

NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

A Candlelight Christmas

FRI, DEC 22, 2023 | 8PM

SAT, DEC 23, 2023 | 3PM

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, WOOLNER STAGE
MARTIN MARIETTA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, RALEIGH

North Carolina Symphony
Michelle Di Russo, *conductor*
Raleigh Youth Choir
Jeremy Tucker, *Artistic Director*

PROGRAM

Traditional/Johann Pachelbel /
Arr. Lon Beery
Christmas Canon
Raleigh Youth Choir

Henry Gauntlett / Cecil Frances Alexander /
Arr. David Willcocks
"Once in Royal David's City"
Raleigh Youth Choir

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Polonaise from Christmas Eve

Mel Tormé / Arr. Bob Lowden
The Christmas Song

Sergei Prokofiev
Troika from Lieutenant Kijé

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Dance of the Tumblers from Snow Maiden

Mykola Dmytrovych Leontovych
"Carol of the Bells"
Raleigh Youth Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams / Arr. Ralph Greeves
Fantasia on Greensleeves

John Williams
"Somewhere in My Memory" from Home Alone
Raleigh Youth Choir

Traditional / Arr. David Willcocks
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Raleigh Youth Choir

John Rutter
Selections from Five Meditations for
Orchestra
I. *What Sweeter Music*
II. *Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind*
III. *Candlelight*

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
March from The Nutcracker

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Danse des Mirlitons from The Nutcracker

Traditional
Personent Hodie
Raleigh Youth Choir

Franz Xaver Gruber / Arr. John Rutter
"Silent Night"
Raleigh Youth Choir

John Rutter
"Candlelight Carol"
Raleigh Youth Choir

Traditional / Arr. David Willcocks
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Raleigh Youth Choir

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges financial support: from
Wake County, the City of Raleigh, and the State of North Carolina..



About the Artists



Michelle Di Russo, conductor

The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

Michelle Di Russo is Associate Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony where she is responsible for conducting the Symphony's extensive statewide music education concerts. She has conducted UNC Health Summerfest performances, Young People's Concerts, and Statewide Holiday Pops concerts with the Symphony, as well as classical subscription performances in Chapel Hill and Wilmington.

A graceful and powerful force on the podium, Michelle Di Russo is known for her compelling interpretations, passionate musicality, and championing of contemporary music. She has recently been appointed a 2023/24 Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and participated at the Lucerne Festival Academy. An advocate for underrepresented artists, she co-founded the organization Girls Who Conduct to support younger generations of women and non-binary conductors.

Di Russo's artistic journey began in her native country, Argentina, at the age of three with ballet lessons, followed by studies in voice and piano. She has acted on television and onstage. Di Russo holds multiple degrees in Orchestral Conducting from Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, University of Kentucky (M.M.), and Arizona State University (D.M.A.). She is a former Freeman Conducting Fellow in Chicago Sinfonietta's prestigious Project Inclusion program and a recipient of the Concert Artists Guild's Richard S. Weinert Award.

Previously, Di Russo served as Interim Director of Orchestras at Cornell University, Assistant Conductor for the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra, cover conductor and assistant for The Phoenix Symphony and Arizona Musicfest, and as a conducting fellow at the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy. She has also acted as cover conductor for the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra. In the summer of 2022, she served as the Joel Revzen Conducting Fellow at Festival Napa Valley.



Raleigh Youth Choir Jeremy Tucker, *Artistic Director*

The Raleigh Youth Choir made their debut with the North Carolina Symphony for holiday concerts in 2022..

Raleigh Youth Choir (RYC) educates youth in the art and joy of singing through instruction and performances. RYC consists of six choirs for singers aged 6-18.

RYC offers each young person a unique experience and envisions youth from all cultures and backgrounds joining together to experience the power of song. Instructors meet every child exactly where they are and provide specialized instruction, all while providing mentorship and encouragement. Every young person has a voice, and those voices are valued.

The Raleigh Youth Choir was established as the Raleigh Boychoir in 1968, by Thomas Sibley. The choir continues to evolve and grow with each generation it serves. For its 2022/23 season, RYC expanded its programming to all youth, ages 6-18, who love to sing.

Jeremy C. Tucker has served as Artistic Director since 2014 and has focused on collaboration with ensembles including the North Carolina Symphony, Carolina Ballet, and North Carolina Master Chorale. A native of North Carolina and Director of Arts Education for the Wake County Public School System, he holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in music education and is a Nationally Board-Certified Teacher and a winner of the North Carolina Schools Regional Teacher of the Year award, the North Carolina Symphony's Maxine Swalin Outstanding Educator Award, and the Raleigh Medal of Arts. He is the past president of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

The Raleigh Youth Choir welcomes the choruses of:

Enloe High School, Lauren Hallihan, *Director*

Martin Middle School, Allison Thomas, *Director*

Ligon Middle School, Hanna Castellano, *Director*

The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

Carlos Miguel Prieto,
Music Director
*The Maxine and
Benjamin Swalin
Chair*

Grant Llewellyn,
Music Director Laureate

Michelle Di Russo,
Associate Conductor
The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

Violin I

Brian Reagin, Concertmaster
*The Annabelle Lundy Fetterman
Chair*

Jessica Hung,
Associate Concertmaster
*The Assad Meymandi and Family
Chair*

Anna Black,
Assistant Concertmaster
The Anne Heartt Gregory Chair

Karen Strittmatter Galvin,
Assistant Concertmaster

Carol Chung*

Emily Rist Glover
The Jessie Wyatt Ethridge Chair

Paul Goldsberry
The Richard and Joy Cook Chair

So Yun Kim**
*The Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.
Chair*

Maria Meyer
*The Tom and Mary Mac
Bradshaw Chair*

Pablo Sánchez Pazos
*The Phyllis ("Pat") Conrad Wells
Chair*

Jessica Ryou
*The James C. Byrd and Family
Chair*

Lin-Ti Wang*

Eileen Wynne
The Harvey At-Large Chair

Erin Zehngut
The J. Felix Arnold Chair

Violin II

Jacqueline Saed Wolborsky,
Principal
The Nancy Finch Wallace Chair

Tiffany Kang,
Associate Principal
The Blanche Martin Shaw Chair

David Kilbride, Assistant
Principal

Qi Cao

Janet Gayer Hall

Chris Jusell*

Leah Latorraca*

Oskar Ozolinch

Jeanine Wynton

Viola

Samuel Gold, Principal
*The Florence Spinks and Charles
Jacob Cate and Alma Yondorf
and Sylvan Hirschberg Chair*

Kurt Tseng,
Associate Principal
The Betty Ellen Madry Chair

Brian Sherwood,
Assistant Principal

Petra Berényi

Paul Malcolm

Amy Mason
The J. Sidney Kirk Chair

Sandra Schwarcz
*The Samuel H. and Anne Latham
Johnson Chair*

Kirsten Swanson*

Cello

Bonnie Thron, Principal
The June and Tom Roberg Chair

Elizabeth Beilman,
Associate Principal
*The Sarah Carlyle Herbert Dorroh
Chair*

Peng Li, Assistant Principal,
Anonymously Endowed

Yewon Ahn
Anonymously Endowed

David Meyer
The Nell Hirschberg Chair

Marc Moskowitz*
*The William Charles Rankin
Chair*

Lisa Howard Shaughnessy
The Sara Wilson Hodgkins Chair

Nathaniel Yaffe
*The Secretary of Cultural
Resources Betty Ray McCain
Chair*

Double Bass

Leonid Finkelshteyn, Principal
*The Martha and Peyton
Woodson Chair*

Bruce Ridge*,
Associate Principal
*The John C. and Margaret P.
Parker Chair*

Craig Brown
*The Mark W. McClure Foundation
Chair*

Erik Dyke
*The Harlee H. and Pauline G.
Jobe Chair*

John Spuller*
*The Dr. and Mrs. Preston H. Gada
Chair*

Flute

Anne Whaley Laney, Principal
*The Mr. and Mrs. George M.
Stephens Chair*

Mary E. Boone,
Assistant Principal
*The Dr. and Mrs. Shaler Stidham,
Jr. Chair*

Vaynu Kadiyali*
The Jack and Sing Boddie Chair

Piccolo

Vaynu Kadiyali*
The Jean Dunn Williams Chair

Oboe

Melanie Wilsden, Principal
The Hardison and Stoltze Chair

Joseph Peters,
Associate Principal,
The Lizette T. Dunham Chair

Rachel Ahn*
*The Clarence and Alice Aycock
Poe Chair*

English Horn

Joseph Peters
*The Bruce and Margaret King
Chair*

Clarinet

Samuel Almaguer, Principal
*The Mr. and Mrs. J. Christopher
Walker, II Chair*

Sammy Lesnick,
Assistant Principal
*The Kathryn Powell and Green
Flavie Cooper Chair*

Bassoon

Aaron Apaza, Principal
*The Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald S.
Hudson Chair*

Wenmin Zhang,
Assistant Principal,
The Beethoven Chair

French Horn

Rebekah Daley, Principal
The Mary T. McCurdy Chair

Kimberly Van Pelt,
Associate Principal
*The Paul R. Villard and Gabriel
Wolf Chair*

Corbin Castro*
*The Roger Colson and Bobbi
Lyon Hackett Chair*

Gabriel Mairson*
The James Marion Poyner Chair

To Be Filled
*The Mary Susan Kirk Fulghum
Chair*

Trumpet

Paul Randall, Principal
The George Smedes Poyner Chair

David Dash*,
Associate Principal
*The Henry and Martha Zaytoun
and Family Chair*

Trombone

John Ilika, Principal
*The Thomas Warwick Steed, Jr.
Family Chair*

Steven Osborne*, Assistant
Principal

Jonathan Randazzo**,
Assistant Principal
The Frances Armour Bryant Chair

Bass Trombone

Matthew Neff
Anonymously Endowed

Tuba

Seth Horner, Principal
*The Governor and Mrs. James G.
Martin, Jr. Chair*

Harp

Anita Burroughs-Price
Vonda Darr

Timpani

Colin Hartnett, Principal
*The Patricia R., Steven T. and
George F. Hackney III Chair*

Percussion

Richard Motylinski, Principal
*The Margery and Earl Johnson,
Jr. Chair*

Rajesh Prasad,
Assistant Principal
*The Abram and Frances Pascher
Kanof Chair*

Organ

To Be Filled
*The Albert and Susan Jenkins
and Family Organ Chair*

Library

Stephanie Wilson, Principal
Orchestra Librarian
*The Mary Colvert and Banks C.
Talley Chair*

Taylor Troyer,
Assistant Orchestra Librarian

*Acting position

**Leave of absence

**Named musician chairs
are made possible through
very meaningful gifts to the
Symphony's endowment. As
such, these donor families are
also members of the Lamar
Stringfield Society.**

*All string players rotate stands on
a periodic basis in each section
with the exception of titled
players: Principals, Associate
Principals, and Assistant
Principals.*

*The North Carolina Symphony
is a member of the League of
American Orchestras and the
International Conference of
Symphony and Opera Musicians.*

*The North Carolina Master
Chorale is the Resident Chorus of
the North Carolina Symphony.*

*The North Carolina Symphony
Foundation gratefully
acknowledges the generous
gift of the Lupot violin from
Arnold and Zenat Lerman.
†deceased*