

Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 AT 6 PM

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

PAUL NOWELL

Lifted for Solo Trombone and String Quartet

Evelyn Carlson, trombone
Jun Iwasaki, violin
Rena Ishii, violin
Duke Lee, viola
Allen Probus, cello

ERIC EWAZEN

Trio for Trumpet, Violin and Piano

I. Andante

II. Allegro molto

Julian Kaplan, trumpet
Rena Ishii, violin
Sean Chen, piano

WYNTON MARSALIS

At the Octoroon Balls, String Quartet No. 1

III. Creole Contradanzas

VI. Blue Lights on the Bayou

VII. Rampart Street Row House Rag

Jun Iwasaki, violin
Rena Ishii, violin
Duke Lee, viola
Allen Probus, cello

WYNTON MARSALIS

A Fiddler's Tale

Part I

I. Fiddler's March

II. Fiddler's Soul

V. Pastorale

Part II

VII. Happy March

VIII. Little Concert Piece

IXa. Tango

IXb. Waltz

IXc. Ragtime

X. Devil's Dance

XIII. The Great Chorale

XIV. The Blues on Top

Trevor Stewart, clarinet
Thomas DeWitt, bassoon
Julian Kaplan, trumpet
Evelyn Carlson, trombone
David Yoon, percussion
Sodam Lim, violin
Evan Halloin, contrabass



EVELYN CARLSON, PRINCIPAL TROMBONE

A native New Yorker, Evelyn Carlson was hired as Principal Trombonist under Music Director Michael Stern, beginning her position during the 2023/24 season. Prior to her appointment at KCS, she spent three seasons as the Assistant Principal Trombonist of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Evelyn began private study with Tony Mazzocchi in high school; together they acknowledged her potential and her future teachers were also in lockstep with her high goals. At Montclair State University, Evelyn studied with Colin Williams and Nikki Abissi before transferring to the Juilliard School. There she studied with Joseph Alessi, her idol from a young age.

Evelyn has attended Music Academy of the West and the National Orchestral Institute, and has won multiple national competitions.

Evelyn thanks her devoted parents for their support as she chased her musical aspirations. She is excited to explore the fauna of Kansas City, as her love of animals has reemerged, and she is also excited to see what all the buzz is about Kansas City barbecue.



JUN IWASAKI, CONCERTMASTER

MILLER NICHOLS CHAIR

Jun Iwasaki was appointed Concertmaster of the Kansas City Symphony by Music Director Michael Stern and joined the Symphony at the beginning of the 2022/23 season. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music's prestigious Concertmaster Academy, he has been hailed for his combination of dazzling

technique and lyrical musicianship. In a review of his performance at the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, the Fort Worth Star Telegram called him "the magician of the evening. He could reach into his violin and pull out bouquets of sound, then reach behind your ear and touch your soul."

Prior to joining the Kansas City Symphony, Jun served as concertmaster of the Nashville Symphony from 2011-2022 and the Oregon Symphony from 2007-11. Throughout his career, he has appeared with numerous other orchestras, including the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Rome (Georgia) Philharmonic, New Bedford Symphony, Canton Symphony, Richardson Symphony, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Plano Symphony Orchestra and Huntsville Symphony. In addition, he has served as guest concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra (Portugal), São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (Brazil), Santa Barbara Symphony, National Arts Center Orchestra (Ottawa) and Canton (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Jun has been a part of the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Summerfest, Chamber Music Northwest, Mainly Mozart, Chamber Music International and Mimir Chamber Music Festival, among others.

In addition to teaching at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, Jun also served as the artistic director of Portland Summer Ensembles in Portland, Oregon, a workshop for young musicians focusing on chamber music.



RENA ISHII, SECOND VIOLIN

Rena Ishii joined the orchestra in 2011. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Won-Bin Yim. She continued her studies with William Preucil at Cleveland Institute of Music and received a professional studies certificate. In the Cleveland area, she became active as an

orchestra player and was a member of Canton Symphony, Akron Symphony and the Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

Rena has spent summers at Aspen Music Festival, Spoleto USA and Tanglewood Music Center. She has a passion for teaching as well and has actively taught privately and at schools. In her free time, she enjoys jogging, cooking and reading.



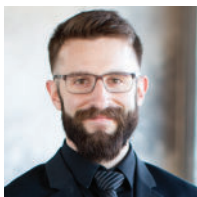
DUKE LEE, VIOLA

Duke Lee is a native of Houston, Texas. He attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School. He also was a fellow at the New World Symphony. Duke has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 2006. He is married to Kansas City Symphony violinist Rena Ishii and they have three boys, Leon, Anton and Owen.



ALLEN PROBUS, CELLO

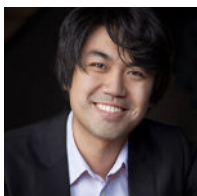
Allen Probus has been a cellist in the Kansas City Symphony since 2002. He received a bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University and holds a master's degree with the Cleveland Institute of Music, having studied with Stephen Geber, former principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra. While in Cleveland, Probus was also principal cellist of the Canton Symphony Orchestra and acting assistant principal of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. He has substituted with the Cleveland Orchestra and has toured Europe and the Far East with the Detroit and Pittsburgh symphonies. Past summer festival engagements have included the Eastern Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Spoleto USA, Blossom Music Festival and National Repertory Orchestra. Probus maintains a full private teaching studio and is the music director at Tri-City Baptist Church in Blue Springs, MO. During the summer, he conducts and teaches at the Sforzando String Camp in Chicago. He is also a member of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and a founding member of the Kansas City Cello Quartet.



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. Julian 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, Julian performed at some of the most famous venues in the United States, including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and performed concerts in Greece and China. Shortly before graduation, Julian 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, Julian was appointed principal trumpet of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in 2013. He also served on faculty at the University of North Florida from 2014 to 2015. Julian has been a guest principal trumpet with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, among others, and has appeared as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony many times during his tenure so far. Outside of trumpet, Julian enjoys playing competitive video games and spending time with his two Huskies, Winston and Wattson.



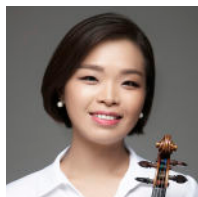
SEAN CHEN, PIANO

A “thoughtful musician well beyond his years” (The Republic), pianist Sean Chen shares his “alluring, colorfully shaded renditions” (New York Times) and “genuinely sensitive” (LA Times) playing with audiences around the world in solo and chamber recitals, concerto performances, and masterclasses, after having won the 2013 American Pianists Awards, placing third at the 2013 Van

Cliburn International Piano Competition, and being named a 2015 Annenberg Fellow. Sean is the Jack Strandberg/Missouri Endowed Chair Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

Sean has performed with many prominent orchestras, including the Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Kansas City, San Diego, Knoxville, Hartford, Louisiana Philharmonic, Milwaukee, North Carolina, Pasadena, Phoenix, Santa Fe and New West symphony orchestras, as well as the chamber orchestras of Philadelphia, Indianapolis and South Bay.

Sean resides in the suburbs of Kansas City with his wife, Betty, a violinist in the Kansas City Symphony, and their daughters Ella and Maevae. When not at the piano, Sean enjoys tinkering with computers, and exploring math, science and programming.



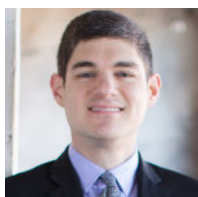
SODAM LIM, SECOND VIOLIN

Violinist Sodam Lim joined Kansas City Symphony in the 2022/23 season and has established herself as a committed chamber and orchestral musician in the United States and South Korea. Prior to joining KCS, she was a tenured member of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra for three seasons under music director Carlos Izcaray. She previously was a fellow at New World Symphony from 2016

to 2019, where she performed solo and in many leading roles under music director Michael Tilson Thomas.

Sodam recently spent a summer at the Colorado Music Festival and has been invited to distinguished music festivals such as Tanglewood Music Center, Spoleto Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, Great Mountain Music Festival and Lake George Music Festival. In addition, she was a top prizewinner at the Strad Strings Competition, Sunhwa Music Concours, The Journal of Music Competition in Korea and the Boston Young Artist Competition.

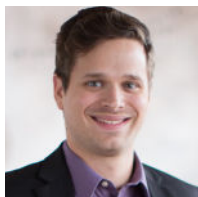
and raised in Seoul, Sodam's education has taken her across the globe. She received her bachelor of music degree and teaching certificate from Hanyang University in Seoul, graduating summa cum laude. After moving to the U.S., she received her master of music degree and graduate diploma from New England Conservatory with academic honors, and finished her performer's diploma at Indiana University. Her main teachers were Alexander Kerr, James Buswell, Nicholas Kitchen, Jason Horowitz, Joseph Kim and Jueun Cho.



EVAN HALLOIN, ACTING PRINCIPAL DOUBLE BASS

Evan Halloin was appointed associate principal bass of the Kansas City Symphony in 2016 after having served as a member of the bass section since 2012. Prior to coming to Kansas City he was a member of the New World Symphony. He earned a master's degree from Rice University and a bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory. His primary teachers include Timothy

Pitts and Donald Palma. Evan has performed as a substitute musician with the Chicago, Milwaukee and Houston symphony orchestras. He is originally from De Pere, Wisconsin.



THOMAS DEWITT, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL BASSOON AND CONTRABASSOON

Thomas DeWitt has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 2013. Previously, he played second bassoon with the Houston Grand Opera and was a regular player with the Houston Symphony and Ballet. Thomas attended the University of Texas at Austin for his bachelor's degree, where he studied

with Kristin Wolfe Jensen and was a winner of the Winds Concerto Competition, performing the Mozart Bassoon Concerto. He continued his studies at Rice University, where he studied with Benjamin Kamins and attained a master's degree. He is principal bassoon of the Breckenridge Music Festival, and he has attended the Tanglewood, National Repertory Orchestra, Round Top and Eastern music festivals as a fellow.



**TREVOR STEWART, ACTING ASSOCIATE
PRINCIPAL CLARINET AND E-FLAT CLARINET**

Prior to his acting role in the Kansas City Symphony, Trevor Stewart served as Principal Clarinet for the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, and Topeka Symphony, performing concertos by Copland, Mozart and Navarro respectively. He teaches a private studio of clarinetists,

acts as a masterclass clinician and was the Instructor of Clarinet at Missouri Western State University until 2022. He has performed with Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Missouri Symphony and Fort Smith Symphony, and frequently performs in solo and chamber music collaborations. Trevor also specializes in early music, performing as a recorder and chalumeau player for the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. Trevor earned a Master of Music degree in Clarinet Performance and an Artist's Certificate from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

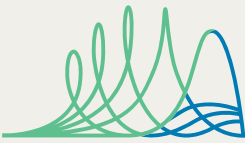


DAVID YOON, ACTING PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION

David Yoon joined the Kansas City Symphony in the 2019/20 season as Associate Principal Percussion. Originally from Irvine, CA, he began his musical journey with a few years of training in piano and violin. At age 10 he began taking drum lessons, and from then on, there was no looking back.

David received his bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School and was a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. Before joining the Kansas City Symphony, he spent a year in the master's degree program at the Manhattan School of Music. His wonderful teachers along the way were Christopher Lamb, Daniel Druckman, Duncan Patton, Jack Van Geem, Kyle Zerna, Markus Rhoten and She-e Wu.

David has performed with various orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic. In 2023 he served as Guest Principal Percussion at the Colorado Music Festival. He is an endorser of Dragonfly Percussion, Vic Firth and Zildjian C.



KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

UPCOMING CONCERTS

FILM + LIVE ORCHESTRA

Jaws™ in Concert

50TH ANNIVERSARY

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 22-23 AT 7 PM

Damon Gupton, guest conductor

The original blockbuster movie, Jaws™, features an Academy Award®-winning score that made John Williams a household name. This film, enhanced by a live orchestra, offers the ultimate cinematic experience. Based on the best-selling novel by Peter Benchley and directed by Steven Spielberg, this masterpiece of suspense tells the tale of a small New England seaside community terrorized by a predatory great white shark during the Fourth of July.



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CLASSICAL CONCERT

Matthias Conducts Mahler

MAHLER'S THIRD SYMPHONY

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 30-31 AT 8 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 AT 2 PM

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor

Jasmin White, contralto

Women of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, Charles Bruffy, chorus director

Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Christy Elsner, creative director and founder

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 3

To conclude his first season as Music Director, Matthias Pintscher leads Mahler's colossal Symphony No. 3 — which transforms all of nature into music.

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