



NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

FRI, NOV 21, 2025 | 7:30PM

SAT, NOV 22, 2025 | 3PM

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, RALEIGH

North Carolina Symphony

Michelle Merrill, *conductor*

Katelyn Drye, *vocalist*

Hollie Hammel, *vocalist*

Blair Lamb, *vocalist*

A Dolly Parton/Schirmer Theatrical/Sony Music Publishing Co-Production

All songs written by Dolly Parton, unless otherwise noted

Arrangements by David Hamilton

PROGRAM

"Threads Overture"

arranged by David Hamilton

"Two Doors Down"

"My Tennessee Mountain Home"

"Blue Smoke"

"The Bridge"

"Better Get to Livin'"

co-written with Kent Wells

"Jolene"

"If You Hadn't Been There"

"Backwoods Barbie"

"Eagle When She Flies"

"Light of a Clear Blue Morning"

INTERMISSION

"Threads Entr'acte"

arranged by David Hamilton

"Here You Come Again"

written by Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann

"Islands in the Stream"

written by Barry, Robin & Maurice Gibb

"Coat of Many Colors"

"Travelin' Thru"

"Baby I'm Burnin'"

"I Will Always Love You"



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"BETTER GET TO LIVIN'" UNDER LICENSE FROM SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING AND BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT.

"ISLANDS IN THE STREAM" UNDER LICENSE FROM UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

Creative Team

Dolly Parton, *Executive Producer & Songwriter*

Betsey Perlmutter, *Creative Director & Producer*

Robert Thompson, *Producer*

Todd Ellis, *Producer*

David Hamilton, *Arranger & Orchestrator*

Adam Grannick, *Director of Video and Animation*

Alex Kosick, *Associate Producer*

Creative Services

Laura Cooksey & David Wise, *Vocal Coaching*

& *Casting, Ten Two Six Music Group*

Adam Weisman & Dustin Knock,

Technical Services, Black Ink Presents

Paul Bevan, *Sound Design*

Ali Meah, *Logo Design, NoisyBird Media*

Zach McNees, *Post-Production Sound Mixing*

Stephen Lamb, *Copyist*

Emily Yoon, *Vice President, Wasserman Music*

Alex Fisher & Kerigan Medeiros,

Wasserman Music, Booking Agency

Chris Pizzolo & Faith Wood, *Immediate*

Family, Digital Marketing

*Thank you to the generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and community partners
who support the North Carolina Symphony through contributions each season.*

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges financial support from the State of North Carolina, the honorable Josh Stein, Governor; Wake County; and the City of Raleigh.



About the Conductor



Michelle Merrill, *conductor*

Michelle Merrill made her North Carolina Symphony debut in 2023 at UNC Health Summerfest, leading a classical program that featured Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, "Italian," and also included Bernstein's Overture to Candide, Jessie Montgomery's Starburst, and "The Moldau," by Smetana.

Music Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony since 2023, Michelle Merrill also serves as the Music Director of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia. She served from 2014-2018 as the Assistant and then Associate Conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin; she also carried the title of Phillip and Lauren Fisher Community Ambassador.

Her guest conducting schedule includes recent and upcoming engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Opera, National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), Minnesota Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Symphoria (Syracuse), Princeton Symphony Orchestra, and the Round Top Music Festival Institute.

In past seasons, she has conducted concerts with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Louisiana Philharmonic, Orlando Philharmonic, Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, Boise Philharmonic, New Music Detroit, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, where she formerly served as the Assistant Conductor from 2012-2015.

Merrill received a 2016 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award as well as the 2013 Ansbacher Conducting Fellowship awarded by members of the Vienna Philharmonic and the American Austrian Foundation, which enabled her to be in residence at the world-renowned Salzburg Festival. Born in Dallas, Texas, she holds a master's degree in conducting and a bachelor's degree in performance from Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts.

The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

Carlos Miguel Prieto,
Music Director

*The Maxine and Benjamin
Swalin Chair*

Grant Llewellyn,
Music Director Laureate

Sophie Sze-Ki Mok,
Assistant Conductor
The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

Violin I

Justin Bruns, Concertmaster
*The Annabelle Lundy Fetterman
Chair*

Anna Black*,
Associate Concertmaster
*The Assad Meymandi and Family
Chair*

Karen Strittmatter Galvin,
Assistant Concertmaster

Rotating,
Assistant Concertmaster
The Anne Heartt Gregory Chair

Emily Rist Glover
The Jessie Wyatt Ethridge Chair

Paul Goldsberry
The Richard and Joy Cook Chair

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

Joseph Meyer*

Maria Meyer
*The Tom and Mary Mac Bradshaw
Chair*

K. Lee Morris
The Harvey At-Large Chair

Esther Roestan

Jessica Ryou
The James C. Byrd and Family Chair

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

Oskar Ozolinch

Subin Shin

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

Amy Mason
The J. Sidney Kirk Chair

Daniel Moore

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

To Be Filled

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

Emma Cary

The Sara Wilson Hodgkins Chair

David Meyer
The Nell Hirschberg Chair

Marc Moskovitz*
The William Charles Rankin Chair

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

Double Bass

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

Joshua DePoint, Associate Principal
*The Dr. and Mrs. Preston H. Gada
Chair*

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

Jakob Gerritsen

To Be Filled
*The Harlee H. and Pauline G. Jobe
Chair*

Flute

Megan Torti, 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

Oboe

Melanie Wilsden, Principal
The Hardison and Stoltze Chair

Joseph Peters, Associate Principal
The Lizette T. Dunham Chair

Hoon Chang
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

Gabriel Mairson
The James Marion Poyner Chair

Russell Rybicki
The Mary Susan Kirk Fulghum Chair

Trumpet

Paul Randall, Principal
The George Smedes Poyner Chair

Benjamin Hauser, Associate Principal
The Henry and Martha Zaytoun and Family Chair

Trombone

Devin Drinan, Principal
The Thomas Warwick Steed, Jr. Family Chair

John Ilika, 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

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

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NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

You can support over 150,000 North Carolina students this year by donating to the Annual Fund so they can experience your Symphony's education programs! Your contribution supports **artistic excellence, statewide service, and music education.**

Plus, your gift counts towards the 2025/26 State Challenge Grant goal!

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