



# Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 6 PM

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY

## LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

- String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, op. 131
- I. Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo
  - II. Allegro molto vivace
  - III. Allegro moderato
  - IV. Andante ma non troppo e molto cantabile
  - V. Presto
  - VI. Adagio quasi un poco andante
  - VII. Allegro
- Anne-Marie Brown, violin  
Paul Kim, violin  
Jessica Nance, viola  
Sally Kim, cello

## PAUL HINDEMITH

- Kleine Kammermusik*, op. 24, No. 2
- I. Lustig. Mäßig schnell Viertel  
(Merry. Moderately fast quarter-notes)
  - II. Walzer: Durchweg sehr leise  
(Waltz: consistently very soft)
  - III. Ruhig und einfach (Calm and simple)
  - IV. Schnelle Viertel (Fast quarter notes)
  - V. Sehr lebhaft (Very lively)
- Shannon Finney, flute and piccolo  
Alison Chung, oboe  
Trevor Stewart, clarinet  
Ann Bilderback, bassoon  
David Sullivan, horn

## JENNIFER HIGDON

- Book of Brass*
- I. Ramp Up
  - II. Acrostic
  - IV. Punch It Up
- Omri Barak, trumpet  
Shea Kelsay, trumpet  
David Sullivan, horn  
Wyatt Henderson, trombone  
Joe LeFevre, tuba

# Musician Bios



## **ANNE-MARIE BROWN**

FIRST VIOLIN

Anne-Marie Brown is a member of the Kansas City Symphony first violin section. She performs extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the Kansas City area. Anne-Marie is also co-principal second violin of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and concertmaster of the Starlight Theater Orchestra. In addition to performing, she is a dedicated teacher, serving on the faculty of the Heartland Chamber Music Festival and maintaining a private violin studio. Before moving to Kansas City, she was a member of the New World Symphony where she served as concertmaster and principal second violin under Michael Tilson Thomas. She also played in the Atlanta Symphony and served as principal second violin of the Chicago Civic Orchestra. Anne-Marie holds degrees from Northwestern University and Manhattan School of Music, where she was a student of Glenn Dicterow. She also has studied and performed at numerous music festivals, including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, ENCORE School for Strings, Tanglewood and the Park City International Music Festival, among others. She has won many honors and awards, including the New World Symphony Concerto Competition, the Manhattan School of Music Concerto Competition, the Illinois Young Performers Competition, the Society of American Musicians Competition, and the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation Competition, plus the Anna Schaufler Lockwood Award for Strings, among others. Anne-Marie lives in downtown Kansas City with her fiancé, fellow KCS member Lawrence Figg, and her three adorable dogs, Peanut, Butter and Penelope.



## **PAUL KIM**

SECOND VIOLIN

Paul Kim is an accomplished and versatile violinist known for his exceptional artistry and dedication. He has performed with renowned ensembles including the Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Paul began playing with the Kansas City Symphony in 2023. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with William Preucil and Stephen Rose. Paul has participated in prominent music festivals, including the Pacific Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Center and National Repertory Orchestra's Summer Music Festival. In addition to his orchestral engagements, Paul has been actively involved in music education and community outreach. He has served as a section and chamber music coach for the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, nurturing the talents of young players. He also contributed to the Nashville Symphony's Accelerando program offering lessons and masterclasses and serving on jury panels. Currently, Paul enjoys teaching violin lessons alongside his wife at P & W Violin Studio.



## **JESSICA NANCE**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VIOLA

Jessica Nance joined the Kansas City Symphony in 1995 and began serving as assistant principal viola in 1997. She is a member of the local chamber music group Summerfest Concerts and has appeared with many other Kansas City area ensembles, including the Boulevard String Quartet, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. Jessica also has been a member of the Grand Teton Music Festival and the Des Moines Metro Opera. She has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra and New World Symphony. Before moving to Kansas City, she held the principal viola chair with the Michigan Opera Theatre and the Windsor (Ontario) Symphony.



## **SALLY KIM**

CELLO

Sally Kim joined the Kansas City Symphony cello section in the 2024/25 season. She was born in South Korea and moved to New Zealand at the age of 6. She earned a doctorate from the University of Miami, where she studied under Ross Harbaugh. During her time there, she served as a teaching assistant and was honored as a Henry Mancini Fellow. She also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Auckland and a master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music. She previously performed with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and made her solo debut with the St. Matthews Orchestra at the age of 14. Sally has also participated in masterclasses at prestigious festivals such as the Pablo Casals Music Festival in Prades, France; the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy; and the Lake Garda Festival, studying under David Geringas, Antonio Meneses and the Fine Arts Quartet. Sally and her ensemble, Trio Osceola, were awarded the Horszowski Trio Prize at the 50th Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2023. She is also a member of the award-winning Trinity Trio, finalists of the 24th International Brahms Competition in Portschach, Austria. As a dedicated music ambassador, Sally has toured Asia performing in China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor-Leste. Concert engagements and festivals have also taken her to the United Kingdom and several countries in Europe.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **SHANNON FINNEY**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL FLUTE

Shannon Finney is the associate principal flutist for the Kansas City Symphony. Additionally, she performs with and is a former artistic advisor for the local chamber ensemble, Summerfest. Shannon's summer work extends to Door County, Wisconsin, where she serves as a faculty member at Birch Creek Music Center in Egg Harbor. Early in her career she was a winner of the National Flute Association's Piccolo Artist Competition and was awarded a fellowship at Tanglewood. She has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and Chicago Sinfonietta. Her teachers included Walfrid Kujala, Mary Stolper and Karla Flygare, and she earned her degrees from Northwestern University. Apart from her musical pursuits, Shannon enjoys exploring various interests, such as the culinary arts, reading, traveling and engaging in many outdoor activities. An adventurer at heart, Shannon embarked on a month-long journey in Nepal in 2014, during which she spent two weeks trekking in the Himalayas and reached Annapurna Base Camp. Since 2017, she has relished her first-time exploration of Paris, gone biking in the Loire Valley, experienced whitewater rafting with her dad along the entire 280 miles of the Grand Canyon and indulged in "glamping" on safari with her parents in eastern Africa. Her most recent adventure was walking solo through much of Slovenia to Trieste, Italy, on the Adriatic Sea. She is eagerly contemplating her next adventure.



### **ALISON CHUNG**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL OBOE

Originally from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Alison Chung joined the Kansas City Symphony beginning with the 2017/18 season. Previously she held positions with the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet orchestras as well as the Grant Park Festival Orchestra. She has served as acting principal oboe of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and The Florida Orchestra, where she also was a featured soloist. Alison studied with Robert Morgan in Chicago and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, studying with Richard Killmer. She continued her orchestral training as a fellow with the New World Symphony for three years and has attended numerous summer festivals including Spoleto, Sarasota, Music Academy of the West, Banff Centre for the Arts and National Repertory Orchestra's Summer Music Festival. In her free time, Alison enjoys jogging in Loose Park, volunteering around the city, baking and writing a food blog.



### **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 the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, 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.



### **ANN BILDERBACK**

PRINCIPAL BASSOON,  
BARTON P. AND MARY D. COHEN CHAIR

Ann Bilderback became the principal bassoonist of the Kansas City Symphony in 1999 and holds the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Chair. Prior to her appointment, she served as principal bassoonist with the Louisiana Philharmonic and second bassoonist with the Omaha Symphony. She has participated in many music festivals throughout her career, including the festival of the National Repertory Orchestra, National Orchestral Institute, Kent/Blossom Music Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Round Top Festival Institute and Spoleto Festival in Italy. Ann received her bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music and her master's degree from Rice University. A native of Chicago, her principal teachers were K. David Van Hoesen, John Hunt and Benjamin Kamins. She resides in Olathe, Kansas, with her husband Ken and her children, Susan and James.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### DAVID SULLIVAN

ACTING PRINCIPAL HORN,  
LONDON AND SARAH ROWLAND CHAIR

David Sullivan was appointed associate principal horn of the Kansas City Symphony in June 2009. A native of Kentucky, he received his bachelor's degree in horn performance from the University of Kentucky and his master's degree in orchestral performance from the Manhattan School of Music, earning both with summa cum laude distinction. He has performed as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony and the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, where he is also co-principal horn. In the summer he performs orchestral and chamber music as co-principal horn of the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra in Verbier, Switzerland. He has performed with the Seattle Symphony and Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, and has served as guest principal horn with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Omaha Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. His major teachers include Erik Ralske and David G. Elliott.



### OMRI BARAK

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL AND SECOND TRUMPET

Music entered Omri's life at the age of 4 when, after his older brother was given a trumpet, his parents gave him an ear-training computer game to make sure he felt included. This was followed by the piano at age 5, the violin at 6, and finally, at his brother's behest, a trumpet of his own at age 8. Despite beginning in college as a computer science major, his love for music ultimately won, and he transferred out to pursue an education in trumpet performance. Omri is an alumnus of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with David Bilger, and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he studied with Barbara Butler and Charles Geyer. Omri joined the Kansas City Symphony in the 2025/26 season as associate principal and second trumpet. Prior to this, he was principal trumpet of the Allentown Symphony, a position he had held since the age of 19. Additionally, he spent the 2023/24 season serving as acting second trumpet with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and has been a frequent guest musician with the Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Chicago symphony orchestras, among others. In addition to his orchestral playing, Omri is an avid chamber musician and collaborator. Highlights include a performance of Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto with soloist Meng-Chieh Liu and a chamber orchestra made up of accomplished Curtis alumni and current students and sharing the spotlight with an improvised trumpet solo in concert with hip-hop legend DMC. Also a fan of new music, Omri was a member of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra for five summers, where he was principal trumpet for the world-premiere run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *Omar*, hailed by the New York Times as "one of the best performances of 2022." When not playing trumpet, Omri enjoys brewing coffee, playing chess, finding new great restaurants and solving crossword puzzles.

## **SHEA KELSAY**

THIRD TRUMPET



Originally from Seattle, Shea Kelsay moved to Chicago to begin her orchestral studies at Northwestern University. She completed both her undergraduate and master's degrees there, studying under Tom Rolfs, David Bilger, Michael Sachs, Channing Philbrick and Robert Sullivan. Shea has spent summers with the Britt Festival Orchestra, Artosphere Festival Orchestra and Brevard Music Center, as well as being a Tanglewood fellow. Following her first summer at Tanglewood, she served as acting principal trumpet of the Nashville Symphony. Since then, she has enjoyed an active freelancing career, playing as a substitute with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Utah Symphony and several other regional groups. Shea has played with the Kansas City Symphony since the 2023/24 season. Outside of trumpet, Shea is an avid scuba diver, road-tripper and cat lover.

## **PORTER WYATT HENDERSON**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL TROMBONE



Porter Wyatt Henderson is currently associate principal trombone of the Kansas City Symphony and trombonist with the Kansas City Brass. He is a former member of the Grand Rapids Symphony and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Wyatt also has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Crested Butte Music Festival, Great Music West and Sunflower Music Festival, and as a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University; his teachers include Leon Brown, John Kitzman, Per Brevig, Frank Crisafulli and Arnold Jacobs. He currently maintains a private trombone studio, and has taught previously as an adjunct instructor at MidAmerica Nazarene University and Baker University. In addition to his musical activities, Wyatt is a Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher and has trained in the martial art of Ki Aikido for many years.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **JOE LEFEVRE**

PRINCIPAL TUBA, FRANK BYRNE CHAIR

Joe LeFevre joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2018. Prior to this appointment, he was principal tuba of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Joe holds a bachelor's degree in tuba performance with an emphasis in music education from Michigan State University. He has studied with Phil Sinder, Gene Pokorny, Mike Roylance, Dennis Nulty, Deanna Swoboda, Jacob Cameron and Bill Short. He has performed as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, Michigan State University Wind Symphony and Civic Orchestra of Chicago. In addition, he has subbed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and he was a Tanglewood Music Center fellow in 2016. Joe won and medaled in various international competitions including the Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Festival Competition and the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Soloist Competition. In 2013, he was a member of the Michigan State Spartan Marching Band when they performed at the 100th Rose Bowl Game. Joe is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In his spare time, he enjoys triathlon training, collecting watches, playing fantasy football and spending time with family and friends. He is an avid sports fan and lifelong baseball and football enthusiast. Joe has adopted the Chiefs; however, despite Kansas City's best intentions, he remains a devoted Detroit Tigers fan. Joe and his wife call Kansas City home and live with their three dogs Ash, Luna and Toby.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

# Final Symphony: Music from Final Fantasy®



Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m.  
Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

Jason Seber, guest conductor  
Stephen Beus, piano

Immerse yourself in the universe of Final Fantasy with music by Nobuo Uematsu and Masashi Hamauzu from Final Fantasy VI, VII and X, showcasing some of fans' favorite moments from the games! Purchase now at [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org) or call 816.471.0400.

Note: This concert will not include a screen or any visual elements from the video games.

# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY UPCOMING CONCERTS

CLASSICAL CONCERT

## Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto and Strauss



Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.

Samuel Lee, guest conductor  
Santiago Cañón-Valencia, cello

**KAIJA SAARIAHO** *Du cristal* (From Crystal)  
**CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS** Cello Concerto No. 1  
**RICHARD STRAUSS** *Also sprach Zarathustra*

CLASSICAL CONCERT

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Friday, April 10 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, April 11 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

Matthias Pintscher,  
music director and conductor  
Julian Kaplan, trumpet  
Evan Hughes, baritone  
Amit Rahav, narrator  
Kansas City Symphony Chorus

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** *Spring*  
**TOSHIO HOSOKAWA** *Im Nebel*,  
Trumpet Concerto (U.S. premiere)  
**FELIX MENDELSSOHN**  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*



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