



Under the Sea

SAT, JUN 13, 2026 | 8PM

North Carolina Symphony
Shira Samuels-Shragg, *conductor*

PROGRAM

John Williams
"Shark Theme" from *Jaws*

Felix Mendelssohn
"Fingal's Cave" from *The Hebrides*, Op. 26

Camille Saint-Saens / Orch. William C. White
The Carnival of the Animals
IV. Tortoises
VII. Aquarium

George Frideric Handel
Suite No. 2 in D from *Water Music*
II. Alla Hornpipe

Claude Debussy / Orch. Henri Büsser
"La cathédrale engloutie" ("The Sunken Cathedral")

Alan Menken / Arr. Ted Parson
Selection from *The Little Mermaid*

Intermission

Lin-Manuel Miranda / Arr. Paul Campbell
"How Far I'll Go" from *Moana*

Ethel Smyth
Overture from *The Boatswain's Mate*

Traditional / Orch. Philip Rothman
"Baby Shark"

Grace Williams
Sea Sketches
I. High Wind (Allegro energetico)

Edvard Grieg
Suite No. 2 from *Peer Gynt*, Op. 55
III. Peer Gynt's Homecoming

Klaus Badelt / Arr. Ted Ricketts
Medley from *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*

- I. Fog Bound
- II. The Medallion Calls
- III. To the Pirate's Cave
- IV. The Black Pearl
- V. One Last Shot
- VI. He's a Pirate

PRESENTING
SPONSOR



SERIES
SPONSOR



PICNIC OF THE WEEK
SPONSOR



HOSTED
BY



MEDIA
SPONSOR



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



Shira Samuels-Shragg, *conductor*

This concert is the North Carolina Symphony debut for Shira Samuels-Shragg.

American conductor Shira Samuels-Shragg was recently announced as a 2026/27 fellow conductor for the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently the assistant conductor for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, her subscription debut was praised for bringing “shape, purpose, and fastidious detailing of dynamic contrasts and nuances” to the podium (Dallas Morning News). In 2025, she was awarded the prestigious Neeme Järvi Prize at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, an honor that comes with an invitation to conduct the Sinfonieorchester Basel.

More recent highlights include debuts with the Chattanooga Symphony and the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, as well as her subscription debut with the Spokane Symphony. Previously, Samuels-Shragg served as the assistant conductor for the Spokane Symphony and Plano Symphony Orchestra. She was delighted to be one of four conductors selected for The Dallas Opera’s 2024 Hart Institute for Women Conductors, and to be chosen as a mentee with the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship. She has led education concerts, sensory-friendly events, and family-oriented programs for over 90,000 students and their families. Additionally, she is the co-founder and former music director of the Plano Symphony’s Summer Youth Orchestra Camp, and served as the assistant conductor for National Youth Orchestra USA 2022, where she returned as associate conductor in 2024.

In May of 2022, Samuels-Shragg graduated with her master's degree in orchestral conducting from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Maestro David Robertson. She holds a bachelor's degree in music and a minor in German from Swarthmore College, where she studied conducting with Andrew Hauze and piano with Marcantonio Barone.

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

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!

