

BRAVO BROADWAY

FRI, FEB 13 | 8PM

SAT, FEB 14 | 3PM & 8PM

North Carolina Symphony

Sophie Mok, *conductor*

LaKisha Jones, *vocalist*

Morgan James, *vocalist*

Hugh Panaro, *vocalist*

Jule Styne

"Funny Girl Overture" from *Funny Girl*

Luther Vandross

"Everybody Rejoice" from *The Wiz*

Charlie Smalls

"Home" from *The Wiz*

Harold Arlen

"Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*

Frederick Loewe/Alan Jay Lerner

"I Could Have Danced All Night" from *My Fair Lady*

Elton John & Hans Zimmer/Tim Rice

"Circle of Life" from *The Lion King*

Meredith Willson

"Seventy-Six Trombones" from *The Music Man*

Jonathan Larson

"Seasons of Love" from *Rent*

Richard Adler & Jerry Ross/(Frank Loesser)

"There Once Was a Man" from *The Pajama Game*

John Fogerty

"Proud Mary"

INTERMISSION

Lin-Manuel Miranda

"You'll Be Back" from *Hamilton*

John Kander/Fred Ebb

"Overture / All That Jazz" from *Chicago*

Claude-Michel Schonberg/Alain Boublil & Jean-Marc Natel

"Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables*

Dolly Parton

"I Will Always Love You" from *The Bodyguard*

Alan Menken/Howard Ashman

"Suddenly Seymour" from *Little Shop of Horrors*

Stephen Schwartz

Highlights from Wicked

Stephen Schwartz

"Defying Gravity" from *Wicked*

Andrew Lloyd Webber/Charles Hart & Richard Stilgoe, Mike Batt

"Phantom of the Opera" from *The Phantom of the Opera*

Andrew Lloyd Webber/Charles Hart & Richard Stilgoe
"The Music of the Night" from *The Phantom of the Opera*

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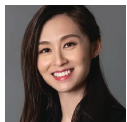
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The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges financial support from the State of North Carolina, the honorable Josh Stein, Governor; Wake County; and the City of Raleigh.



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

About the Artists



Sophie Mok, conductor

The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

In 2024, Sophie Sze-Ki Mok began her tenure as Assistant Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony. She has also served since 2023 as Assistant Conductor of the Asian Youth Orchestra, where she has worked alongside Joseph Bastian and Jader Bignamini. She has assisted esteemed conductors including Marin Alsop, Jonathon Heyward, Thomas Wilkins, and Tan Dun. Upcoming engagements include serving as cover conductor for the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Previously, she was a Conducting Fellow with the Miami Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Conductor of the Frost Symphony Orchestra at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

Mok was selected to compete in the La Maestra Conducting Competition in 2024 and was one of several finalists to compete in Riccardo Muti's Italian Opera Academy in 2022. In 2019, she won second prize at the International Conductor's Competition held during the Deutsches Musikfest. For six years, she served as the conductor of the Hong Kong Youth Wind Philharmonia, mentoring young musicians from elementary school through college.

Born in Hong Kong, Mok began her musical journey as an oboist. She received her bachelor's degree in oboe performance from Hong Kong Baptist University and later furthered her studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she earned a master's degree. As a conductor, she holds a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), and an Artist Diploma in conducting from the University of Miami Frost School of Music under the tutelage of Gerard Schwarz.



LaKisha Jones, vocalist

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for LaKisha Jones.

Best known as a top-four finalist during the 2007 season of *American Idol*, LaKisha Jones later took to the Broadway stage in the Oprah Winfrey-produced, Tony Award-winning musical *The Color Purple*, where she played two roles: that of a "church lady" and of the pivotal character "Sophia." The latter role she alternated with R&B icon Chaka Khan, who became her mentor, and Jones participated in Khan's 35th Anniversary Tour. Following her Broadway stint, Jones provided vocal coaching on MTV's reality competition *Legally Blonde: The Search for Elle Woods*, a show designed to find and hone Broadway's next star.

Jones' debut album *So Glad I'm Me* featured a mix of R&B and soul. Songs included the single "Same Song," penned by award-winning songwriter Dianne Warren, Whitney Houston's "You Give Good Love," the gospel song "Just as I Am," and Jones' ballad to her daughter, "Beautiful Girl."

Raised by her mother and grandmother in Flint, Michigan, Jones sang in church choirs and music programs, joined various chorale groups and a cappella choruses throughout high school, then entered and won the top prize at Flint's local talent contest, *The Super Show*. After a two-year stint studying vocal performance at the University of Michigan, she relocated to various cities (Dallas, Houston and Virginia Beach) to pursue her dream as a singer before auditioning for *American Idol*.

A frequent soloist with symphony orchestras, Jones has performed as a guest soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Utah Symphony and Opera, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Houston Symphony, and Colorado Symphony, among many others.



Morgan James, vocalist

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Morgan James.

Morgan James is a classically trained vocalist, Broadway veteran, and recording artist. She has premiered symphonic programs including *Clouds in my Coffee: Music of Joni Mitchell, Carole King, and Carly Simon* and *Kodachrome*, celebrating Paul Simon. Her newest symphony project, *Sailing*, premiered with Kansas City Symphony and celebrates soft rock of the 70s and 80s.

On Broadway, James has appeared in five original Broadway casts: *Motown: The Musical*, *Godspell*, *Wonderland*, *The Addams Family*, and Kristin Chenoweth's *For the Girls*. With viral sensation Postmodern Jukebox and her own channel, her videos on YouTube have garnered 300 million views.

A Leonard Bernstein aficionado, James has appeared with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Breckenridge Music Festival, Utah Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, and Wichita Symphony Orchestra performing her Bernstein show. She was also featured with The Philadelphia Orchestra in *West Side Story in Concert* and has performed in the Bernstein Mass four times: with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Her most recent album, *Soul Remains the Same* (2025), reinterprets tracks from the likes of AC/DC, the Stone Temple Pilots, and Pearl Jam. Other recordings include both albums featuring original music, including *Reckless Abandon*, *Memphis Magnetic*, *A Very Magnetic Christmas*, *Nobody's Fool*, and full-album covers of The Beatles' "White album" and Joni Mitchell's *Blue*. She received her voice training at The Juilliard School.



Hugh Panaro, vocalist

These concerts are the North Carolina Symphony debut for Hugh Panaro.

Hugh Panaro is perhaps best known for having played the title role in Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera* more than 2,000 times, including the 25th Anniversary production. In fact, he is one of the few actors to be cast by Harold Prince as both The Phantom and Raoul in the show's Broadway production. He more recently starred as the title role in the New York production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Panaro made his Broadway debut in the original production of *Les Misérables* as Marius, the role he originated in the first national company. He also created the roles of Buddy in the original *Side Show*; Julian Craster in Jule Styne's last musical, *The Red Shoes*; and the title role in the American premiere of Cameron Mackintosh's *Martin Guerre*. He was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in the title role of Elton John's *Lestat*, based on Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*.

An active concert artist, Panaro has performed with symphony orchestras including the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall; The Cleveland Orchestra; Philly Pops; Dallas and Detroit symphony orchestras; San Francisco, Seattle, and Utah symphonies; and the London Sinfonietta, among many others.

Panaro's recordings include *Jerome Kern Treasury*, the original cast recording of *Side Show*, *Tap Your Troubles Away! The Words and Music of Jerry Herman*, *Kurt Weill: The Centennial*, and *Jerome Kern: Life Upon the Wicked Stage*. His first solo CD, *Man Without a Mask*, was recorded live at 54 Below and released in 2024. In addition, he has toured Europe with Barbra Streisand.

A native of Philadelphia, Panaro graduated from Temple University and was awarded the Boyer College of Music Certificate of Honor.

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*

Jakob Gerritsen

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

Bruce Ridge
*The John C. and Margaret P. Parker
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 Roger Colson and Bobbi Lyon Hackett Chair

To Be Filled
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

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

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