Featured Soloists

JULIAN KAPLAN
PRINCIPAL TRUMPET
James B. and Annabel Nutter Chair

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Julian Kaplan and his family moved to North Carolina, where he began playing trumpet at age 12. He soon began studying with the principal trumpet of the Charlotte Symphony, Michael Miller, who now plays in the Cleveland Orchestra. Kaplan received a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Kentucky, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in trumpet performance and studied with Mark Clodfelter. He also was a student of Vince DiMartino at Centre College. While at the University of Kentucky, Kaplan played at several large venues, including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and performed concerts in Greece and China. Shortly before graduation, Kaplan was appointed principal trumpet of the Lexington Philharmonic, where he played for two seasons, before being appointed second trumpet of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. After two seasons as second trumpet, Kaplan was appointed principal trumpet of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in 2013.

Kaplan has appeared with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony and Asheville Symphony Orchestra, among others, and he often performs as a featured soloist with several chamber music groups. Kaplan also is a recording artist, spending time in Nashville recording for various albums. Kaplan has served on the faculty at the University of North Florida for the last two years. During his time off, he also enjoys golf, racquetball and tennis.
Kayla Burggraf joined the Kansas City Symphony as piccolo and flute in the 2019/20 season. Prior to moving to Kansas City, she was a member of the New World Symphony and served as principal flute of the Des Moines Symphony, principal flute of the Ann Arbor Symphony and member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. She has performed as a substitute musician with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Milwaukee Symphony, among others.

As a soloist, Burggraf has performed with Rice University’s Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra after winning their respective concerto competitions. She also has been a soloist with the Des Moines Symphony, New York Symphonic Ensemble Japan Tour and Chelsea Music Festival (NYC). As a member of the Noctua Wind Quintet, she has performed at the Kennedy Center as part of the Conservatory Project and won prizes at the Fischoff, Coleman, Chamber Music Yellow Springs and JC Arriaga competitions.

Burggraf earned her master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with Robert Langevin in the orchestral performance program. Previously, she studied with Leone Buyse at Rice University where she received her bachelor’s degree in music with distinction in research and creative works. Other teachers have included Jennifer Gunn, Stefán Höskuldsson, Stephanie Mortimore and Renée Siebert.
KRISTINA FULTON
PRINCIPAL OBOE
Shirley Bush Helzberg Chair

Kristina Fulton joined the Kansas City Symphony as principal oboe in September 2011, and she holds the Shirley Bush Helzberg Chair. Prior to her appointment, she spent two seasons as a member of the New World Symphony and served on the faculty at the New World School of the Arts. She also has performed as guest principal oboe with various orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the San Diego Symphony. As a soloist, Fulton has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, the New World Symphony and the National Repertory Orchestra, among others. An avid lover of chamber music, she also performs frequently on the Kansas City Symphony’s free Happy Hour chamber music series. Fulton holds a bachelor’s degree from the Oberlin Conservatory, where she studied with James Caldwell and a master’s degree from the New England Conservatory of Music as a student of John Ferrillo. In her spare time, Fulton enjoys gravel cycling, photography, traveling, and spending time with her husband and three dogs.
SUNHO KIM
ACTING CONCERTMASTER
Miller Nichols Chair

Violinist Sunho Kim joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2008, and holds the position of assistant concertmaster. She previously was a fellow of the New World Symphony from 2005 to 2008, and served regularly as concertmaster under Michael Tilson Thomas. Winner of the Heino Eller International Violin Competition in Estonia and Bales Violin Competition in Boston, Kim made her solo debut at age 14 with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra as a winner of their Young Artist Competition. She also has been a featured soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, Estonian National Symphony, Danish Free Mason Orchestra, Seoul Symphony and Seoul Youth Chamber Orchestra, among others.

An avid chamber musician, Kim is heard frequently in the Kansas City Symphony’s free Happy Hour chamber music concerts and has performed at the Colorado Music Festival, Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, Shanghai International Music Festival, Summerfest in Kansas City and Savonlinna Chamber Music Festival in Finland. She was a founding member of the Tappan String Quartet and has performed with them at the Smithsonian American History Museum. She also has performed solo recitals in Germany, Denmark, the Czech Republic, South Korea and the United States. Originally from South Korea, Kim moved to Germany at age 16 to study with Mi-Kyung Lee at the University of Arts, Berlin, and continued her study with Milan Vitek, first at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and then at the Oberlin Conservatory, where she received an artist diploma. She received her master’s degree from the New England Conservatory as a student of Masuko Ushioda.