist, The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Piano Chair, in 2012. From 2001 through 2012, he was a member of Antares – comprising clarinet, violin, cello, and piano – which received First Prize at the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, appeared regularly in major chamber music venues throughout the US, and commissioned works from many composers. Huebner has premiered countless new works and appeared as soloist and chamber musician across North America, Germany, Japan, and Brazil. He is professor of music and chair of the music department at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), where he maintains a studio of graduate and undergraduate students and teaches 20th-century piano music and piano literature. Since 2014 he has been a member of the adjunct faculty of The Juilliard School (from which he received his bachelor's and master's degrees), teaching orchestral keyboard performance. Recent solo releases on New Focus Recordings include works by Robert Schumann, Carter, Stravinsky, and Ligeti.

Pianist **Hanna Hyunjung Kim** has won top prizes at the Gina Bachauer, Asia Chopin, Taipei Chopin, Hamamatsu International, Rhodes International, and Seoul International piano competitions. Other honors include Second Prize and the Special Award at the 2010 Paderewski International Piano Competition and, in 2016, First Prize at Japan's Sendai International Music Competition (which included \$30,000 and recordings of concertos with the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra). Kim has collaborated with conductors such as Osmo Vänskä, Kazuki Yamada, Guoyong Zhang, Shao-Chia Liu, Gaetano d'Espinosa and Tatsuya Shimono; with orchestras such as the Osaka and Japan Philharmonic orchestras and the Hiroshima, Qingdao, Korean, and KBS symphony orchestra; and performed at venues such as Tokyo Metropolitan Hall, Tokyo Hamarikyū Asahi Hall, Seoul Arts Center, and Taiwan National Concert Hall. She completed her bachelor's degree at Korea National University of Arts and earned her master of music degree and an artist diploma from the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University on a full scholarship. Kim joined the New York City Ballet Orchestra as principal pianist in 2022.

Lisa Eunsoo Kim joined the New York Philharmonic in 1994 and in 2003 was named Associate Principal, Second Violin Group, In Memory of Laura Mitchell. She teaches in South Korea and the United States, and has performed with the Seoul National Philharmonic Orchestra and the SooWon, North Carolina, Winston-Salem, and Durham symphony orchestras. She has performed chamber music with the Philharmonic Ensembles series, Brooklyn's Bargemusic, Hofstra Chamber Ensemble series, and Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York; with the late Lynn Harrell, Ani Kavafian, Yo-Yo Ma, Garrick Ohlsson, and the late Lukas Foss; in Europe, under the International Music Program; and at Jordan's Jurash Festival at the invitation of King Hussein. Kim began violin studies at age seven, attended the North Carolina School of the Arts, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School. She has won prizes in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search, Bryan Young Artists String Competition, Winston-Salem Young Talent Search, and Durham Symphony Young Artists Competition. She joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in 1999.

Violinist **Alina Ming 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 on 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 the Colburn School's Music Academy. She received her master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Cellist **John F. Lee** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2024, having previously been a member of the San Diego Symphony. He has performed with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and Symphony in C. He served as principal cellist of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and was named a Karl Zeise Memorial Scholarship recipient as a fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center. As a chamber musician, Lee has performed as part of Art of Elan, Curtis on Tour, and the Kingston Chamber Music Festival. He has collaborated with artists including Roberto Diaz, Gabriel Kovach, Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, Benjamin Schmid, and David Shifrin. Lee has appeared in venues including Alice Tully Hall, the Morgan Library, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, and the National Gallery of Art. He completed a bachelor's degree in history of science and statistics at Harvard University and a master of music degree from New England Conservatory, part of the five-year dual-degree program. Lee earned a post-baccalaureate diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music.

Violinist **Kyung Ji Min** joined the Philharmonic in 2019. Born in South Korea, she began playing the violin at age seven and graduated 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, Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Shanghai Concert Hall, and the Kennedy Center.

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 former Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow and Associate Principal, Second Violin Group, Lisa Eunsoo Kim at the Manhattan School of Music's Orchestral Performance Program, from which she received her professional studies certificate.

Anna Polonsky has collaborated in chamber music with the Guarneri, Orion, Daedalus, Dover, and Shanghai quartets, and with such musicians as Mitsuko Uchida, Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Goode, Emanuel Ax, Arnold Steinhardt, and Peter Serkin. Polonsky has given concerts in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna Konzerthaus, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall's Stern, Weill, and Zankel Halls, and has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. She is a recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award. Polonsky received her bachelor of music diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music and her master's degree from The Juilliard School. She serves on the piano faculty of Vassar College, and in the summer at the Marlboro and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festivals. Together with violinist Jaime Laredo, violist Milena Pájaro-van de Stadt, and cellist Sharon Robinson, Polonsky is a member of the Espresso! Piano Quartet. She performs in the Polonsky-Shifrin-Wiley Trio with clarinetist David Shifrin and cellist Peter Wiley. Anna Polonsky is a Steinway Artist.

Tabitha Rhee joined the viola section of the New York Philharmonic in 2023. She has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, APEX Ensemble, and Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players. She is the winner of the Juilliard Concerto Competition and has appeared as soloist and served as principal viola with the Juilliard Orchestra. She has also appeared as soloist with the Wisconsin Philharmonic, Madison Symphony Orchestra, and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Rhee has attended various music festivals such as the Music@Menlo International Program, Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Verbier Festival Academy, and the Bravo! Vail, Pierce Hill Chamber, Four Seasons Chamber, and Aspen music festivals. Additionally, she has worked closely with esteemed artists such as Roger Tapping, Antoine Tamestit, and Nobuko Imai. Rhee is an alumna of the Music Institute of Chicago Academy and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School as a Kovner Fellow.

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.

Cong Wu (Cong pronounces as Ts'ong) has been the New York Philharmonic's Assistant Principal Viola since 2018. Wu has performed as soloist with the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, New York Classical Players, and Long Island Concert Orchestra, in addition to his chamber music engagements at Marlboro, Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music Seminar, Bridgehampton, Music@Menlo, and Perlman Music Program. Wu won Third Prize and the Chamber Music Prize at the Primrose International Viola Competition and the Special Prize at the Tertis International Viola Competition. Born in Jinan, China, he holds a master's degree from The Juilliard School and a doctoral degree with the Helen Cohen Award from Manhattan School of Music. Wu is currently on the viola faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and the Mannes School of Music.

Violinist **Muyan Yang** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2025. She has performed throughout the United States and Asia, including in a 2019 concert for the first ladies of China and Finland in Beijing; at Philharmonic Hall of Liège in Belgium; and in Colburn Chamber Music Society concerts in Zipper Hall, Los Angeles. Yang won Third Prize at the 2023 Ysaÿe International Music Competition in Liège, Belgium; was a semifinalist at the 2023 China International Music Competition; and won the 2022 International Mozart Competition Vienna. She is the recipient of the 2023 Dr. Bennett Levine Memorial Award in chamber music and the 2022 Anna Y. Tringas Award. A passionate chamber musician, Yang has performed with Ilya Kaler, Tatjana Masurenko, Phillip Setzer, Ettore Causa, and Louis Lortie, among others. Yang attended the Ravinia Festival Steans Institute, and is an alumna of other international music festivals including Heifetz, Keshet Eilon, Music Academy of the West, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She holds a master's degree from the Colburn School and a bachelor's degree from Cleveland Institute of Music.