

NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

# HOLIDAY POPS

FRIDAY, DEC 10, 2021 | 8PM

SATURDAY, DEC 11, 2021 | 3PM & 8PM

Meymandi Concert Hall

Woolner Stage

**Duke Energy Center**  
for the Performing Arts

Raleigh



The North Carolina Symphony, in grateful acknowledgment of its generous grant-in-aid, performs under the auspices of the State of North Carolina, the Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor.



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



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## Holiday Pops

Raleigh Pops

Friday, December 10, 2021 | 8pm

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MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, WOOLNER STAGE

DUKE ENERGY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, RALEIGH

## Program

### North Carolina Symphony

**Conner Gray Covington**, conductor

**Yolanda Rabun**, vocals

**Branden Williams**, piano

**Christian Sharp**, bass

**Demetrice Everett**, drums

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of **Weekend Sponsor CEI – The Digital Office**.



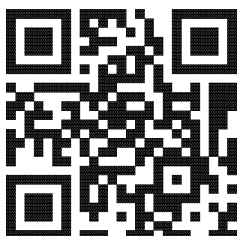
The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of **Friday Concert Sponsor Publix Super Markets Charities**.



The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of **Saturday Concert Sponsor celito.net**.



The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of **Saturday Concert Sponsor Galloway Ridge**.



For the complete program, text the word **program** to **919.364.6864** or scan this QR code with your phone.

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** / Arr. Sydney Baynes  
*Christmas Overture*

**Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**/  
**Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn** / Arr. Jeff Tyzik  
*Overture from The Nutcracker Suite*

**Mel Tormé** / Arr. Carmen Dragon  
**"The Christmas Song"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Adolphe Adam** / Arr. Carmen Dragon  
**"O Holy Night"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**  
*Polonaise from Christmas Eve*

**Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**  
*Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker*  
*Trepak from The Nutcracker*

**Earl Lawrence**  
**"That's What I Want for Christmas"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Traditional**  
**"The Twelve Days of Christmas"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Traditional** / Arr. S. Moore / Trans. James Stephenson III  
**"Go Tell It on the Mountain"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

## Intermission

**Steven Amundson**  
*On Christmas Day*

**Irving Berlin** / Arr. John Moss  
**"White Christmas"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn** / Arr. Jeff Tyzik  
*Toot Toot Tootie Toot (Dance of the Reed Pipes)* from *The Nutcracker Suite*

**Ralph Blane** / Arr. Carmen Dragon  
**"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Traditional** / Arr. Carmen Dragon  
**"Adeste Fideles"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Frederick Delius**  
*Sleigh Ride*

**Irving Taylor/Dudley Brooks/Hal Stanley**  
**"(Everybody's Waitin' for) The Man with the Bag"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

**Fred Coats & Haven Gillespie** / Arr. Bill Holcombe  
**"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town"**  
Yolanda Rabun, vocals

## About the Artists

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### Conner Gray Covington

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conductor

*These concerts are Conner Gray Covington's North Carolina Symphony debut.*

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Conner Gray Covington recently completed a four-year tenure with the Utah Symphony as Associate Conductor and as Principal Conductor of the Deer Valley Music Festival. During his tenure in Utah, Covington conducted nearly 300 performances of classical, education, film, pops, and family concerts, as well as tours throughout the state. This season he returns to the Utah Symphony as a guest conductor on several occasions and debuts with the Amarillo Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and Idaho State-Civic Symphony, as well as North Carolina Symphony.

Previously, Covington was a Conducting Fellow at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. There he worked closely with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, with whom he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2016, and the Curtis Opera Theatre—while also being mentored by Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin of The Philadelphia Orchestra. He began his career as Assistant Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program. A four-time recipient of a Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., he was a featured conductor in the 2016 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview presented by the League of American Orchestras.

Born in Louisiana, Covington grew up in East Tennessee and began playing the violin at age 11. He completed high school at the renowned High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas. He then went on to study violin and conducting at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in violin performance. He continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music where he earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting and was awarded the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize.



### Yolanda Rabun

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vocals

*Yolanda Rabun was featured with the North Carolina Symphony in last year's streaming concert Holiday Pops with Jingles the Elf.*

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A proud graduate of Northside High School of the Performing Arts in Atlanta, Yolanda Rabun is a recording artist, actor, and storyteller. She has headlined national jazz festivals, toured jazz clubs, and opened for Stephanie Mills at the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) and Sheila E at the Red Hat Amphitheater.

Rabun has won accolades for Best Lead Actress (*Archy and Mehitabel*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *Nina*) and Best Ensemble (*Twelfth Night*, *Crowns*, the world premiere of Chaunesti Webb's *I Love My Hair When It's Good: & Then Again When It Looks Defiant and Impressive*). Recent appearances with North Carolina Theatre, Theatre Raleigh, and Playmakers Repertory Company include *Beehive: The 60s Musical*, *Newsies*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Mary Poppins*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Howard L. Craft's one-woman play, *No Fear and Blues Long Gone: Nina Simone*.

As a wife, mother, corporate executive, lawyer, singer-songwriter and publisher, motivational speaker, political scientist, community activist for youth, touring performance artist, and music entrepreneur, Yolanda Rabun lives at the speed of passion and challenges everyone to hold on to your dreams!

## About Our Musicians

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### Violin I

**Brian Reagin**

Concertmaster

*The Annabelle Lundy Fetterman Chair*

**Dovid Friedlander\*\***

Associate Concertmaster

*The Assad Meymandi and Family Chair*

**Karen Strittmatter Galvin\***

Associate Concertmaster

**Emily Rist Glover\***

Assistant Concertmaster

*The Anne Heartt Gregory Chair*

**Erin Zehngut\***

Assistant Concertmaster

**Carol Chung\***

*The James C. Byrd and Family Chair*

**Paul Goldsberry**

*The Richard and Joy Cook Chair*

**So Yun Kim**

*The Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. Chair*

**Marilyn Kouba**

*The Phyllis ("Pat") Conrad Wells Chair*

**Maria Meyer\*\***

*The Tom and Mary Mac Bradshaw Chair*

**Lin-Ti Wang\***

*The Jessie Wyatt Ethridge Chair*

**Eileen Wynne**

*The Harvey At-Large Chair*

**To Be Filled**

*The J. Felix Arnold Chair*

### Violin II

**Jacqueline Saed Wolborsky**

Principal

*The Nancy Finch Wallace Chair*

**David Kilbride\***

Associate Principal

*The Blanche Martin Shaw Chair*

**Anton Shelepov\***

Assistant Principal

**Qi Cao**

**Janet Gayer Hall**

**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*

**To Be Filled**

*Assistant Principal*

**Petra Berényi**

**Paul Malcolm**

**Amy Mason**

*The J. Sidney Kirk Chair*

**Sandra Schwarcz**

*The Samuel H. and Anne Latham Johnson Viola Chair*

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

†deceased

## **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*

### **Sunrise Kim**

*The William Charles Rankin Chair*

### **David Meyer**

*The Nell Hirschberg 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*

### **Robert K. Anderson**

Associate Principal

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

### **Craig Brown**

*The Mark W. McClure Foundation Chair*

### **Erik Dyke**

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

### **Bruce Ridge**

*The John C. and Margaret P. Parker 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*

### **Elizabeth Anderton Lunsford**

*The Jack and Sing Boddie Chair*

## **Piccolo**

### **Elizabeth Anderton Lunsford**

*The Jean Dunn Williams Chair*

## **Oboe**

### **Melanie Wilsden**

Principal

*The Hardison and Stoltze Chair*

### **Joseph Peters**

Associate Principal

*The Lizette T. Dunham Chair*

### **Sandra Posch**

*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*

### **Matthew Griffith\***

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*

### **Christopher Caudill\*\***

### **Rachel Niketopoulos\*\***

### **Tanner West\***

*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*

### **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*

## **Library**

### **Stephanie Wilson**

Principal Orchestra Librarian

*The Mary Colvert and Banks C. Talley Chair*

*\*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.

***Thank you*** to the generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and community partners who support the North Carolina Symphony through contributions each season. The Symphony's performances and extensive music education and community service programs are made possible by your support.