



Classics Under the Stars

FRI, JUN 26, 2026 | 8PM

North Carolina Symphony
Kellen Gray, *conductor*

PROGRAM

Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)

Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Selections from Suite from *Othello*, Op. 79

I. Dance

II. Children's Intermezzo

III. Funeral March

V. Military March

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) /

Orch. Albert Parlow

Hungarian Dance No. 5 in G minor

Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)

Dances from *Estancia*, Op. 8a

I. The Land Workers

II. Wheat Dance

IV. Final Dance (Malambo)

Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)

"Polovtsian Dances" from *Prince Igor*

II. Polovtsian Dance with Chorus

Andantino: Introduction

Andantino: Dance of the Gliding Women

Allegro vivo: Dance of the Wild Men

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, K. 492

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Suite No. 1 from *Peer Gynt*, Op. 46

I. Morning Mood

II. Ase's Death

III. Anitra's Dance

IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Selections from *The Firebird Suite* (1919 revision)

VI. Berceuse

VII. Finale

INTERMISSION

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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



Kellen Gray, *conductor*

This concert is the North Carolina Symphony debut for Kellen Gray.

Born and raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina, American conductor Kellen Gray's early professional life took him on a path ranging from orchestral violinist to beekeeper before turning his full-time attention to conducting. Since the end of 2023, he serves as Associate Artist of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra: a newly created role that sees him conduct, curate, and present programs across the RSNO's series offerings. Since September 2024, he is also Conductor & Artistic Director of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, where he is leading artistic programming and community enrichment activities for the city of Lafayette, Indiana.

Recent and forthcoming guest conducting highlights include engagements with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), and Seattle Opera, among others. In the United Kingdom, he has worked with such orchestras as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gray credits the many folk music styles of the south-eastern United States as his earliest and most impactful musical influences, and his repertoire interests have been fueled by the engaged pursuit of that same spirit of cultural authenticity. This has led to a particular mastery not only of works that incorporate American folk idioms, but also in-depth explorations of heavily folk-inspired European composers such as Béla Bartók, Manuel de Falla, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, among others.

A passionate champion for African-diasporic composers, Gray was the founder and curator of Charleston Symphony's Project Aurora: a programming and performance initiative aiming to illustrate the importance of African American arts and culture as equally valuable to its European equivalent. Additionally, he serves as Assistant Editor & Conductor Liaison for the African Diaspora Music Project, after extensive research at The Center for Black Music Research (CBMR) at Columbia College Chicago.

Gray's discography to date comprises two releases with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra—*African American Voices* and *African American Voices II*—showcasing music by Margaret Bonds, William Dawson, William Grant Still, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, Florence Price, and George Walker. Both records have received five-star reviews from the magazine *The Diapason*.

Previous positions in Gray's formative years as a conductor included tenures with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (Assistant Conductor, 2021-2023), Charleston Symphony Orchestra (Associate Conductor, 2018-2023), Chicago Sinfonietta (Conducting Fellow & Assistant Conductor, 2016-2018), and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (Assistant Conductor, 2014-2016).

Kellen Gray is based in Baltimore, Maryland.

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

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† Lerman.
†deceased

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

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