



# Happy Hour

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 AT 6 PM**

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY

**CAROLINE SHAW**

*Entr'acte*

Ayrton Pisco, violin  
Carter Coleman, violin  
Duncan Steele, viola  
Susie Yang, cello  
Joseph Nuñez, double bass

**YORK BOWEN**

*Fantasie Quartet for Four Violas, op. 41, No. 1*

Jessica Nance, viola  
Duncan Steele, viola  
Sean Brumble, viola  
Duke Lee, viola

**WILLIAM WALTON**

String Quartet

I. Moderato  
II. Scherzo. Allegro molto vivace, e ritmico — Allegretto  
III. Fuga. Lento, ma non troppo, e molto espressivo —  
Con brio e energico  
Sunho Kim, violin  
Stephanie Larsen, violin  
Jesse Yukimura, viola  
Sally Kim, cello

# Musician Bios



## **SUNHO KIM**

ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER

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, Sunho 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.

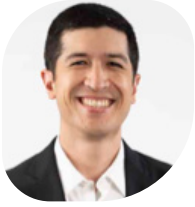
An avid chamber musician, Sunho is heard frequently in the Kansas City Symphony's free Happy Hour chamber music concerts and has performed at the Colorado Music Festival, Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, Shanghai International Music Festival, Summerfest in Kansas City and Savonlinna Chamber Music 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, Sunho 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.



## **STEPHANIE LARSEN**

SECOND VIOLIN

Violinist Stephanie Larsen joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2013 after several seasons with the Utah Symphony. She received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her Master of Music from Boston University. While living in Boston, Stephanie studied with Bayla Keyes and performed with Boston Musica Viva, the Vermont Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, with which she toured nationally several times. Stephanie also has participated in many music festivals, including the Tanglewood Music Center and the Colorado Music Festival.



## **JESSE YUKIMURA**

VIOLA

Violist Jesse Keone Yukimura joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2018. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest in Edmonds, Washington, Jesse began taking lessons on piano at the age of 6 and on viola at the age of 9. He joined the

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra a year later, where he discovered the joys of playing ensemble music, and soon took an interest in chamber music as well. Jesse received a Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he studied with Peter Slowik. However, Jesse has a wide range of interests, including a passion for science, and also attended Oberlin College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. He then studied with Ralph Fielding at the Lynn Conservatory of Music, where he earned a Master of Music degree, as well as a Professional Performance Certificate. Before joining the Kansas City Symphony, Jesse was a viola fellow at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, an orchestral academy founded by artistic director Michael Tilson Thomas.

Jesse has participated in numerous summer music programs, including Kneisel Hall and the summer program of the National Repertory Orchestra. Jesse has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to study with world-class artists, including violists from major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra and Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as members of the Tokyo and Juilliard string quartets. While primarily an ensemble musician, Jesse has performed as a soloist with the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Lynn Philharmonia. He was instrumental in forming and organizing the New Music Ensemble at Lynn, and continues to support the works of modern composers. Outside of music, Jesse maintains many interests, from birdwatching to chess. Jesse finds inspiration in music's ability to enrich both the heart and the mind. Through its incredible diversity, classical music has the ability to reach everyone. Exploring both the inner workings of a piece of music as well as the music's historical background is something Jesse loves. He greatly enjoys sharing what he has learned and is glad to be part of the Kansas City community.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### 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.



### AYRTON PISCO

SECOND VIOLIN

A native of Brasília, Brazil, Ayrton Pisco holds degrees from Yale University, the University of Southern California and San Diego State University. He has also been a fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and New World Symphony. He has participated in several music festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Sarasota, Bayreuth (Germany) and Sapporo (Japan). His principal teachers include Ani Kavafian, Margaret Batjer, Pei-Chun Tsai and his father, Ayrton Macedo Pisco.

Ayrton has received top prizes in numerous competitions throughout the United States and abroad. Concert engagements have taken him across North and South America, Europe and Asia. He also has performed as a soloist in prestigious venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Jacobs Music Center and Cláudio Santoro National Theater in Brazil.

A seasoned orchestra musician, Ayrton has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, San Diego Symphony and New Haven Symphony, and under the batons of conductors Zubin Mehta, Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Tilson Thomas, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Larry Rachleff. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with principal players of the New York Philharmonic and has been featured on the WQXR and KUSC radio stations.

As a music educator, Ayrton previously served as a teaching artist at Yale University's Music in Schools Initiative, Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, San Diego State University Community Music School and Ibero-American Philharmonic Academy in Medellín, Colombia.

In addition to classical music, Ayrton also enjoys performing in genres such as jazz, tango, bossa nova, choro, mariachi and others. He has collaborated with Trio Gajdo and Besos de Coco and participated in shows at House of Blues San Diego and Clube da Bossa Nova in Brazil.



### **CARTER COLEMAN**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN

Carter Coleman began violin lessons at age 4 and went on to receive performance degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Juilliard School and East Carolina University. He has toured Europe and Asia with the orchestral academies of the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and Pacific Music Festival, as well as the Juilliard Orchestra. He has worked with conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, Osmo Vänskä, Manfred Honeck and Esa-Pekka Salonen. As a chamber musician, Carter has performed with Peter Frankl, Colin Carr, Ida Kavafian, Atar Arad and members of the Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic. Carter also attended the Juilliard Quartet Seminar, IMS Prussia Cove, Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival and Kneisel Hall. Before joining the Kansas City Symphony, Carter was a member of The Florida Orchestra. He also has performed as a substitute violinist with the Atlanta Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra and North Carolina Symphony.



### **DUNCAN STEELE**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL VIOLA

Duncan Steele grew up in downtown Chicago and started learning violin when he was 4 years old. When he was 15, he started pursuing viola and quickly switched over to it as his main instrument. As a student of Atar Arad, Duncan pursued his bachelor's and master's degrees at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Duncan has won various awards from the American String Teachers Association, the Society of American Musicians, the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius and the DePaul Concerto Festival. At Indiana University, he was principal violist of the Philharmonic Orchestra in the 2021/22 school year. He has had several masterclasses with artists such as Mimi Zweig, Victor Danchenko, Juliet White-Smith, Almita Vamos, Hal Grossman and Gerardo Ribeiro. He has performed across Europe and Asia, as well as alongside renowned artists such as Brandon Vamos, Simin Ganatra, Eric Kim, Sarah Kapustin and Jim Przygocki.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **SUSIE YANG**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL CELLO, RICHARD HILL CHAIR

Susie Yang joined the Kansas City Symphony as Associate Principal Cello in 2010. She made her solo debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the age of 11. The performance was broadcast on PBS in Chicago and also the classical radio station. She also has appeared as a soloist with many orchestras in the greater Chicago area. As an avid chamber musician, she won a top prize in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and has participated in the Juilliard Quartet Seminar and the Beethoven Intensive Quartet Seminar at the New England Conservatory of Music. From 2006 to 2008, Susie was a fellow of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and was a rotating principal under music director Michael Tilson Thomas. After winning the concerto competition, she performed the Dvořák Cello Concerto with the New World Symphony in 2007. In April 2016, Susie performed the same concerto again as a subscription soloist with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Susie has performed as a solo, orchestral and chamber musician at many music festivals, including Sarasota, Schleswig-Holstein, Music Academy of the West, Spoleto Italy and USA, Taos and Yellow Barn. Originally from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Susie holds degrees and numerous scholarship awards from the Juilliard School and New England Conservatory of Music, and her teachers include Andre Emelianoff and Laurence Lesser. She has a small private studio of cello students that she loves to teach and enjoys performing chamber music around the community.



### **JOSEPH NUÑEZ**

DOUBLE BASS

Joseph was a self-taught double bassist from age 11 until he began his studies at the University of North Texas College of Music, where he received a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance in 2018 studying under the tutelage of Jeffrey Bradetich. Joseph continued his studies at the Colburn Conservatory as a graduate student studying with Peter Lloyd, and received his master's degree in 2020.

Joseph has appeared with many ensembles across the United States and has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, Orford Music Academy and the summer program of the National Repertory Orchestra. Joseph received honors from the Sphinx Organization's SOPA 2021 Orchestral Excerpts Competition, where he was recognized as an outstanding instrumentalist, and he was the inaugural Community-Embedded Fellow in partnership with the Houston Symphony and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Joseph is in his fifth season with the Kansas City Symphony. Aside from music, he loves dogs and a great cup of coffee.



## **SEAN BRUMBLE**

VIOLA

Sean was born in Heidelberg, Germany and began studying the viola at age 9. Early teachers include Maria Maxwell and Walter Halen. Sean holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory where he studied with Steve Kruse, former principal violist of the Kansas City Symphony. Upon graduation he was awarded a fellowship to Music Academy of the West under the tutelage of Don McInnes. Sean has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 1996. He also has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and is currently principal violist of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. In addition to orchestral performance, he also enjoys playing chamber music and performs regularly as part of the Symphony's Community Connections and Happy Hour chamber music series. In February 2017, he was featured in a performance of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6. He is a regular guest artist on the Summerfest concert series and the Missouri River Festival of the Arts. Sean resides in Greenwood, Missouri where he teaches and maintains a private violin and viola studio. He enjoys baking, distance running (10K and half-marathon), snuggling with his two mutipoos and traveling with his wife of 25 years to tropical places.



## **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. Duke is married to Kansas City Symphony violinist Rena Ishii and they have three boys, Leon, Anton and Owen.



## **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 and has appeared with many other Kansas City area ensembles, including the Boulevard String Quartet, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. Jessica also has been a member of the Grand Teton Music Festival and 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.

# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY UPCOMING CLASSICAL CONCERTS

## Grieg's Piano Concerto



Friday, May 8 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, May 9 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, May 10 at 2 p.m.

Anu Tali, guest conductor  
Chaeyoung Park, piano

**EDUARD TUBIN** *Estonian Dance Suite*  
**EDVARD GRIEG** Piano Concerto  
**JEAN SIBELIUS** Symphony No. 1

## Gil Shaham Plays Brahms

Friday, May 29 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, May 30 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m.

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor  
Gil Shaham, violin

**VARIOUS** *Genesis* (KCS commission and  
world premiere, 7 composers)  
**JOHANNES BRAHMS** Violin Concerto



## Rachmaninoff Celebration, Part Two: Piano Concerto No. 3



Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m.

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor  
Yefim Bronfman, piano

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** Symphony No. 3  
**MATTHIAS PINTSCHER** Aubade  
(world premiere, piano solo)  
**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** Piano Concerto No. 3

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