

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

Let's Groove Tonight: Motown Meets the Philly Sound

FRI, FEB 9, 2024 | 8PM

SAT, FEB 10, 2024 | 3PM & 8PM

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

North Carolina Symphony

Herb Smith, conductor

Ashley Jayy, vocalist
Chester Gregory, vocalist
Brik.Liam, vocalist

Jacob Navarro, drums
Shubh Saran, guitar

*A Schirmer Theatrical/Greenberg Artists co-production
Arrangements by Jeff Tyzik*

PROGRAM

Kenneth Gamble and Leon A. Huff
T.S.O.P. (The Sound of Philadelphia)
As recorded by MFSB

Maurice White and Wayne Vaughn
"Let's Groove"
As recorded by Earth, Wind & Fire

Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong
"I Heard It Through the Grapevine"
As recorded by Marvin Gaye

Melvin Steals and Mervin Steals
"Could It Be I'm Falling in Love"
As recorded by the Spinners

Kenneth Gamble and Leon A. Huff
"You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine"
As recorded by Lou Rawls

Teddy Randazzo, Bobby Weinstein, and Bobby Hart
"Hurt So Bad"
As recorded by Little Anthony & the Imperials

Smokey Robinson and Ronald White
"My Girl"
As recorded by The Temptations

Thomas Randolph Bell and Phil Hurtt
"I'll Be Around"
As recorded by the Spinners

Leon A. Huff, Gene McFadden, and John Cavadus Whitehead
"Back Stabbers"
As recorded by The O'Jays

Kenneth Gamble, Leon A. Huff, and Cary Gilbert
"Don't Leave Me This Way"
As recorded by Thelma Houston

Ludwig van Beethoven and Walter Murphy
A 5th of Beethoven
As recorded by Walter Murphy and the Big Apple Band

Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong
"Ball of Confusion (That's What the World Is Today)"
As recorded by The Temptations

Thomas Randolph Bell and Linda Creed
"People Make the World Go Round"
As recorded by The Stylistics

Kenneth Gamble, Leon A. Huff, and Cary Gilbert
"Me & Mrs. Jones"
As recorded by Billy Paul

Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers
"I'm Coming Out"
As recorded by Diana Ross

Waldo T. Holmes
"Rock the Boat"
As Recorded by The Hues Corporation

Kenneth Gamble and Leon A. Huff
"Love Train"
As recorded by The O'Jays

Jerry Cohen, Gene McFadden, and John Cavadus Whitehead
"Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now"
As recorded by McFadden & Whitehead

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully
acknowledges the support of Concert Sponsor
Galloway Ridge at Fearington.

**GALLOWAY
RIDGE**
AT FEARRINGTON

INTERMISSION

All arrangements licensed by Schirmer Theatrical, LLC
Creative Team
Robert Thompson, Producer
Jeff Tyzik, Producer & Arranger
Jami Greenberg, Producer & Booking Agent
Alex Kosick, Associate Producer



About the Artists



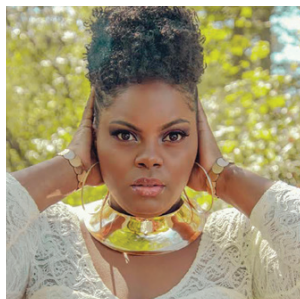
Herb Smith, *conductor*

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Herb Smith.

Herb Smith is a regular guest conductor with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He frequently conducts Symphoria, an orchestra based in Syracuse, New York, and currently directs the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra. He also guest conducts for All-State and All-County bands, orchestras, and jazz ensembles across New York State. He recently conducted a brass performance of Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* for a concert honoring Harriet Tubman in a bicentennial celebration.

Voted "Best Instrumentalist" of Rochester 2022 by *CITY Magazine*, Smith currently holds the third trumpet position in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the principal trumpet position in the Gateways Festival Orchestra, which made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2022. He also serves as principal trumpet in the Gateways Brass Collective, a nationally touring brass quintet, and has been a frequent guest soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic. His Freedom Trio (composed of trumpet played through electronics, bass, and drums) performs around the country.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Smith is also an active composer and a trumpet instructor at the Eastman Community Music School.



Ashley Jayy, *vocalist*

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Ashley Jayy.

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Ashley Jayy began singing solos and leading choir songs in her local church and started her first formal training in gospel choirs. After winning the 2006 McDonald's Gospelfest in Seattle, Jayy would compete again in New York at the legendary Apollo Theater.

On the music scene in Portland, Jayy worked with musicians including singer and songwriter Liv Warfield and saxophonist Mike Phillips. These ventures led her to meet Prince, with whom she soon began touring. She became a member of Prince's New Power Generation band. In recent years, in addition to performing as a guest soloist in symphony concerts, she has sung with artists including Tank, Monica, Tevin Campbell, PJ Morton, and Jazmine Sullivan.



Chester Gregory, *vocalist*

Chester Gregory previously performed with the North Carolina Symphony as a soloist in 2022 in the concert Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown.

Chester Gregory is a singer and actor who starred in the national tour of *Motown: The Musical* as Berry Gordy. Broadway credits include *Motown: the Musical*, *Hairspray* (Seaweed), *Tarzan* (Terk, original cast), *Cry-Baby* (Dupree, original cast), and *Sister Act* (Eddie). *The New York Times* has called him “jaw-dropping... overflowing with charisma.” Other credits include August Wilson’s *Fences* and *Two Trains Running*. He has toured nationally with *Dreamgirls* and *Sister Act*, as well as his one-man show *The Eve of Jackie Wilson*. He first played Jackie Wilson in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, which launched at Chicago’s Black Ensemble Theatre and culminated at New York’s renowned Apollo Theatre.

Gregory’s awards include Chicago’s Joseph Jefferson Award and a NAACP Theatre Award. He has been presented the keys to the city both in his hometown of Gary, Indiana, and in East Chicago. He has also been chosen as an Honorary State Representative of Indiana and received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Columbia College Chicago. He releases music under the name C.H.E.S.S., including the 2022 album *Retrograde (Moon)*, and is currently producing several projects and recordings.



Brik.Liam, *vocalist*

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Brik.Liam.

Cultivated in diverse backgrounds and raised in the church with his mother as head of the choir, Jacoby “Brik. Liam” Williams was exposed to different genres of music that influenced his current sound. The stage name Brik.Liam is a two part compilation: “Brik”—a synonym search of his favorite color red and “Liam”—an abbreviation of his last name.

Brik.Liam was born in Petersburg, Virginia and reared in Germany & Houston. He has performed from London to the Republic of Congo, as well as touring the United States as an opening performer for Grammy-winning artist PJ Morton during the 2018 More Gumbo Tour and the 2019 Paul Tour. Since then, he has released the EP *What’s The Matter, Brik* and completed a solo tour in Russia.

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

Daniel Moore

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

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 Moskovitz*
*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 Flavia 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

Clinton McLendon,
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 Zena† Lerman.
†deceased

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

