

NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

The Music of Paul Simon, James Taylor, & Neil Diamond Starring Michael Cavanaugh

FRI, JAN 17, 2025 | 8PM
SAT, JAN 18, 2025 | 3PM & 8PM
MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, RALEIGH

North Carolina Symphony

Sophie Mok, *conductor*
Michael Cavanaugh, *vocalist and piano*
Jamie Hosmer, *keyboard*
Dennis DelGaudio, *guitar*
John Fedevich, *drums*
William Venditti, *bass*

PROGRAM

Selections will be announced from the stage.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

CONCERT SPONSOR

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About the Artists



Sophie Sze-Ki Mok, *Assistant Conductor*
The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

In November, 2024, Sophie Sze-Ki Mok began her tenure as Assistant Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony. She has served as the Assistant Conductor of the Asian Youth Orchestra for 2023 and 2024, where she assisted conductors Joseph Bastian and Jader Bignamini. Her recent engagements include serving as the cover conductor for five programs with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra working with conductors including Marin Alsop, Jonathon Heyward, Thomas Wilkins, and Tan Dun. Previously, she was the Conducting Fellow of the Miami Symphony Orchestra as well as an Assistant Conductor of the Frost Symphony Orchestra at the University of Miami 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.



Michael Cavanaugh, *vocalist and piano*

Michael Cavanaugh has appeared as guest soloist with the North Carolina Symphony twice, performing his tribute to Billy Joel in 2019 and to Elton John in 2020.

Made famous for his piano and lead vocals in the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, Michael Cavanaugh was handpicked by Billy Joel and appeared in the starring role for three years, culminating with both Grammy and Tony award nominations.

Cavanaugh began playing at age seven, when his parents bought their first piano, and formed his first band at age 10. His first full-time gig as a musician was in Orlando, Florida, at a piano bar called Blazing Pianos. In January of 1999, he received an opportunity to play Las Vegas at the New York, New York Hotel and Casino. It was there that Billy Joel spotted him and joined him on stage one night in February 2001. Soon he began working alongside Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp to shape *Movin' Out*.

With the close of *Movin' Out* at the end of 2005, Cavanaugh began touring in his own right. His interpretations led to *Billboard* Magazine calling him "The New Voice of the American Rock and Roll Songbook," and he was recognized by Reuters as Entertainer of the Year for the private events market. His first orchestral show, *Michael Cavanaugh – The Songs of Billy Joel and More*, debuted in 2008 with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. His Generations of Rock series continued in 2010 with *Michael Cavanaugh: The Songs of Elton John and More. Singers and Songwriters: the Music of Paul Simon, Neil Diamond, and James Taylor* followed in 2012, and in 2015 he debuted *Rockin' Christmas* with the Pops. He continues to tour all four symphony productions as well as performing with his own band.

Cavanaugh released his first CD, *In Color*, in 2008. *The Way I Hear It*, released in 2017, debuted at #17 on the *Billboard* Heatseekers chart. In 2020 he reached the POLLSTAR Live 75 list of the top 75 active touring acts in the country.

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

To Be Filled, Concertmaster *The
Annabelle Lundy Fetterman Chair*

Jessica Hung,
Associate Concertmaster *The Assad
Meymandi and Family Chair*

Anna Black,
Assistant Concertmaster
The Anne Heartt Gregory Chair

Karen Strittmatter Galvin, Assistant
Concertmaster

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

Minjoo Moon*
The Harvey At-Large Chair

Pablo Sánchez Pazos
The Phyllis ("Pat") Conrad Wells Chair

Jessica Ryou
The James C. Byrd and Family Chair

Erin Zehngut
The J. Felix Arnold Chair

*The North Carolina Symphony
Foundation gratefully
acknowledges the generous gift
of the Lupot violin from Arnold
and Zena† Lerman.
†deceased*

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

Paul Malcolm

Amy Mason
The J. Sidney Kirk Chair

Daniel Moore

Sandra Schwarcz
*The Samuel H. and Anne Latham
Johnson Chair*

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

David Meyer
The Nell Hirschberg Chair

Marc Moskovitz*
*The William Charles Rankin
Chair*

Lisa Howard Shaughnessy
The Sara Wilson Hodgkins Chair

Samuel Sykes*

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*

Craig Brown
*The Mark W. McClure Foundation
Chair*

Erik Dyke
*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*

Alexandra Stokes*
The Jack and Sing Boddie Chair

Piccolo

Alexandra Stokes*
The Jean Dunn Williams Chair

Oboe

Melanie Wilsden, Principal
The Hardison and Stoltze Chair

Joseph Peters,
Associate Principal,
The Lizette T. Dunham Chair

Rachel Ahn*
*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

Ben Hauser,
Associate Principal
*The Henry and Martha Zaytoun
and Family Chair*

Trombone

John Ilika, Principal
*The Thomas Warwick Steed, Jr.
Family Chair*

Steven Osborne*,
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.*

**Thank you to the generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and
community partners who support the North Carolina Symphony each year.**

The North Carolina Symphony gratefully
acknowledges financial support from
Wake County, the City of Raleigh,
and the State of North Carolina.



NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

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