

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY



AMERICA
250
NC

Patriotic Pops Celebrating America 250

TUE, JUN 16, 2026 | 7:30PM
NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, JACKSONVILLE

North Carolina Symphony
Sophie Mok, conductor
Taylor Troyer, vocalist

John Stafford Smith / Arr. Walter Damrosch and John Philip Sousa
"The Star Spangled Banner"

Taylor Troyer, *vocalist*

John Williams
"Liberty Fanfare"

Various composers / Arr. Jeff Tyzik
"Fantasy on American Themes"

Taylor Troyer, *vocalist*

Leonard Bernstein / Arr. Jack Mason
"West Side Story Selections for Orchestra"

Intermission

Various composers / Arr. Lee Norris
"Here Comes the Bands"

Bart Howard / Arr. John Bachalis
"Fly Me to the Moon"

Taylor Troyer, *vocalist*

Various composers / Arr. Robert W. Lowden
"Armed Forces Salute"

Taylor Troyer, *narrator*

Traditional / Arr. Peter Boier
"Rolling River (Sketches on 'Shenandoah')"

Aaron Copland
"Buckaroo Holiday" from *Rodeo*

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Frame Game; Gilliam Dentistry; John Marshall, in memory of Thomas and Katharine Marshall; Bill and Betsy Mercer, in memory of Ted and Evelyn Mercer

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A PARTNERSHIP WITH

DNCR
North Carolina Department of
Natural & Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully acknowledges financial support from the State of North Carolina, the Honorable Josh Stein, Governor.

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



As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the North Carolina Symphony joins in marking the occasion by reflecting, through music, on our nation's heroic spirit, ingenuity, hope and resilience.

As our state's orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony honors America 250 with a series of concerts in communities small and large, from the mountains to the sea. The concerts feature musical themes that have defined and reflected the American spirit since long before the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

About the Artists



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 has worked alongside Joseph Bastian and Jader Bignamini. She has assisted esteemed conductors including Marin Alsop, Jonathon Heyward, Thomas Wilkins, and Tan Dun.

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 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.



Taylor Troyer, vocalist

Taylor Troyer has appeared with the North Carolina Symphony previously to lead audiences in singing for statewide Holiday Pops concerts in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Whether she is appearing on the concert or operatic stage, American-born soprano Taylor Troyer has established herself across genres such as opera, oratorio, musical theater, and jazz. Originally from southeast Iowa, she received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Iowa State University, where she studied with mezzo-soprano Mary Creswell, and her master's degree in vocal performance from Carnegie Mellon University, under the instruction of soprano Maria Spacagna. She has also studied with Djordje Nesic, Jodi Goble, and Mark Carver.

Her voice has been heard throughout the United States and Europe in programs ranging from Strauss, to Mozart, to Britten. Troyer made her international debut in Belgrade, Serbia as Danica in the Serbian premiere of Ana Sokolović's *Svadba* (2019). She has most recently appeared with the North Carolina Master Chorale as the soprano soloist in Dvořák's *Te Deum* and Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* (2026).

Troyer resides in Raleigh, NC, and sings regularly with the choirs of Christ Church on Capitol Square, under the direction of David Jernigan, and the North Carolina Master Chorale, under the direction of Alfred Sturgis. She is also a teacher of voice and piano, and maintains a private studio in Raleigh with students of all ages.



Derek Cohen
President, Bank of America Coastal

Bank of America is proud to sponsor the North Carolina Symphony's Patriotic Pops concerts during this milestone 250th anniversary year. Moments like these bring people together, celebrate our shared history, and reflect the cultural vibrancy that makes North Carolina such a special place to call home.

The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

Carlos Miguel Prieto,
Music Director
*The Maxine and Benjamin
Swalin Chair*

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, or call 919.733.2750. Thank you!

