

# NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY



North Carolina Symphony  
Sophie Mok, conductor

Capathia Jenkins, vocalist  
Ryan Shaw, vocalist

Calli Graver, backing vocalist  
Rajdulari, backing vocalist

CONCERT  
SPONSOR



Various Composers  
"ICON Overture"

Luther Vandross  
"I Wanna Dance with Somebody"

Billy Joel  
"Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)"

Sonny Bono  
"I Got You Babe"

John Lennon and Paul McCartney  
"Hey Jude"

Elton John/Bernie Taupin  
"Your Song"

Bob Crewe and Kenny Nolan  
"Lady Marmalade"

Glen Ballard and Siedah Garrett  
"Man in the Mirror"

Otis Redding  
"Respect"

**INTERMISSION**

Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers  
"I'm Coming Out"

Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson  
"You're All I Need to Get By"

Chuck Jackson and Marvin Yancy  
"This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)"

Otis Blackwell and Elvis Presley  
"All Shook Up"

Jim Weatherly  
"You're the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me"

Stevie Wonder, Lee Garrett, Syreeta Wright, and  
Lula Mae Hardaway  
"Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)"

John Kander/Fred Ebb  
"New York, New York"

Richard Kerr/Will Jennings  
"I'll Never Love this Way Again"

Prince  
"Purple Rain"

Phil Spector, Jeff Barry, and Ellie Greenwich  
"River Deep – Mountain High"

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

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**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. 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.



**Capathia Jenkins, vocalist**

*Capathia Jenkins made her North Carolina Symphony debut in 2023 with a tribute to Aretha Franklin.*

Brooklyn-born and raised Capathia Jenkins most recently starred on Broadway as "Medda Larkin" in the Disney production of *Newsies*. She made her Broadway debut in Gregory Boyd and Frank Wildhorn's *The Civil War*, where she created the role of Harriet Jackson in 1998. She then starred in the Off-Broadway revival of Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak's *Godspell*. She returned to Broadway in *The Look of Love*, which featured Burt Bacharach/Hal David hits, then created the roles of "The Washing Machine" in Jeanine Tesori and Tony Kushner's *Caroline, Or Change* and "Frieda May" in Daniel Goldfarb and Martin Short's *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*.

In 2007 she went back to Off-Broadway and starred in Joan Ross Sorkin's one-woman show (*mis*) *Understanding Mammy: The Hattie McDaniel Story*, for which she was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. She was also seen in Nora Ephron's *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*.

An active concert artist, Jenkins has appeared with orchestras around the world including The Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (with Marvin Hamlisch), National Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. In 2011, she performed in the Broadway Ambassadors to Cuba concert as part of the Festival De Teatro De La Habana. She has been a guest soloist with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops and with the Cincinnati Pops.

Her television credits include *30 Rock*, *The Practice*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Sopranos*, and *Law & Order*. She can be seen in the 2012 film *Musical Chairs*, directed by Susan Seidelman, and appears on the film soundtracks for *Nine*, *Chicago*, and *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*.



**Ryan Shaw, vocalist**

*Ryan Shaw's North Carolina Symphony debut was with Capathia Jenkins in 2023, celebrating Aretha Franklin.*

Ryan Shaw is a three-time Grammy-nominated artist for his solo projects *This Is Ryan Shaw*, *In Between*, and *Real Love*. In 2025 he released *OFF Broadway*, a collaborative album with keyboardist Ray Angry featuring contemporary versions of Broadway songs. His single "Rising Up," also released in 2025, will be followed in 2026 by a full album. The album *Imagining Marvin*, released in 2019, showcased Marvin Gaye hits alongside original songs and featured Grammy Award-winning co-writers and special guests.

Shaw has shared the stage with such artists as Van Halen, Bonnie Raitt, John Legend, B.B. King, and Jill Scott. His music has been featured on television shows including FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance* and ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Lincoln Heights*, and in the films *My Blueberry Nights*, *Bride Wars*, and *Sex and the City*.

Shaw starred as Judas in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Olivier Award-winning London production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as the original Stevie Wonder in *Motown: The Musical* on Broadway, and on London's West End as the Soul of Michael Jackson in *Thriller Live*. He debuted at Radio City Music Hall in the Dream Concert benefit for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

Carnegie Hall appearances include an Elton John and Bernie Taupin tribute, *Honor! A Celebration of the African American Cultural Legacy*, and a Nat King Cole 100th Birthday concert with The New York Pops. In addition to joining Capathia Jenkins for *Aretha Franklin: A Tribute to the Queen of Soul* and *ICON* with orchestras throughout North America, he has premiered a solo orchestral chow called *Ryan Shaw: Masters of R&B*.

# 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.**

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