

NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

The Music of Billy Joel & Elton John

FRI, OCT 6, 2023 | 8PM

SAT, OCT 7, 2023 | 3PM & 8PM

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, WOOLNER STAGE

MARTIN MARIETTA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, RALEIGH

North Carolina Symphony

Michelle Di Russo, conductor

Jean Meilleur, vocals

John Regan, piano and vocals

PROGRAM

"Ballad of Billy the Kid"

"Movin' Out"

"She's Got a Way"

"Big Shot"

"My Life"

**"Scenes from an Italian
Restaurant"**

"Piano Man"

"You May Be Right"

Music and Lyrics by Billy Joel

INTERMISSION

**"Funeral for a Friend/Love Lies
Bleeding"**

"Philadelphia Freedom"

**"I Guess That's Why They Call It the
Blues"**

"Tonight: Prelude"

"Someone Saved My Life Tonight"

"Circle of Life"

"Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me"

Music by Elton John Lyrics by Bernie Taupin

except "I Guess That's Why They Call It the

Blues" Elton John, Bernie Taupin, Davey

Johnstone and "Circle of Life" Elton John Tim

Rice

All arrangements by Peter Brennan

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully
acknowledges the support of Matinee
Concert Sponsor WakeMed MyCare 365.



The North Carolina Symphony gratefully
acknowledges the support of
Saturday Concert Sponsor WRAL.



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.



Jean Meilleur, vocals

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Jean Meilleur.

Jean Meilleur has performed with scores of major North American orchestras, lending his distinctive voice to some of the greatest popular music of our time.

Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, Meilleur moved to Detroit at a young age. Living in the Motor City helped shape his penchant for the Motown, soul, and R&B sounds of the early '70s.

Meilleur is a prolific songwriter who has been performing professionally for over thirty years and has been heard on many national radio and television advertisements. He was recently chosen as the Canadian voice of Jim Beam Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey.



John Regan, piano and vocals

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for John Regan.

Classically trained but conditioned by rock, pop, and folk music, John Regan has also worked with Second City in London, Ontario and appeared as a solo artist across southwestern Ontario. He cites Joe Jackson, Tom Waits, Elton John, and Roy Bittan as influences.

In addition to performing with stars including Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) and Lawrence Gowan (Styx), Regan has performed with more than 50 orchestras across North America.

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*