




# NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY



## Patriotic Pops Celebrating America 250

THU, JUN 18, 2026 | 8:00PM  
SOUTHERN VILLAGE GREEN, CHAPEL HILL

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"

**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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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

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**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.



**Kari Stoltz**  
*President, Bank of America Triangle*

*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.*

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# The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

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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

To Be Filled  
*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

To Be Filled, 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

To Be Filled, 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<sup>†</sup> Lerman.  
<sup>†</sup>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!*

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