

OUR PERFORMERS

Many of today's performers are members of the Westchester Chamber Soloists (* below), the county's premier chamber orchestra, which debuted at Sarah Lawrence College on March 8, 2020. All of today's performers are distinguished music professionals or dedicated amateurs committed to the highest levels of performance and musicianship. Please take a moment to read about their backgrounds.

KATE ASHBY (violin*) is Artistic Director for RiverArts and is delighted to be part of the production team for the RiverArts Music Tour. Kate was Music Program Director for RiverArts from 2014 – 2018. Previously, Kate was an associate at Primo Artists, based in New York, coordinating engagements for leading classical soloists and conductors in both the US and internationally. Kate is a co-founder of Westchester Chamber Soloists and a member of Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed widely with chamber vocal ensembles in the New York area, including Monteverdi *Vespers* at Concordia, Bach's *St. John Passion* at Lincoln Center. Kate moved to New York in 1995 to pursue a career in modern dance and performed with Pilobolus in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, directed by John Eliot Gardiner, as well as in performances with Robert Battle, Parsons Dance Company and Merce Cunningham Repertory Group. Highlights include performances at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. A native of Liverpool, England, Kate holds a BA Honors Degree from University of Kent at Canterbury.

LARISSA BLITZ (violin*) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and received her degree from the St. Petersburg's Conservatory, where she also worked at the St. Petersburg Opera House and maintained a private teaching studio. She received her Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Rafael Bronstein and Ariana Bronne. Since then, Ms. Blitz has had an extensive performing and teaching career playing in orchestras such as the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Springfield, Stamford and Savannah Symphonies, the Berkshire Opera, and the Manchester Music Festival and Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestras, among others. She worked on Broadway and as concertmaster in a touring production of "Fiddler on the Roof". Her recent solo and chamber music performances include Beethoven's violin sonatas and trios by Rachmaninoff, including appearances at the annual RiverArts Music Tour. Ms. Blitz teaches at a private studio in New Jersey and with the Spring Creek Youth Orchestra in Brooklyn, NY, among other venues and was previously on the faculty with RiverArts and at Franklin Pierce University.

JEFFREY CHASNOW (violin) has performed with orchestras and chamber groups for many years. Studied at Julliard pre-college, and has performed with chamber groups at Harvard and the University of Chicago; in the Washington DC area as part of the Friday Morning Music Club; and with a variety of groups more recently in Westchester County and in Connecticut. Jeff is the chief regulatory counsel at Pfizer and lives in Westport, CT.

JOSHUA DANIELS (violin*) has played professionally with the Greenwich Symphony, Westchester Symphony, Chappaqua Orchestra, Bridgeport Symphony and Ridgefield Symphony. He has also been a frequent participant at summer festivals, including Camp Greenwood, Downeast Chamber Music Center, Aspen Music Festival, Manchester Music Festival and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute. Joshua began his violin studies at age 4 with Alfred Garson in Montreal, and he continued his studies with Louise Behrend at the School for Strings in NYC and subsequently with Louise Behrend at the Julliard Pre-College division and with Stanley Bednar at the Manhattan School Pre-College Division. He attended the College Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati, studying with Conny Kiradjeff and Makoto Kaneshiro. Joshua was a member of National Orchestral Association (NOA), a professional training orchestra, while studying with Makoto Kaneshiro and Dorothy Delay at Sarah Lawrence College, and he earned BFA and MFA degrees at SUNY Purchase studying with Yuval Waldman and Daniel Phillips, subsequently continuing his studies with Chin Kim.

REBECCA ECKFELD (violin) is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she studied violin with Millard Taylor and viola with Francis Tursi. She has been a member of the Rochester Philharmonic, the Fort Worth Symphony and Opera, the Oklahoma Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and Ballet, the Opera Classics of New Jersey, the Stamford Opera, the New Hampshire Music Festival, and the Opera Orchestra of New York. Currently, she is a member of the Queens Oratorical Society Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Sacred Music Society of Forrest Hills, the Chappaqua Orchestra, and the St. Thomas Orchestra. She has also performed numerous chamber music recitals with the Frohlich-Eckfeld Duo, the Eckfeld Duo, the Trio D'Été, and the Wilderness Quartet. In addition to performing, she has a studio of private violin and viola students.

WILLIAM ECKFELD (double bass) was the orchestra director at White Plains High School from 1987-2013. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he studied with the renowned bassist Oscar Zimmerman and was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra before beginning his career in music education. He has also studied conducting and composition at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz, Austria and has earned a Masters Degree in teaching from Lehman College, where he studied composition with John Corigliano. As a composer, he has written numerous works for chamber groups, soloists, and orchestras that have been performed in Westchester County. He currently serves as organist for the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Rochelle, is principal bass and assistant conductor of the St. Thomas Orchestra, and is the conductor and musical director of the Westchester Community Orchestra. He is also the pianist for the Trio D'Été and the Wilderness Quartet.

MONICA GERARD (viola) has performed with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, American Composer's Orchestra, Westchester Philharmonic, American Ballet Theater, Stamford Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony. As a baroque violist, she has performed and recorded with the Hanoverian Ensemble. She has served on the faculties of the Hoff-Barthelsson Music School and Hudson River School of Music and currently maintains a large private studio of viola and violin students. Her primary teachers have included Raphael Hillyer, Jesse Levine, Karen Tuttle, Kim Kashkashian, and Hatto Beyerle. Ms. Gerard holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Yale College, a Master of Music in Viola from the Yale School of Music, and studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

SILVIA PADEGS GRENDZE (violin*) is a freelance performer and violin teacher and Rivertowns native, raised in Hastings. She began violin studies at age 3, studying with disciples of Dr. Suzuki in Hastings, and received her Bachelor of music degree from Manhattan School of Music studying with Erick Friedman and Burton Kaplan. Silvia is on the Suzuki Violin Faculty of Music Conservatory of Westchester. Through MCW, Silvia is also the Outreach Violin teacher for the Greenburgh USDF Elementary Schools' String Program. As a violinist, Silvia has been freelancing primarily on the East coast, playing with orchestras and ensembles of various sizes in cities from Boston to Charleston. Silvia has been Concertmaster, Assistant Concertmaster and Principal 2nd for a number of orchestras. She is currently a core member of Ridgefield Symphony

and Waterbury Symphony, where she is Principal 2nd violinist. She also has sung professionally with choirs and is currently assistant conductor of the NY Latvian Concert Choir, a choir specializing in performing new cantatas. Silvia has played in major music centers such as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Boston's Symphony Hall and continues to perform internationally in such countries as Canada, Austria, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Venezuela, and Australia. Ms. Grendze currently resides in Irvington, NY. Silvia Padegs Grendze plays on a 1864 Samuel Nemessanyi violin.

LORI HOROWITZ (violin*) began her musical training at the Westchester Conservatory of Music with Gabriel Banat. As a high school senior, she embarked on a foreign exchange program to Brazil, and served as a volunteer member of the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra. Lori continued her musical studies at Oberlin College before embarking on a medical career. While in medical school she was a founding member of, and soloist with, the Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra. During her medical and post-medical training, she also performed with the Riverside Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony, The 92nd Street Y Orchestra, and the Bronx Chamber Orchestra. Since settling back in Westchester, Lori has enjoyed a longstanding involvement with the St. Thomas Orchestra and serves as their concertmaster. She also plays with The Chappaqua Orchestra. In 2013 Lori returned to school to pursue her musical studies more formally at Purchase College where she earned a Performer's Certificate, a Master's Degree and an Artist Diploma. She enjoys performing in chamber music concerts around the county, including with the River Arts Music Tour and as a member of the Upland Quartet. When not playing her violin, Lori maintains a practice of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

SETH JACOBS (cello), studied with Donald McCall, Alexander Goldfield, and William Klenz and has appeared with a number of Westchester-based chamber music groups and orchestras. This is his third year performing in the RiverArts Music Tour. Seth lives in Cortlandt Manor with his wife, pianist Cynthia Peterson.

APRIL JOHNSON (violin, *concert mistress) has performed extensively with the New York Chamber Soloists, another conductorless chamber orchestra, as well as the Oracle Trio, and records on the Dorian and Lyricord labels. Formerly the associate concertmaster of the Norwalk Symphony, prior concertmaster positions with the Jupiter and Canton (Ohio) Symphonies, as well as the Galatea Ensemble and Queens Oratorio. She is a regular performer at the annual RiverArts Chamber Music Gala, often appearing with her husband – cellist Peter Seidenberg – and other notable artists. April earned her degree from the Oberlin Conservatory, and subsequently pursued advanced studies at the Brooklyn College Conservatory. Since 1993, she has been a member of the faculty of the Hoff-Barthelson Music School.

JONATHAN KANTOR (cello*) began cello studies, age 7 as a student of Seymour Benstock, and attended the Banff Festival, where his lifelong interest in chamber music began. He is a longtime member of the Saint Thomas Orchestra and has also played with Westchester Collegium and Chappaqua Orchestra. Jon is a former board member of the American Symphony Orchestra and Westchester Conservatory of Music, as well as USI, Inc., Continental Casualty Company and American Casualty Company, and he is currently a board member of the Saint Thomas Symphony. He holds degrees from Brown University (1976) and Columbia Law School (1980) and made his career as partner at law firm Shea & Gould and as Executive Vice President and General Counsel at CNA Financial Corporation. Jon is currently General Counsel at Bowhead Specialty Underwriters.

BOB LAWRENCE (violin) has had a varied performing career, ranging from Karl Munchinger's Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra to the acclaimed Broadway revival of *Guys and Dolls*, starring Nathan Lane and Faith Prince. He is currently the director of programming as well as violinist for the All Seasons Chamber Players (NJ), violinist for the Caecilian Chamber Ensemble (NYC), concertmaster of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, and associate concertmaster of the Springfield (MA) Symphony Orchestra. He has also served as concertmaster for Opera Saratoga (formerly the Lake George Opera Festival), the Mid Atlantic Opera, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, and the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale. Bob has appeared at the Grand Teton, Colorado, and Spoleto Festivals. He studied at Yale University and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy, and has taught with RiverArts since 2005.

ALAN MURRAY (piano*) appeared extensively in solo and chamber music recitals and as concerto soloist with symphony orchestras in the US and Europe, performing the great piano concertos of Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Scriabin and Tchaikovsky. His most recent public performances (2019/20) in the Westchester area included Prokofiev's 2nd and 3rd Piano Concertos (with the Greater Newburgh Symphony and Yonkers Philharmonic, respectively) as well as a 2020 "Live-at-Home" video-recorded series featuring Mozart's Complete Piano Concertos, accompanied by the Westchester Chamber Soloists (WCS) – of which is founder and Executive Director – and by the English Chamber Orchestra (pre-recorded). He has also performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in NYC. A dedicated chamber musician, this year marks his fourth all-afternoon appearance as host and performer in RiverArts Annual Music Tour, the last three of which have focused on masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire. As soloist, he has performed the complete cycles of major works by Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, Ravel and J.S. Bach as well as Beethoven's 32 *Piano Sonatas* and *Diabelli Variations*, and major works by the Spanish masters Albéniz (*Iberia*), Granados (*Goyescas*) Rachmaninoff, Brahms, Schubert, Liszt and others. Alan resides in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY with his wife Amada, daughter Celia and Cavalier King Charles spaniel Lizzy. Alan's primary career has been in corporate finance and insurance risk analytics and he holds a degree in physics and languages from Cornell University, where he also received a special *University Award* for distinguished piano soloist. For information on his studio, performance schedule and live performance recordings, visit: www.studio-hollywood.com and www.WestchesterChamberSoloists.com. Alan plans to begin offering piano lessons in individual and group formats, and to establish a local chamber music society for participation by music enthusiasts of all levels of proficiency.

LIZ NILSEN-BAUMWOLL (viola*) has performed with the Albany Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Manhattan Chamber Orchestra and the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. She is also a founding member of the Rivertown String Quartet. Liz earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts degree at SUNY Purchase (now Purchase College), and a Masters of Fine Arts at the Mannes College of Music. She also has a Masters in Teaching from Lehman College (CUNY) and Suzuki Teacher Certification from the School for Strings. She studied with notables Emanuel Vardi, Karen Ritscher, Burton Kaplan, and Joey Corpus, and is herself a former faculty member of the Hudson River School of Music, Hoff-Barthelson Music School, the 92nd Street Y, and Greenwich Public Schools. For more information, and for her string quartet's concert schedule, visit www.rivertownstringquartet.org

LISA OLSSON (cello*) performs regularly with the Yonkers Philharmonic and has appeared as soloist in annual RiverArts Music Tours in performances of Beethoven's Cello Sonatas and as chamber music collaborator in trios by Mendelssohn and other masters. She studied at the School for Strings in NYC and teaches cello in her home studio and at the Hudson River School of Music. Lisa is also active as a poet and visual artist, and previously served as Design Director at Pearson Education, designing textbook programs. Her poems have been published online and in print, and she is recently a winner in the "Poetry in the Pavement" contest in Sleepy Hollow.

SACHI PATITUCCI (cello*) is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has performed and recorded as a freelance musician in New York, Los Angeles and North Carolina. She is a founding member of *Cello*, an all-female cello quartet, and has often performed and recorded in chamber music groups with Lawrence Dutton (Emerson String Quartet) and Richard Rood (Orpheus Chamber Orchestra). In 2017, Sachi performed for the first time at Jazz at Lincoln Center in a concert of music by Uruguayan composer and pianist Gustavo Casenave, her husband, bassist John Patitucci, and violinist Nick Danielson. A "pandemic recording" of Casenave's concerto will soon be released - each musician recorded their part separately, in their home studio. Sachi recently completed her studies in Music Supervision from Berklee College of Music and received a Professional Certificate in the field. She was able to utilize what she learned as Music Supervisor for a documentary entitled "Chicago: America's Hidden War," which was released on May 12th of this year. Sachi is manager for her husband and the CEO of their independent record label, *Three Faces Records*.

KATHERINE SINSABAUGH (viola*) is currently a member of the Cara Quartet. She has performed with the Sinsabaugh / Hall Duo and Trio Angelicus, both of which made their New York debuts in Carnegie Recital Hall. As a NY freelancer, she has performed in numerous Broadway Shows, including Ragtime, Show Boat, Kiss of the Spiderwoman and with area freelance orchestras. She has toured with Barbara Streisand, Pavarotti, and Andrea Bocelli to name a few. As a chamber musician, Katherine has performed in The American Landmark Series, Trinity Church, Vermont Mozart Festival, and The Aspen Festival, among many others. Katherine holds a Doctorate in Music and Music Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Prior studies include an MM from the Manhattan School of Music where she was a scholarship student of Karen Tuttle and Burton Kaplan and a BA from Barnard College-Columbia University where she studied with Paul Doktor at The Juilliard School, receiving among other prizes the Alpha Zeta Fellowship. An active researcher and writer, Katherine has presented at the International Suzuki Conference, MENC, Gender in Women, and RIME and her research focus includes gender issues, instrumental selection, self-regulated learning and music partnerships. Dr. Sinsabaugh is on the faculty of the Mamaroneck UFSD school district and Teachers College, Columbia University, and recently accepted an offer to become the Director of Fine and Performing Arts for the Port Chester public schools.

BERNARD TAMOSAITIS (cello, conductor), was born in Brooklyn, New York and studied at the Juilliard School with Channing Robbins, where he graduated with a B.A. in violoncello. As principal of the Bellas Artes Orchestra of Mexico City and subsequently as a member of the Quinteto de Xalapa, a resident chamber ensemble at the University of Veracruz, Mr. Tamosaitis performed extensively throughout Mexico and Latin America. As cello soloist, he has performed on tour with the New York Symphonic Ensemble, and with the Sinfonica de El Salvador, the Sound Shore and in May 2019 performed the Schumann Cello Concerto with the St. Thomas Orchestra. Mr. Tamosaitis is a member of Canta Libre, a chamber ensemble which frequently performs throughout the region. Canta Libre's CD of French chamber music for harp, flute and strings was hailed by BBC Music Magazine as its CD of the month in 2013. In 2002, Mr. Tamosaitis founded the St. Thomas Orchestra and continues as its Music Director. The orchestra has developed over the years into one of the premier community-based orchestras in the region (www.storchestra.org)

KATHLEEN THOMSON (violin*) enjoys an active career in the New York City metropolitan area. She is a founding member of the Cara Quartet and the Trio Della Luna and appears regularly with the Cantabile Trio. Followers of contemporary music may have seen her at Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, The Kitchen, and other New Music venues. Formerly concertmaster of Westchester Camerata, she is a member of the Stamford Symphony, Ridgefield Symphony and the Westchester Chamber Soloists. She also appears frequently with Hudson Valley Philharmonic and in live radio appearances on WQXR Radio and Minnesota Public Radio's "Live from Landmark" series. Ms. Thomson is a native of Minneapolis where, as a three-time competition winner, she performed concerti with orchestras in Saint Paul, Chicago and Green Bay. She received the Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music as a scholarship student of Raphael Bronstein and Ariana Bronne. Ms. Thomson records on the Newport, New World, and Varese-Sarabande labels, and teaches privately and through RiverArts. She resides in Irvington, NY, with her husband Bill Moss and their two children.

MARC WAGER (French horn*) has performed extensively in symphony orchestras and for musicals and operas. He currently plays with the St. Thomas Orchestra, based in White Plains, and his previous tenures have included the Albert Einstein Symphony and the Chappaqua Chamber Orchestras. He has also appeared with the Ridgefield Symphony and with the Bermuda, Yonkers and NY Philharmonics. In addition to his ensemble work, Marc has appeared as guest soloist with orchestras in works including Weber's Concertino and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Wind. He has performed with notables Glenn Dicterow and Karen Dreyfus, and remains an active chamber musician, appearing with the Angels in the Chamber, with the former Amber Woodwind Quintet, and at chamber music programs at Bennington College and Kinhaven, and has performed over 200 musicals and operas. A graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Wager earned his medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and has devoted his professional practice to Pediatrics.