



Opening Night: Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1

SAT, MAY 23, 2026 | 8PM

North Carolina Symphony

Sophie Mok, *conductor*

Albert Cano Smit, *piano*

PROGRAM

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23

I. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso

II. Andantino semplice

III. Allegro con fuoco

Albert Cano Smit, *piano*

Intermission

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Symphony No. 8 in G, Op. 88

I. Allegro con brio

II. Adagio

III. Allegretto grazioso

IV. Allegro ma non troppo

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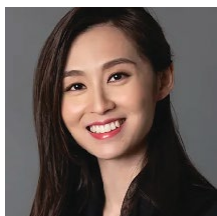


The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges financial support from the State of North Carolina, the honorable Josh Stein, Governor; Wake County; and the City of Raleigh.



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



*Sophie Mok, Assistant Conductor
The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair*

In 2024, Sophie Sze-Ki Mok began her tenure as Assistant Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony. Since 2023, she has also served as Assistant Conductor of the Asian Youth Orchestra, where she 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.



Albert Cano Smit, *piano*

This concert is the North Carolina Symphony debut for Albert Cano Smit.

A musician who has been praised as “a moving young poet” (*Le Devoir* of Montreal), Spanish/Dutch pianist Albert Cano Smit was First Prize winner of the 2019 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions and has been featured recently with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and at the Miami International Piano Festival. Previous appearances as a soloist have included the Seattle Symphony, Las Vegas Philharmonic, the San Diego Symphony, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, Orchestra of St Luke’s, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and National Orchestra of Catalonia, and Manchester Camerata.

Recital highlights have included his Carnegie Hall debut, presented by the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation; his Merkin Concert Hall debut, presented by Young Concert Artists; recitals at San Francisco’s Herbst Theatre; Paris’ Fondation Louis Vuitton (the performance was streamed live globally); the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater in Washington, DC; Germany’s Rheingau Music Festival; and return performances at the Steinway Society in San Jose and L’Auditori de Barcelona. He was in residence at France’s Festival international de musique de Wissembourg for seven years. He has toured frequently with violinist William Hagen, with whom he recorded the CD *Danse Russe*. In 2017, he was First Prize winner at the Walter W. Naumburg Piano Competition, and a finalist and CMIM Grant winner at the Concours musical international de Montréal.

A polyglot who speaks five languages, Smit was born in Geneva, the son of a Dutch mother and Spanish father. He left home at nine to join the Escolania de Montserrat choir school and went on to complete an Artist Diploma and master’s degree with Robert McDonald at The Juilliard School, where he was awarded the 2020 Rubinstein Prize for Piano. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in from the Colburn School with Ory Shihor. He currently resides in New York City.

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

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