

## **WESTCHESTER CHAMBER SOLOISTS & FRIENDS: About Us**

The ***Westchester Chamber Soloists***, established in January 2020, is Westchester County's premier chamber orchestra and chamber music performance network focused on performing the concerto and chamber literature for all solo symphonic instruments and for piano, as well as other orchestral and selected vocal and choral works. **WCS** debuted as a chamber orchestra in March 2020 at Sarah Lawrence College and, together with its Friends network and founder and executive director Alan Murray, has performed more than 50 prominent chamber works to date, primarily at the RiverArts Annual Music Tours in the Rivertowns along the lower Hudson Valley. The ensemble plans for a return to the stage with an active 2021-22 concerto and chamber music performance season.

**WCS** comprises primarily career professional as well as advanced amateur musicians from the New York metro area, including Connecticut and New Jersey. Its members are all accomplished solo, chamber ensemble and orchestral music performers in addition to being music educators, many with close ties to conservatories, prominent chamber music ensembles and other artistic institutions in the greater New York area and worldwide.

The ensemble operates as a self-governed enterprise and performs primarily without a conductor, guided instead by the keen musical instincts and insights of its performers. It also seeks to establish sustainable ongoing relationships with colleges and other educational and cultural institutions. As a concerto and chamber music-focused enterprise, WCS draws its soloists from within, enabling its members to share their musical artistry as both ensemble players and soloists. For additional information, please visit: [www.WestchesterChamberSoloists.com](http://www.WestchesterChamberSoloists.com)

### **OUR PERFORMERS: RiverArts Music Tour 2022**

**KATE ASHBY (violin)** served as Artistic Director for RiverArts for Spring 2021 and for the 2021-22 Season and was delighted to work with Adam Hart as co-producer of 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's *Vespers* at Concordia and 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.

**JOYCE BALINT (violin, mandolin)** has been the mandolin soloist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 1974. One of the country's foremost classical mandolinists, she has performed many solo recitals and orchestral performances, including the Paris Opera, Dallas Opera, and the Boston Symphony. As a violinist, she has been an active free-lance performer in the New York metropolitan area, including the MET Opera, the Caramoor Festival Orchestra, the Westchester Symphony, and several opera companies. She currently performs with the Amore Opera in New York City. She also performed duo recitals with her late husband Sandor Balint, as the Balint Duo. "Joyce Balint Shines in a String Recital" was the headline in the New York Times of her Carnegie Recital Hall debut where it said her playing of the mandolin "came close to the ideal" and she played with a "musicianly verve" on the violin. Ms. Balint resides in Bronxville and is on the faculty of the Mozartina Musical Arts Conservatory in Tarrytown.

**JEFFREY CHASNOW (violin)** has performed with orchestras and chamber groups for many years. He studied at Juilliard's pre-college program 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 Kiradjieff 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.

**DOROTHY DARLINGTON (oboe/English horn)** was born in New York City but spent about half her upbringing in Lake Placid where she began her oboe studies. She holds three degrees in music and has performed with the Costa Rica, Savannah, Jacksonville and Atlanta Symphonies, after which she joined the US Marine Band known as "The President's Own" for 6 years for White House duties and tours to Europe under President Reagan. Finding the military commitment too intensive to consider starting a family, she free-lanced with Wolf Trap, the National Symphony (at Kennedy Center) and the Washington Bach Consort among others, as well as a serving as a long-term alternate with the New

York Philharmonic. Dorothy has been a member of the Ridgefield Symphony for 35 years and recently performed for an entire weekend in Carnegie Hall. She has two sons, age 29 and 25, and she thinks they are the best thing that ever happened to her!

**ROSEMARY DELLINGER (bassoon)** studied bassoon performance at SUNY Purchase and Yale School of Music. She played principal bassoon with La Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo, Venezuela for four years after completing her musical studies. She holds two advanced degrees in Multicultural education and Spanish from Fairfield University and the University of Salamanca, Spain. Ms. Dellinger plays with the American Chamber Orchestra, the Westchester Chamber Soloists, and frequently plays with other groups in the greater CT area. She is a member of two active woodwind quintets - Madera Winds and Continuo Winds. A retired Spanish teacher, she resides in Norwalk with her husband.

**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.

**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 both Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra and Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. 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. Silvia currently resides in Irvington, NY and performs on a 1864 Samuel Nemessanyi violin.

**AMY HERSH (flute)** has an active career that combines her love of chamber music, orchestral performance and teaching. The New York Times has written that Ms. Hersh "...plays the flute...with directness and an ear for subtlety." She began her career playing flute and piccolo in the Mexico City Philharmonic and since then has performed with many ensembles, including the NJ Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, New York Gilbert and Sullivan players, and with various Broadway pit orchestras. She currently plays with the St. George's Choral Society and Hudson Valley Philharmonic and is a member of chamber ensembles The Virtuosi Woodwind Quintet and the Cara Quartet. Ms. Hersh made her New York debut at Carnegie's Weill Hall as an Artist's International-winning member of the "Venus Trio", a group of flute, harp, and mezzo-soprano. She was also a winner of the NY Flute Club competition, performing in CAMI Hall. She earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, and attended international programs in Nice, France and Canada, studying with Alain Marion and Robert Stallman. Her teachers have included Carol Wincenc, Harold Bennett, and Harvey Sollberger. She is an advanced level Suzuki flute teacher and teaches at the Hackley School in Tarrytown and at her home studio.

**DANIEL HOPPE (cello)** has been engaged with the art of teaching for over a decade. Steeped in the traditions of Suzuki Talent Education and The Alexander Technique (AT), his pedagogy emphasizes the inherent potential of every individual to learn and grow. He studied at Carleton College and the Boston Conservatory and completed a masters in orchestral conducting and a doctorate in cello performance at the University of Kentucky. Daniel shares his passion and experience through individual and group lessons, public performances, and workshops. He has played at the SXSW festival, Carnegie Hall, and street corners. He has taught at Centre College, the Music Institute of Chicago, and his living room. No matter the setting, Daniel fosters a nurturing environment that emphasizes genuine connection. He is currently teaching cello and the Alexander Technique from his home studio, The Hopemark Hearth, in Tarrytown, NY.

**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 92<sup>nd</sup> 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, now known as Orchestra 914. In 2013 Lori returned to school to pursue her musical studies more formally at Purchase College where she earned a Performer's Certificate and a Master's Degree in Violin Performance. 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.

**PETER HUITZACUA (French horn)** originally from Southern California, earned a Bachelor of Music in orchestral performance at the Boston Conservatory. He completed a Master of Arts in Performing Arts Administration and in Chamber Music at New York University. As a freelance musician, he has played with various chamber and orchestral ensembles in New York City. As an administrator, he has held positions at NYU, Lincoln Center, and private production companies. Currently, he is the Senior Manager of Accessibility and Operations at Carnegie Hall.

**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 fourth year performing in the RiverArts Music Tour. Seth lives in Cortlandt Manor with his wife, pianist Cynthia Peterson.

**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.

**LAURA MACBETH (violin)** studied violin at Interlochen National Music Camp during high school, and with Nancy Cirillo at Wellesley College and later with Kyung Chee at the University of Washington. She has performed with many orchestras and chamber groups over the years, including the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Mahler Festival Orchestra, and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony of Manhattan. As soloist, Laura has performed J.S. Bach's

A minor violin concerto and the trio version of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* with New York City's Chamber Orchestra of Science and Medicine. She works as a pediatrician at WestMed Medical Group in Rye.

**ALAN MURRAY (piano)** has appeared extensively in solo and chamber music recitals and as concerto soloist with symphony orchestras in the US and Europe, performing over 50 of the great piano concertos of Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Dvorák, Franck, Gershwin, Grieg, Liszt, Mozart, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Scriabin and Tchaikovsky. In 2020, Alan performed and video-recorded as a "Live-at-Home" broadcast series the complete cycle of Mozart's solo piano concertos. Alan is also founder and Executive Director of the Westchester Chamber Soloists (WCS), which debuted as a chamber orchestra in March 2020 at Sarah Lawrence College and has performed over 50 major chamber music works since inception; WCS is currently preparing to return to the concert stage for an active 2022-23 performance season. Alan has also performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in NYC. A dedicated chamber musician, this year marks his fifth all-afternoon appearance as host and performer in RiverArts Annual Music Tour, the last four of which have focused on masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire. As a recital soloist, he has performed in public 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. His professional career has focused on corporate finance and insurance risk analytics, currently as an executive with the AM Best Company, and previously held management-level positions at Moody's Investors Service and American International Group. He holds a degree in physics and languages from Cornell University, where he also received a special *University Award* for distinguished piano soloist. Alan resides in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY with his wife Amada, daughter Celia and Cavalier King Charles spaniel Lizzy. For information on his studio, teaching activities, performance schedule, recorded live concerto and chamber music performances, and press coverage, visit: [www.Studio-Hollywood.com](http://www.Studio-Hollywood.com).

**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](http://www.rivertownstringquartet.org)

**ENID BLOUNT PRESS (clarinet)** has a diverse musical career performing and teaching in the New York area. She has performed in classical settings at many of the major

performance halls in New York: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Recital Hall, as well as at numerous other national and international music venues. A founding member and clarinetist/bass clarinetist of the progressive chamber rock group Angels in the Chamber, Enid also enjoys teaching clarinet, saxophone and piano. She lives in New Rochelle with her family.

**ALAN SCHAFFER (clarinet)** received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree from Duke University, where he also studied under Jimmy Gilmore, principal clarinetist of the NC Symphony. He earned his MD degree from Tulane University, followed by a residency and pulmonary fellowship, after which he resumed chamber music activities at the 92nd Street Y's amateur chamber music program during his Critical Care Fellowship. Alan has participated in the Alaria Chamber Ensemble for the past decade, having performed all of the major clarinet sonatas and most of the major chamber works for clarinet. He appeared as soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra in early 2020 and looks forward to performing it again with the Westchester Chamber Soloists in the coming season. He has been a regular attendee at the summer chamber music program at Bennington, VT, and in the summer of 2019 he participated in the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project in Schladming, Austria. Alan practices medicine at Goshen Medical Associates, now part of Westchester Medical Health, and specializes in Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Obesity medicine. He resides in Goshen, NY with his wife Jackie and two dogs.

**THOMAS SEFCOVIC (bassoon)** is a long-standing member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's, performing on both bassoon and contrabassoon. He is also a member of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Lincoln Center, New York Pops Orchestra, and has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The conductors he has worked under include André Previn, Roger Norrington, Bernard Labadie, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Franz Bruggen, and Louis Langrée. On Broadway, he has performed in "Oklahoma!", "Swan Lake", Stephen Sondheim's "The Frogs", "A Little Night Music," and most recently the Tony Award winning Best Musical "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." Tom studied bassoon and contrabassoon with Lyell Lindsey of the Detroit Symphony, Hugh Cooper at the University of Michigan, Steven Maxym at the Manhattan School of Music, and had further studies with Arthur Weissberg. He is also known as a specialist in early performance practice on period bassoon and contrabassoon and has performed and recorded with the Orchestra of the 18th Century in Amsterdam; the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston; Philharmonia Baroque in Berkeley, California; The Connecticut Early Music Festival; The Hanoverian Ensemble; and Tafelmusik in Toronto.

**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 the Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts in Port Chester - Rye UFSD school district and is an Assistant Adjunct Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**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](http://www.storchestra.org))

**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 New York 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.

**TERESA WAGER (flute)** has performed as a freelance flutist in orchestras, chamber groups, and pits for opera and musical theatre. Terry performs regularly with the St. Thomas Orchestra, based in Mamaroneck, as well as with the Amber Woodwind Quintet and the Rye Country Day School Festival Orchestra and Chorus. She recently was the flute soloist for the world premiere of Robert Puleo's "Oh Music". She is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where she also later served as Associate Director and member of the faculty of its Preparatory Division for 25 years. Since 2003, she has been on the administrative staff of Hoff-Barthelson Music School in several different capacities.

**AMY WIERENGA (oboe/English horn)** is a graduate of Butler University's Jordan School of Music. She was principal oboe of the Butler Symphony Orchestra and has appeared as a soloist with the Jordan Sinfonia, Indianapolis Children's Choir and as a member of the Midtown Winds quintet. She has also performed locally with the American Mozart Orchestra, the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony. Apart from her musical activities, Amy's primary career has been as Chief Risk Officer at a financial firm in New York City. She resides in Hastings with her husband, two children and assorted pets.