

# NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY



## Greatest Love Songs: From Motown & Beyond

FRI/SAT, FEB 7-8, 2025 | 8PM

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, RALEIGH

**North Carolina Symphony**

**Sophie Mok**, conductor

**Shayna Steele**, vocalist

**Chester Gregory**, vocalist

**Eric Metzgar**, drums

**Lee Garrett, Lula Mae Hardaway, Stevie Wonder,  
and Syreeta Wright**  
"Signed Sealed Delivered"  
as recorded by Stevie Wonder

**Melvin Steals and Mervin Steals**  
"Could It Be I'm Falling in Love"  
as recorded by The Spinners

**Mack Gordon and Harry Warren**  
"At Last"  
as recorded by Etta James

**Reggie Lucas & James Mtume**  
"The Closer I Get to You"  
as recorded by Robert Flack and Donny Hathaway

**Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff, and Cary Gilbert**  
"Don't Leave Me This Way"  
as recorded by Thelma Houston

**Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff, and Cary Gilbert**  
"Me and Mrs. Jones"  
as recorded by Billy Paul

**Alicia Keys**  
"Fallin'"  
as recorded by Alicia Keys

**Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber, and Mike Stoller**  
"Stand By Me"  
as recorded by Ben E. King

**Mike Chapman and Holly Knight**  
"The Best"  
as recorded by Tina Turner

**Gary Jackson, Raynard Miner, and Carl Smith**  
"(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher"  
as recorded by Jackie Wilson

**Barry White**  
"Love's Theme"  
as recorded by the Love Unlimited Orchestra

**Jeffrey Cohen and Narada Michael Walden**  
"Freeway of Love"  
as recorded by Aretha Franklin

**Smokey Robinson**  
"My Guy"  
as recorded by Mary Wells

**Smokey Robinson and Ronald White**  
"My Girl"  
as recorded by The Temptations

**Lionel Richie**  
"Endless Love"  
as recorded by Lionel Richie and Diana Ross

**Graham Lyle and Terry Britten**  
"What's Love Got to Do with It"  
as recorded by Tina Turner

**Marvin Gaye and Ed Townsend**  
"Let's Get It On"  
as recorded by Marvin Gaye

**Gerry Goffin, Carole King, and Jerry Wexler**  
"(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman"  
as recorded by Aretha Franklin

**Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson**  
"You're All I Need to Get By"  
as recorded by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell

**Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson**  
"Ain't No Mountain High Enough"  
as recorded by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell

### INTERMISSION

A Schirmer Theatrical/Greenberg Artists co-production.  
Arrangements by Jeff Tyzik  
All arrangements licensed by Schirmer Theatrical, LLC

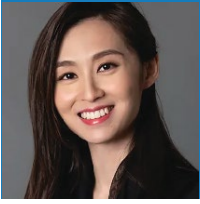
### Creative Team

Robert Thompson, Producer  
Jeff Tyzik, Arranger & Producer  
Jami Greenberg, Producer & Booking Agent  
Betsey Perlmutter, Producer  
Alex Kosick, Associate Producer



## About the Artists

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Sophie Sze-Ki Mok, *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.



Shayna Steele, *vocalist*

*Shayna Steele debuted with the North Carolina Symphony in a 2022 Pops concert called Women Rock! and returned in 2023 for Holiday Pops in Raleigh.*

In 2023, Shayna Steele debuted her symphony show *American Diva*, featuring her own songs and favorite covers, which was created with her and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra by conductor Jeff Tyzik, who previously collaborated with her and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on a blues program, *Nothin' But the Blues*. Her many other orchestra appearances as soloist include the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Philly POPS. She has also performed at venues including the Monterey Jazz Festival and collaborated with headliners from Chris Botti to Moby to Snarky Puppy.

Steele's fourth studio album, *Gold Dust* (2023), features original songs and includes covers of songs by Stevie Nicks and Cole Porter. Previous solo albums include *Watch Me Fly* (2019) and *Rise* (2015), which reached #3 on the iTunes jazz charts in the US. Broadway appearances include *RENT*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and an original role in *Hairspray*. She has been featured in multiple recordings and television appearances, recently including the Max original series *The Penguin* in 2024, and returned after nearly 30 years to finish her degree at the Berklee College of Music.



Chester Gregory, *vocalist*

*The North Carolina Symphony previously featured Chester Gregory as a soloist in 2022 for Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown and in 2024 for Let's Groove Tonight: Motown Meets the Philly Sound.*

Chester Gregory is a singer whose 2024/25 season includes appearances as a soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Kansas City Symphony. He is also an actor who starred in the national tour of *Motown: The Musical* as Berry Gordy. Broadway credits include *Motown: the Musical*, *Hairspray* (Seaweed), *Tarzan* (Terk, original cast), *Cry-Baby* (Dupree, original cast), and *Sister Act* (Eddie). *The New York Times* has called him "jaw-dropping... overflowing charismatic." Other theatre credits include August Wilson's *Fences* and *Two Trains Running*. He has toured nationally with *Dreamgirls* and *Sister Act*, as well as his one-man show *The Eve of Jackie Wilson*. He first played Jackie Wilson in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, which launched at Chicago's Black Ensemble Theatre and culminated at New York's renowned Apollo Theatre.

Gregory's awards include Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award and a NAACP Theatre Award. He has been presented the keys to the city both in his hometown of Gary, Indiana, and in East Chicago. He has also been chosen as an Honorary State Representative of Indiana and received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Columbia College Chicago. He releases music under the name C.H.E.S.S., including the 2022 album *Retrograde (Moon)*, and is currently producing several projects and recordings.

# The Musicians of the North Carolina Symphony

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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*

To Be Filled  
*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  
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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.*

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

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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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