

# NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**



North Carolina Symphony  
Conner Gray Covington, *conductor*

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

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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 Conductor



### **Conner Gray Covington**, *conductor*

*Conner Gray Covington most recently conducted the North Carolina Symphony for Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi In Concert in 2024.*

Described as “a musician who lives the music” by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Conner Gray Covington served for four years with the Utah Symphony as Associate Conductor and as Principal Conductor of the Deer Valley Music Festival. In the 2025/26 season, he has made debuts with the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Las Vegas Philharmonic, and New Jersey Symphony. Return engagements include San Francisco Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, and Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

A five-time recipient of a Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., Covington was featured in the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. He was selected to attend the Salzburg Festival in 2014 as a recipient of the Ansbacher

Fellowship for Young Conductors. In 2012, he competed in the Malko Conducting Competition in Copenhagen.

Covington studied conducting at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where he worked closely with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, with whom he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2016, and the Curtis Opera Theater. He also studied at the Eastman School of Music, where he earned the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize. For two summers, he attended the Aspen Conducting Academy at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Born in Louisiana, Covington graduated from the 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.

**NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY**  
**UNC HEALTH PRESENTS**  
**SUMMERFEST**  
**CARY'S KOKA BOOTH AMPHITHEATRE**

**KIDS 12 & UNDER admitted FREE on the lawn!**

**Lawn Flex 10-Packs just \$30 per ticket**

# The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

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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

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!*

*Scan the QR code, visit [ncsymphony.org/donate](https://ncsymphony.org/donate), or call 919.733.2750. Thank you!*

